

IAAPA EXPO 2026

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

IAAPA Expo is the largest international trade show for the global attractions industry, featuring over 550,000 net square feet of exhibit space, over 1,100 exhibitors, and more than 30,000 participants with plans to expand the Expo by nearly 50%. IAAPA attendees are attractions professionals from across the globe amusement parks, theme parks, natural and adventure attractions, water parks, family entertainment centers, zoos, aquariums, museums & science centers, manufacturers, suppliers, and more. The Education Conference at IAAPA Expo features over 100 education opportunities designed specifically for attractions professionals and takes place at Orlando's Orange County Convention Center. The conference program at IAAPA Expo 2026 will be held Nov. 16-20.

Volunteer speaking engagements at IAAPA Expo are delivered by industry and non-industry professionals.

Speaking at IAAPA Expo is an opportunity to be a leader in your field and to serve as a subject matter expert. IAAPA Expo speakers play an important role in moving the attractions industry forward!

Speakers are provided complimentary registration to IAAPA Expo, which includes the Education Conference and access to the trade show floor; however, IAAPA does not reimburse speakers for travel or accommodations.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

IAAPA is seeking abstracts that reflect the best thinking in the industry, informed by theory, research, or case studies.

Be sure the content of your submission is relevant to attractions industry professionals. IAAPA Expo attendees should walk away with action items, best practices, and fresh ideas they can implement in their facilities. AND DON'T FORGET, THIS IS THE INDUSTRY OF FUN!

- ▶ Sessions cannot be used for direct promotion of a presenter's product, service, or monetary self-interest. Sales pitches disguised as presentations will not be considered
- ▶ Multiple abstracts are encouraged; however, a speaker may not participate in more than four (4) sessions
- ▶ Sessions are not accepted with more than two (2) presenters from the same company
- ▶ Session date and time is not guaranteed. A balance of session type and topics throughout the conference is the primary objective
- ▶ All presenters must accept the terms of the IAAPA Expo Speaker Agreement including but not limited to:
 - Complete any presentation materials on the provided IAAPA Expo branded PowerPoint
 - Upload completed presentation by submission date provided by IAAPA
 - Use the provided computer within the room
- ▶ Select sessions at IAAPA Expo 2026 will be recorded. Session recordings will be used for a concurrent digital event and as a continued resource on IAAPA's online learning platform
- ▶ IAAPA reserves the right to combine session abstracts or change the session format to balance the number of sessions
- ▶ Due to the high volume of submitters, IAAPA is unable to provide direct feedback related to the reason a submission was not accepted
- ▶ Speakers must adhere to posted dates and deadlines such as document requests, session information, registration, etc.
- ▶ IAAPA reserves the right to cancel sessions based on noncompliance

IMPORTANT DATES

The dates below provide some details about significant activities related to the IAAPA Expo 2026 Call for Presentations.

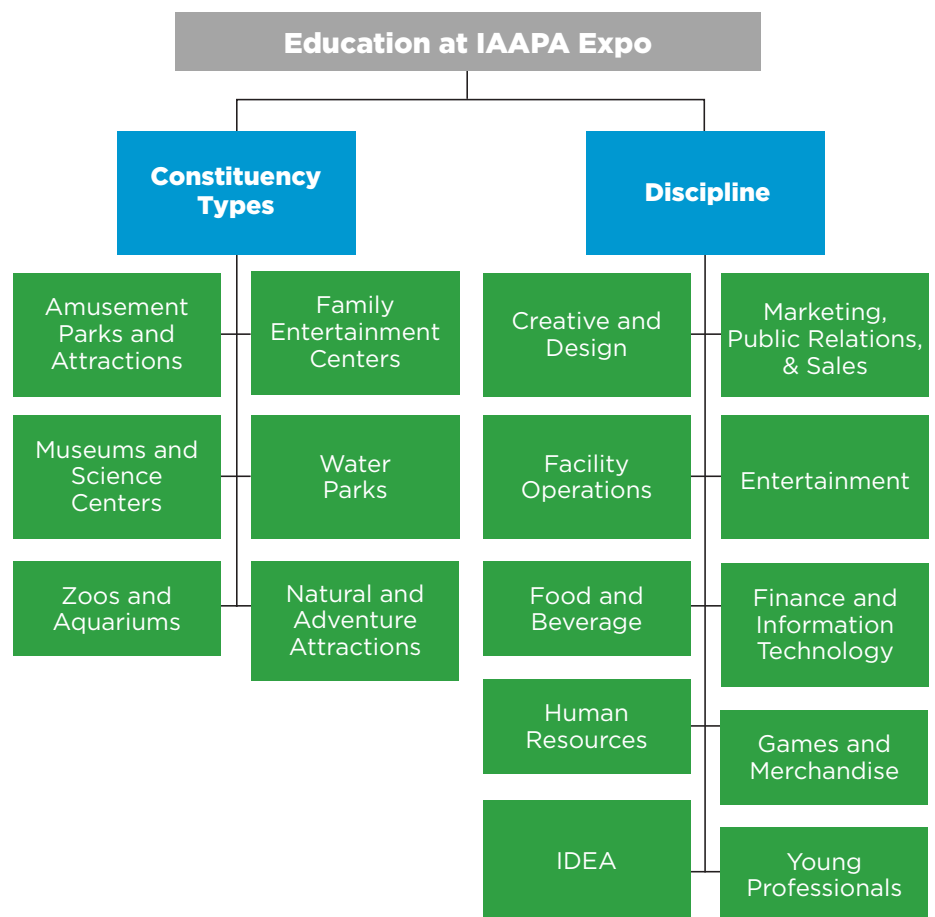
Date	Activity
Jan. 1, 2026	Call for Presentations portal opens for submissions
Mar. 30, 2026	Call for Presentations portal closes, no further submissions accepted
Mar. 31, 2026	IAAPA committees and task forces begin the submission review process
June 1, 2026	All submitters notified of inclusion status

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions are reviewed by IAAPA committees and task forces who are tasked with ensuring the conference offers a comprehensive, non-promotional, objective, and diverse program. IAAPA committees and task forces are made up of IAAPA Members and are considered subject matter experts in their field. They seek to find sessions that intend to move the industry forward, challenge traditional thinking, and offer solutions to common problems. After making their selections, committees and task forces work with presenters throughout the remainder of the year to plan the selected sessions for IAAPA Expo.

During the review process, committees and task forces will consider proposals that include the elements listed below.

- ▶ **Adult learning theory and instructional design:** proposals should be innovative, stimulating, outcome focused, and engaging
- ▶ **Participant motivation to attend session:** professional development, improve efficiencies, problem solving, networking, self-discovery
- ▶ **Specific learning outcomes:** clearly defined objectives and learning outcomes
- ▶ **Type of content:** proposals should be industry relevant, contain best practices, case studies, or be informed by research
- ▶ **Audience appeal:** the session should align well with the audience selected



Additional IAAPA Committees produce content at IAAPA Expo and may incorporate Call for Presentations submissions into their plans including but not limited to: IAAPA North America Safety and Security Committee and the IAAPA Global Sustainability Committee.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CRITERIA

The following items are a requirement for all submissions.

TITLE

The session title is the first required part of the abstract process. Session titles:

- Must be fewer than 75 characters
- Should use compelling language
- Appeal to the intended target audience

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Your session description should clearly and succinctly describe what attendees can expect to learn and will be utilized on IAAPA.org and Connect+

OTHER SESSION INFORMATION

Proposals will have additional space to share any other information important for consideration of the proposal. Examples of items you might explain in this area are:

- Speakers not yet confirmed for the presentation
- Any activities or exercises you plan to conduct during the session

SESSION TYPE

IAAPA Expo presentations are typically presented in one (1) of the following formats:

- **EDUSession:** 60 or 90 minute presentation. Can be presented as a keynote or a panel of speakers
- **EDUTalk:** 20 minute keynote in a more casual learning environment

ROOM SET PREFERENCE

You may select a preferred room set for your session. Room sets are not guaranteed and are assigned by IAAPA. Featured options are:

- **Theater:** Rows of seats facing the stage. Great for presentations exploring a topic or a panel of speakers discussing a topic
- **Roundtable:** Attendees sit around large roundtables during the presentation. This is good for sessions that promote informal face-to-face discussions between fellow attendees
- **Interactive:** This room set has theater-style seating near the stage, a gap of space where attendees interact and learn through structured group exercises or participate in interactive activities, and high-top tables near the back of the room to encourage collaboration among attendees

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

List up to three (3) learning objectives that attendees can achieve by attending your proposed session. If selected, learning objectives may be posted to attendees along with the session description to inform attendees of the benefits of attending the session



WHEN WRITING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Write objectives from the perspective of the learner (not your presentation objectives).
- Make them action or results oriented using leading words like apply, analyze, discuss, develop, examine, explore, identify, recognize, etc.
- Avoid passive words like “learn”, “understand”, and “know”
- Bloom’s Taxonomy is a framework that classifies education objectives into different cognitive levels, each associated with specific verbs that describe the type of thinking or action a learner should demonstrate after completing a learning experience. To reference Bloom’s Taxonomy, view this additional resource **Bloom’s Taxonomy Verbs**
- Make sure that you can deliver on the objectives you choose!

CONTENT LEVEL

Assist IAAPA by selecting one of the options below for content level. If the proposal is selected, your selection will be used to assist attendees in determining if the session is the right fit for them

- **Introductory:** Suitable for all audiences
- **Intermediate:** Suitable for someone with 1 – 5 years of experience on the topic. The presentation could include concepts and industry terminology that should be familiar to those working in the field
- **Advanced:** Suitable for someone with 5+ years of experience. The presentation assumes an expertise from the audience to allow for a deeper exploration of a particular topic

LANGUAGE PRESENTED IN

Due to the global nature of IAAPA Expo attendees, please indicate which language this presentation will be delivered in

AREA OF PRACTICE

Aligns your session with the appropriate audience and subject matter experts. Each area of practice has multiple disciplines that could be a more specific focus of the discussion. For a breakdown of these disciplines, please reference **IAAPA’s Common Body of Knowledge**

- Proposals may select up to two (2) areas of practice

TARGET AUDIENCE

Explain the desired audience that the presentation is designed for. Who do you envision being in the room. Examples could be:

- Marketing managers within zoos and aquariums
- Executives leading organizations with more than 50 employees

PRESENTERS

- Submissions should identify the individuals who will participate in the session by indicating their speaker role and submitting a brief biography and headshot. If all speaker roles have not been assigned at the time of the submission, they may be added later if the session is accepted, with assistance from IAAPA
- Each EDUsessions allows for a maximum of four (4) speakers and one (1) moderator for a total of five (5) contributors
- Submissions that exceed the speaker maximum will not be considered

SPEAKER ROLES

- **Speaker:** Individual presenting a topic
- **Moderator:** Leads a speaker panel discussion, introduces topics, or facilitates question and answer with attendees
- **Panelist:** A member of a panel discussion
- **Facilitator:** Individual leading an informal discussion during roundtable sessions



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If your proposal is accepted, you can expect the following:

June

- Committee or Task Force Member will reach out to assist with session planning
- The submitted title, description, and learning objectives will be reviewed and edited by IAAPA's Marketing team

July

- Confirm session presenters and submit speaker details including headshot, bio, job title and company

August

- Sign speaker agreement forms
- Education conference details made public on IAAPA's website

September

- Register for IAAPA Expo
- Speakers receive complimentary registration to IAAPA Expo

October

- Submit one (1) presentation using IAAPA branded PowerPoint template

November

- IAAPA Expo Education Conference Nov. 16-19

If you have questions about the Call for Presentations,
reach out to Will Randle, at WRandle@IAAPA.org

SUBMIT PROPOSAL