S591 SSSA K-12 COMMITTEE

A. **Status:** Special committee

B. **Objective:** In preparation for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit, the committee will research and recommend plans for outreach to teachers and children in K-12. The objective is to increase interest and awareness of soil science and related sciences as a scientific pursuit and career choice. The committee will also implement any approved plans.

C. **Composition:** The size of the committee shall be reflective of the scope of the project and composed of active SSSA members. The scope of the K-12 project will require a group of dedicated, passionate and energetic individuals with an interest in increasing the visibility soil science to teachers and K-12 students. Participants should be identified to include those interested in the Smithsonian project, soils careers, K-12 education and from academia, government and practicing professionals.

D. **Tenure:** The term of service is two years for committee members. The Chair serves a two-year term.

E. **Functions:**
   1. Define scope of work with significant deliverables and timelines to ensure the development and implementation of a successful program.
   2. Initial goals include early development of a plan with priorities assigned to key tactics and development of required budget dollars for inclusion in the fiscal year 2007 budget.
   3. An initial list of activities may include (by no means complete):
      a. Research opportunities and develop a plan for a successful program
      b. Develop resources and list of current educational activities developed by members and others interested in teaching children about the world of soils.
      c. On our own or in partnership with other organizations, develop and disseminate soils education activities for the classroom.
      d. Systematically collect information on a large variety of soils careers from people actively involved in the profession.
      e. Develop a variety of soils career brochures (both print and electronic) with information targeted to specific audiences.
      f. Create presentations to easily disseminate information.
      g. Develop specific, measurable objectives for benchmarking progress and success.
   4. The committee is accountable to the SSSA Board of Directors.

F. **President’s Responsibilities to the Committee:**
   The SSSA President:
   1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and designates the Chair of the committee.
   2. Serves as an advisor on the ideas and plans of the committee.