SWWC Service Cooperative presents the 32nd Annual

CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS



October 29, 2025 | For all students in grades K-8
Held at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN



Unleash your creativity and ignite your imagination by diving into the world of art! Where your hands and minds will craft extraordinary creations. Schools and parents bring students to this dynamic conference to explore diverse artistic worlds and inspire them to embark on exciting new adventures in which students will craft extraordinary creations. Get ready to experience the magic of creativity like never before! These programs are offered in hopes of opening doors to potential higher education and career opportunities for students.

REGISTRATION

Who can register:

- School teachers register groups of students and their chaperones.
- Parents register their students and themselves.

Online Registration Deadline:

September 24, 2025, at Midnight.



www.swwc.org/ya





Contact: Andrea Anderson,
Student Enrichment Coordinator



507-537-2257



www.swwc.org/ya



andrea.anderson@swwc.org

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

General Registration

- Available to students in grades K-8
- Register Online: www.swwc.org/ya
- All attending adults must be registered online.
- There is no student/adult ratio at this time.
- Not required but prefer contact person be an attending adult.

School Participants

- Schools attending are responsible for collecting and entering registrations and payments online.
- See billing option for schools.
- If your school is unable to attend, direct parents to the website for access to conference information, giving them the opportunity to attend on their own.
- Please remind parents who are sending students with the school are selecting that they are attending with school and who
- School district funding may be available to support teacher and student participation in SWWC enrichment programs through MINNESOTA GIFTED AND TALENTED REVENUE MN Statute § 126C.10 2(b).

Parent Participants

- Parents do not have to attend with their school. They may attend on their own with their students.
- An adult must be registered along with students.
- If a parent misses the school registration deadline, they can still register and attend on their own.
- Check with your school to see if they are participating as a school group.

Registration Fees and Deadlines

Registration Deadline: September 24, 2025, at midnight

- \$40/per student
- \$10/per adult

Payments

- Parent payments are made at the time of registration with Credit Card. Payments go through WePay.
- Schools can pay with Credit Card at the time of registration.
- Or a school can be billed after the event if they would like. Contact us prior to registering for a billing code.

Lunch

- Bring your own lunch refrigeration is not available.
- Check with your school about the sack lunch program.
- Place lunches in containers or coolers and label with school/parent name.

Supplies

• Supplies are provided for students at the conference, unless otherwise mentioned in session description.

Sessions

- The Conference features an opening keynote and three, one hr. hands-on learning sessions for students.
- Students choose six session options (grade appropriate) and are later scheduled into three sessions that fit their schedule.
- Select sessions in the order of preference.
- Choices selected by student **DOES NOT** represent their final schedule.
- The students' final schedule is based on their choices, session demand & session sizes; therefore, we cannot guarantee students will be assigned all topics requested. We do our best to give students as many of their choices as we can.
- We retain the right to limit the number of students per district in a specific session.
- A session may be cancelled due to the number of students registered.

Conference Details

- Conference information is on www.swwc.org/ya
- Final schedule and other information will be emailed to the person whose email is on the registration, a few days prior to the event or as soon as it is ready.
- Please share information with chaperones/parents.
- Chaperones/parents are responsible for knowing the conference information and the cancellation policy.
- Contact person will need to check in and pick up their group packet the morning of the conference.

Book Fair - Commuter Lounge (BA Bldg.)

• Paper Pie will run a book fair all day.

Students with Special Needs

• The SWWC Service Cooperative, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA), is dedicated to making conference activities accessible to all students. Please contact Andrea for special accommodations by September 24, 2025.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

- Cancellation requests must be received by the final registration deadline for a refund, less a \$10/student service charge.
- After the deadline, no refunds will be processed.
- If a student is unable to attend, try to send someone in their place and notify us of the change.













AGENDA AND KEYNOTE

AGENDA

8:00 am - 9:00 am

9:00 am - 9:15 am

9:15 am - 9:45 am 10:00 am - 11:00 am **Session I**

11:00 am - 11:45 am Lunch

11:45 am - 12:45 pm

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Check-In, Refreshments

Welcome

Keynote

Session II

Session III

Book Fair



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BIGG Shake, recording artist

Sheku E. Bannister, widely known as BIGG Shake, is a multihyphenate creative: a recording artist, motivational speaker, youth mentor, and community leader who uses the power of music, movement, and message to inspire the next generation. Born in California with Sierra Leonean roots and raised between East Palo Alto and the Midwest, Sheku draws on a diverse background to connect with students from all walks of life. He is the founder of Survival Records, a purpose-driven music label, and the creator of original works like "Finisher" and "Together We Rise"—anthems that speak to perseverance, faith, and unity. Sheku is also a dedicated youth coach, curriculum developer, and arts educator who believes every student has greatness inside them just waiting to be activated. Through keynote speaking, interactive workshops, and community-driven performances, he brings energy, authenticity, and practical tools to inspire students to believe in themselves, belong to something bigger, and become the leaders of tomorrow. With a passion for young people and the arts, Sheku is committed to helping students unlock their creativity, discover their voice, and boldly live out their purpose.

Mixhael Angelou was born Christopher David, in Monroe, Louisiana. At a young age, he got started with instruments and choir in church and started his first music group at 12 with his brother. He is receiving an independent record deal by 13, with Snowtown Ent. At 19, he was brought into and received a deal through Keezo Kane with Kanye West and G.O.O.D. Music. With years in the music industry under his belt, having worked with the likes of Nipsey Hussle, Rick Ross, DJ Drama, Mac Miller, Miguel, The Escovedo family/Sheila E., Prince, Modsun; he is now independent with his brand NoWhere Boy and on3.

Follow Sheku on Instagram biggshake or Facebook Sheku Bannister



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to limited space and high demand, students can only be scheduled into one pottery session per years attending.

Select sessions appropriate for student's grade level K-2, 3-5 or 6-8

A. Refrigerator Art Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Students will be creating two magnetized foam canvases, investigating colors, shapes and textures. Students will have the opportunity to select their subject matter and will be guided by my experience to complete their painting successfully. *Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien

B. Quilting with Paper Gr. 4-5 & 6-8

Create your own colorful quilt—no sewing required! In this fun, hands-on class, you'll learn how to design quilt blocks using just construction paper, scissors, and your imagination. You'll start with simple squares, cut them into triangles, then mix and match them to build bold, eye-catching patterns inspired by traditional quilt designs. Get ready to make something totally unique—just like you! *Cindy Bader

C. Birch Tree Mixed Media Forest Gr. 3-5 & 6-8

Design your own birch tree forest as we head into fall! You'll use painter's tape to create a birch tree scene just the way you like it. Then get ready to blend rich soft pastel chalk with your finger for a gorgeous sky background. Peel back your tape trees for the paint scraping trick that will transform your trees into a beautiful birch grove! (Bring an old shirt to protect clothing!) *Diane Bakker

D. Lyric and Dance Showdown Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Get ready to unleash your inner superstar at the Youth Dance & Lyric Showdown! In this electrifying session, you'll dive into the world of hiphop, learning to craft your own rhymes and bust out dance moves that will wow the crowd. Collaborate with fellow students to create and perform your own lyrics, while also perfecting your dance routines. This highenergy workshop is all about creativity, teamwork, and having fun.

*Shaku Bannister, Michael Angelou

E. Exploring Printmaking! Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Explore the exciting world of printmaking! I'll show you some cool examples and do a fun demo so you can see how it works. Then it's your turn—get ready to play with different tools, textures, and materials as you create your very own prints! *Sarah Bednarek

F. Paper Quilling Gr. 4-5 & 6-8

Get ready for a whirlwind of creativity in our one-day quilling adventure! We'll twist, curl, and shape colorful paper strips into beautiful designs—like flowers, animals, and even cool abstract art! You'll learn how to roll, pinch, and coil the paper to create 3D art that pops off the page. No art experience needed—just bring your imagination and a big smile! Let's make some paper magic! *Megan Busman

G. LOOOONG CATS!

Gr. K-3, 4-5 & 6-8

Growing from the page are long cats, fresh watercolor beasts that will stare into your brightest thoughts! Explore with watercolor and patterns with this mixed media project. Will they make your mom clear off the entire fridge to put on display with pride for months to come? Yes, indeed. *Melanie Cable

H. Stick it! Create Your Own Stickers Gr. K-2, 3-5, 6-8

Get ready to design, color, and create your very own AWESOME stickers! In this fun, hands-on class, young artists can choose from cool pre-made designs or dream up their own. Make as many as you can during class, then take them home to decorate your water bottles, notebooks, and anything else that needs a little extra style! *Jennifer Christensen

I. Pointillism: Let's Draw Dots

Gr. 3-5 & 6-8

Students will create a pointillism using just dots, which creates an image or picture. The closer the dots are the darker the image appears, the more space between the dots the lighter the image is. The best part of this drawing style is that it is very hard to make mistakes! You will take home a completed drawing, ready to display! *Cindy Demers

J. Circle of Life Gr. K-2 & 3-5

Students will draw and paint a nature scene with animals in it on a piece of wood using sharpies and watercolors. You will learn the best way to use sharpies, pastels and watercolors together on a piece of wood. Everyone's creation will look different, and everyone's painting will be AWESOME.

*Ed Fornberg

K. Squiggly Space Cats

Gr. K-2, 3-5, 6-8

We will create fun & funky squiggly cats in space! In this class, you will learn drawing & painting techniques that get you in touch with your own creativity. It's a good way to practice line work & have fun with it! There is no wrong way to paint a squiggly cat *Janel Guertin

L. E-Z Cut Block Printing Gr. 3-5 & 6-8

E-Z cut blocks are easy to carve & print, no experience necessary! The students will create their own print. You can bring your own 4" \times 6" image. A very simple image is recommended. Think cartoon. Or there are samples to choose from. We will print with water soluble ink and a rolling pin. Fast, Fun

and Easy! (*Warning: students will be using a knife to carve.) *Bradley Hall

M. Air Dry Clay Adventure Gr. K-2, 3-5, 6-8

Get your hands ready to squish, roll, pinch, and sculpt your very own air-dry clay creation—no kiln, no oven, just pure imagination. We'll explore fun ways to shape and decorate, from adding textures to creating cool details. Best of all, when your masterpiece is done, it will dry all on its own, so you can take it home and show it off! *Clayton Hubert









SESSION DESCRIPTIONS CONT.

N. Dragon's Eye Gr. 3-5 & 6-8

Create a magical dragon's eye using tempera paint on a textured black paper. After drawing their dragon eye on the black paper, students will learn color theory, how to blend colors, work with a color scheme, add highlights and shadows and how to apply paint to make scales and a realistic dragon eye. *Tamara Isfeld

O. Watercolor Blot Sketching Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Engage your Imagination! Kids will get a chance to flex their creativity as they explore abstract forms of art. While learning blotting techniques, students will observe samples of what watercolor blotches and blobs look like. They will then find what sort of fantastical creations will take form with their own drawings. *Zachary Jahn

P. Make a Zine Gr. 3-5, 6-8

What is a zine? It's a self-produced little magazine filled with your ideas, art, humor, photos, etc. Anyone can make a zine. They are like social media on paper. In my session you will learn a brief history of zines, learn about different types of zines and make your own zine. *Oak Kelsey

Q. Creative Tangles & Doodle Magic Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Students will learn techniques on repetitive doodling, making abstract finished pieces that look intricate and complex but are actually simple to learn! Students can create their own pieces or choose to fill in doodles on pre-made coloring pages. The instructor will guide students through a few exercises, but students can also spend the time experimenting on their own with class techniques. *Krystl Louwagie*

R. Crocodile: Recycled Art Gr. K-3

By blending literature and art, children expand their imagination, develop creative confidence, and explore new ways to express themselves. This playful and engaging class will spark creativity and artistic expression. Students will create a life-size crocodile using recycled paper bags and paint, discovering how everyday materials can be transformed into imaginative works of art. Through visual storytelling, it will encourage them to see recycled items as artistic tools. *Kathleen Marihart

S. Chilbi & Beyond: Explore Anime Art Gr. 3-5 & 6-8

Love anime? Come draw your own adorable chibi character — those tiny, big-eyed figures with tons of personality! In this class, you'll learn step-by-step how to draw faces, expressions, and simple bodies, then add fun details like hair, clothes, and accessories. Just bring your imagination and get ready to create something super cute! *SammyJo Miller

T. Let's Make Some Music Gr. K-3

The group will start with a sing along where students will choose nouns, adjectives and verbs to create a song. We will discuss different musical instruments and demonstrate with ones I will bring along. Students will then break into groups and try playing instruments such as tambourines, shakers, keyboards, microphones, bells, drums and etc. It will be a class filled with fun as we make music. *Tony Moger

U. Art 101 - Using Different Mediums Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Students will learn art techniques using different mediums and materials. We will incorporate 4 tips when using pastels; keep sticks clean, effective blending, experimenting with different techniques, and protecting finished work. Students will be drawing and painting landscapes using ink and pastels. The rest of the mediums will be left up to the students to use their imaginations. *Adam Preuss

V. Lettering Art Creations Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

During this session we will explore different tools: paint markers, watercolor brush pens, oil pastels and more to create a piece of artwork you will love. We will go over a few different lettering techniques, color choices and adding details. You will have the option to frame your artwork or turn it into a gift. *Kady Simpson

W. Clay Caricatures Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8 (mix)

Work with Sculpey Modeling clay to create creatures, figures and other sculptures from your imagination. The items can be baked and painted at home. *John Sterner

X. Pottery Wheel Experience Gr. 3-5, 6-8 (mix)

Students will observe examples of finished wheel thrown pottery work and watch demonstrations using soft clay to make simple forms on the pottery wheel. Students will then learn how to use the pottery wheel and work with the soft clay. This session concentrates on students gaining new experiences by working on a pottery wheel. Due to no kiln operator, the pottery will not be saved, dried, fired or returned as in previous years. *Jim Swartz & Pat Hand

Y. Drawing: The Foundations of Life and Art Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

What do Architects, Car Designers, Fashion Designers, Artists and Engineers have in common? They all need art!! Art is the foundation of all things around us and drawing is the foundation of all design. Join Rancher and full time Artist, Michelle Weber, as she teaches the basics of bringing your ideas to life and opening doors you never knew you could open! *Michelle Weber

Z. Natures Art Garden Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8

Let's dive in and get our hands dirty while creating something that will burst with color and life – natures art garden. In this fun action-packed class, we'll craft biodegradable seed bombs packed with native wildflowers. Learn the simple process of mixing seeds, clay, and compost to help create vibrant habitats for pollinators in your community and beyond! Let's help make a positive impact for others!

*Nicole Zempel



Photos, Videos, & Media

By participating in this event, you are giving SWWC permission to use any audio/video recordings and photographs that are taken during the event.





MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien

I have been an artist and educator for many years, and my favorite color is pink. The rewards of doing something you love and passing that love onto others has been one of my greatest joys. Art has taken me around the world and educating others has allowed me to share what I have learned. I enjoy being part of a students' creative process. www.agnesnora.com

Cindy Bader

I am the owner of Patterns on the Prairie. I have been a quilter for over 30 years now and have turned my hobby into a career by starting a long arm quilt business, speaking, teaching quilting classes, and designing quilt patterns. My passion is sharing my love of quilting with others of all ages and skill levels! I love helping quilters grow in their quilting journey; always with kindness, encouragement, and a genuine desire to see them succeed. www.patternsontheprairie.com

Diane Bakker

Diane Bakker holds a BA in Elementary Education from the U of MN, Morris and taught 4th grade in Willmar for 8 years before embarking on home-educating their sons for the next 18 years. Throughout that time, she also loved teaching enrichment classes for K-12 students. She has continued to provide enrichment activities for little ones to seniors in their golden years. She loves to see the sparkle in eyes of all ages when they learn something new!

Sheku Bannister (a.k.a BIGG Shake) & Mixhael Angelou

See Keynote page https://linktr.ee/Bsheku

Sarah Benarek

I have a master's degree in art therapy & counseling. My Favorite thing is to share and create art with others and help them find confidence in self-expression. I love sculpting with clay, painting, using mixed media, sewing, photography, graphic design and more!

Megan Busman

Hello! My name is Megan Busman. I teach art at Round-Lake Brewster. I love to explore different types of art, find new thrift stores and coffee shops, and hang out with my two kitties, Biscuit and Ducky.

Ms.Chevious (a.k.a. Melanie Cable)

Ms.Chevious (Melanie Cable) is a full-time artist that does whimsical and fun artwork in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, chalk, mixed media, photography, and illustration. She tours the Midwest in the summer and is rarely seen in the winter months, like Bigfoot. www.facebook.com/Ms.CheviousMurals



Jennifer Christensen

Mrs. Christensen has been helping kids make amazing art since 2013! She's the elementary art teacher at RTR and loves coming up with fun, creative projects for her students. She grew up in Marshall, where she currently lives with her husband, her silly 3-year-old daughter, and her smiley 9-month-old son. When she's not making art, she enjoys playing outside with her family, listening to exciting stories on audiobooks, and hunting for cool treasures while thrifting.

Cindy Demers

I am a retired art teacher and have also taught piano to all ages from preschool to adult. In my retirement, I love spending time with my grandchildren and teaching art classes and art forms in a variety of places. My husband and I travel as much as we can and take in NASCAR races whenever possible.

Ed Fornberg

I currently teach K-6 art to about 250 kids at WWG school in Walnut Grove and Homeschool art class to 30 kids in Westbrook. I love being creative, spending time with my grandkids and working on cars and trucks. I have taught for 47 years, and I still love it.

Janel Guertin

I'm a 25-year-old artist from Granite Falls. My inspiration in life & in my art is cats! I have 4 cats, a Boston Terrier, and a hedgehog. I've always been a crazy cat lady, and I absolutely love to share my obsession with cats through my fun cartoon paintings! I've always seen beauty in cats, but painting them has helped me see the beauty in art and the world around me. I love having a creative process to help me see the world through a new lens!

Bradley Hall

Brad is a watercolor and printmaker artist living and working in Granite Falls, Minnesota. He carves linoleum blocks, paints watercolors, and combines both mediums. He sells his work at galleries and art shows throughout the Midwest. He loves teaching his methods to young students! bradleyhallgallery.com

Clayton Hubert

Clayton Hubert is the K-12 art teacher at Red Rock Central School in Lamberton, Minnesota. He loves helping students be creative and try new things in art. In his free time, Mr. Hubert makes sculptures by melting iron and pouring it into sand molds. He enjoys working with fire and metal to create exciting works of art!

Tamara Isfeld

Tamara Isfeld is a local artist and art teacher who loves mixing imagination with creative techniques. She's been making art for over 20 years and enjoys working with students of all ages. Tamara often combines nature, culture, and storytelling in her work—and she's excited to help you bring your own amazing dragon to life!

MEET YOUR PRESENTERS CONT.

Zachary Jahn

I am an Abstract and Surrealist painter and illustrator who works in acrylic, ink, watercolor and beyond. I am also a CTE, a careers and technical skills teacher, in Montevideo. I enjoy foraging, time spent outdoors, RPGs and cooking.

Oak Kelsey

I am a two-dimensional artist and musician from Marshall, Minnesota. I paint, do graphic design, draw with chalk and make zines. In my spare time I take photos, make short films, make music and ride bike.

Krystl Louwagie

Krystl grew up on a Minnesota farm, graduated with a Studio Art degree with an emphasis on intaglio printmaking from Hamline University in St. Paul and currently lives in Marshall. She works full-time for the non-profit Southwest Minnesota Arts Council. On the side, she finds time to work various art gigs. She mostly creates ink and marker portraits (people & pets) and short autobiographical comics about her life. You can follow her artistic journey on Facebook under Krystl Louwagie-Artist & Instagram under ArtByKrystl or Krystl's website, artbykrystl.com. artbykrystl.com.

Kathleen Marihart

Kathleen is a lifelong artist and a former elementary school teacher and reading specialist, with over forty years of experience in education. Primarily a mixed media artist, Kathleen enjoys working with a variety of mediums including watercolor, acrylics, collage, monoprinting on a gelli plate, and inks. She also explores textile arts, such as quilting. Since 2011, she has been an exhibiting artist in The Meander, the Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl. Previously, for 8 years, she owned The Smallest Art Gallery in downtown Ortonville, Minnesota, where she taught both children and adult art classes.

SammyJo Miller

Hi, I'm Sammylo Miller! I'm a visual artist and teacher who runs a mobile art studio, bringing hands-on art experiences directly to kids and communities. I love helping young artists build confidence and explore their creativity through drawing, painting, and collaborative projects. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy making my own art, spending time outdoors, and finding inspiration in everyday life. www.sjmillerarts.com

Tony Moger

Hello, my name is Anthony "Tony" Moger. I'm from Southwest Minnesota. Growing up on a busy farm, music was always there. Whether listening to or creating it on different instruments, music has been a friend of mine for as long as I can remember. In 2016, I received a kidney transplant and less than a year later, my wife and I had our first child. Playing guitar was something I did with my 2nd chance at life and for my new role as a father. I am grateful to be here today sharing music with others, and for all the opportunities I've had that brought music into my life. I would like to help bring those opportunities to children and inspire them develop their own joy in music.

Adam Preuss

I am a self-taught artist who specializes in abstract portraits and mural works. I am a member of the Upper Sioux Community and work as a regional coordinator for Canvas Health. I also own and operate Falls Cafe & Canoe in Granite Falls. My wife and I paint murals and pictures in our spare time. I enjoy the outdoors, traveling, and cooking.

Kady Simpson

Kady Simpson is an artist who has learned a lot of different techniques for creating. She is now working on combining all her ideas into art. Her and her son DaVinci call Marshall home where they enjoy spending time with their two pups Cookie & Tommy!

John Sterner

John has been involved in art in so many aspects. He has taught art for many years...from first graders through university students. John has also taught workshops, small groups, community programs and university connected presentations. He makes personal and public art. He works in many mediums such as sculpting in bronze, iron and fabricated steel, making graphic art on the computer and paper, and he loves to paint.

Jim Swartz

Jim Swartz is a retired SMSU Art Professor, where he taught pottery, sculpture, jewelry, and later also digital photo over the 33 years. He is a YAC regular and has given many other pottery, sculpture and metal casting workshops for students and adults over the years. Jim specializes in welding, metal casting, iron pours and digital photography for his creative work.

Michelle Weber

I am a full-time rancher, artist, author, illustrator and entrepreneur. I have been building my art business for nearly 15 years with a main focus on oil paintings on canvas and selling fine art prints. I have written three children's books and illustrated 12. My work ships all over the world and most recently, I was represented by the Museum of Western Art in their 2025 "Round Up" and was invited back for 2026. My storefront, gallery and studio space, "The Studio", is located downtown Lake Benton, MN. https://michelleweberstudio.com/

Nicole Zempel

Years ago, curiosity led me deep into the wilds of the Minnesota River Valley. This incredible desire to explore and learn from the natural world has only intensified since. I am a natural world enthusiast, forager, artist and regular contributor to Pioneer PBS's Prairie Sportsman "Fast Forage" segments. Whether it be through my Wild Roots workshops, art classes and exhibits, or hands-on foraging experiences and nature walks - it is always my hope to inspire others. I am also employed at Minnesota West Community and Technical College and am an active community advocate - volunteering my time to a variety of endeavors. I have a son, Noah, my dog Rae, two cats — Morgan Freeman and Jack, and two African Grey parrots Charlie and Lola.





SWWC SERVICE COOPERATIVE

OUR PARTNERS

Southwest Minnesota Arts Council United Way of Southwest Minnesota Schwan's Company **Federated Rural Electric Trust**

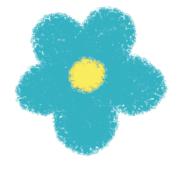
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For the full list of partners go to www.swwc.org/foundation









www.swwc.org/ya











Changes Needed?

Please notify us of any changes in your contact info or if you need to be removed from our contact list.



Contact: Andrea Anderson, **Student Enrichment Coordinator**



507-537-2257





andrea.anderson@swwc.org