

Call for Proposals: Frequently Asked Questions

SHAPE America Proposal Submission Process

Please reference this document if you have any questions. We are happy to address any concerns you may have that are not covered within these carefully prepared FAQs. You may contact SHAPE America via email at proposals@shapeamerica.org.

When are proposals due to the SHAPE America headquarters office?

All presentation submissions, research abstracts, or research symposium proposals must be submitted online through the [submission site](#) by the deadline of Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time.

Do I have to be a member of SHAPE America to submit a proposal?

No, you do not have to be a member of SHAPE America to submit a proposal. Anyone with expertise or experience relevant to health and physical education, physical activity, or related fields is welcome to submit.

How do I begin the process of submitting a proposal?

To submit a proposal, please visit the [SHAPE America website](#) and review the instructions prepared for the program type that interests you. You may submit a proposal as a **Presentation Submission**, **Research Abstract**, or **Research Symposium**. Please review the information prepared as a reference before formally submitting it to ensure that you submit your proposal to the appropriate category.

How can I access the online proposal submission site?

Please visit the [Call for Proposals webpage](#) and review the provided documentation before continuing to the [proposal submission site](#) via the button at the bottom of the page.

How many programs are there associated with the national convention?

SHAPE America offers a plethora of categories and sub-categories for presentation sessions. Research sessions include oral, poster, and symposia sessions in nine separate categorical areas. The 2026 SHAPE America National Convention & Expo had over 300 sessions, meetings, and events.

What types of sessions can I propose?

Session types may include:

- Lecture/Panel Presentations
- Hands-on Activities
- Roundtable Discussions
- Poster Sessions

Refer to the official Call for Proposals guidelines for details on session formats and expectations.

What are poster sessions?

Poster sessions are research presentations formatted to allow presenters to display their research and findings on a 4'x 8' poster board in the exhibit hall. All accepted abstracts must represent completed studies that include results. During these presentations, presenters facilitate discussion with attendees.

What is an oral session?

An oral session is a research presentation programmed to allow presenters the opportunity to discuss their research during a brief verbal presentation, followed by a few minutes to answer questions from participants.

What is a symposia session?

Symposia sessions involve a verbal presentation of a series of related research abstracts by several researchers. Generally, there are 2 - 4 researchers who present their related works during a symposium, which are 45 minutes in length. Symposia submissions must be completed by including multiple abstracts within one submission. **Please note: If you have only one paper/study to submit, it should be submitted as an abstract.** All abstract submissions must describe original, data-based research (quantitative, qualitative, historical, or philosophical) that has been completed at the time of submission and with specific results reported. The paper must not be accepted for publication (or already published) at the time the abstract is submitted, and it must not be presented elsewhere prior to the upcoming SHAPE America National Convention & Expo.

How many proposals can I submit for consideration?

You may submit as many proposals as desired for review and consideration. However, you may not be a principal presenter or presenting author on more than three accepted sessions across the SHAPE America convention program, which includes research. You may not amend your proposals after acceptance to add additional presenters if it is found that the presenter is listed on other accepted sessions.

Why am I required to list myself as both a planner and a presenter?

Only presenters are listed in the online scheduler and in the mobile app. **If you are the planner (i.e. main contact) for your proposal, but you will also be presenting the session, please be sure you are also listing yourself as a Presenter to ensure that you are listed on the online scheduler and mobile app.** This can be done by selecting both the Presenter and Planner options when adding yourself to the submission. Planners are not automatically listed as Presenters. Note that we only communicate formal decisions and updates to the planner of submissions. It is the planner's responsibility to communicate information to all presenters for their sessions.

What should be included in my learning objectives?

Learning objectives should clearly state what attendees will learn or be able to do after the session. Objectives should be specific, measurable, and aligned with the overall purpose and focus of the presentation.

Why do I have to pick an intended audience?

The intended audience(s) selected will assist with the development of the schedule of sessions. It helps us reduce the number of sessions with similar audiences at the same time. It also allows participants to sort the online program by the intended audience to better select sessions that interest them.

What if my proposal covers multiple categories or sub-categories?

If you believe that your proposal covers multiple disciplines, we suggest that you submit your proposal to the category that most closely fits the general topic area. You may only select one category or category/sub-category combination for your proposal submission. Please review the list of [categories and sub-categories](#) carefully before making your selection during the submission process.

Why am I asked to submit an image when submitting my proposal?

You may upload an image of yourself for your speaker profile to be displayed in the online program. Please note that this is not required. The system accepts JPG and PNG formats for all speaker photos. Please note that this photo cannot be updated after the proposal submission deadline, so please be sure you are uploading your preferred photo during the submission window.

Is there a character limit for a proposal submission?

There is a limit of 150 words per submission for the session overview/description. This does not include speaker names, affiliations, city and state details, etc. from other submission fields. The word limit specifically includes only characters in the description text box of a proposed submission. Presentation titles have a 10-word limit. The limit is increased (500 words) for Research Symposium proposals.

When I tried to submit my proposal, I received an error message that information was missing. Why did I receive this message?

The system is designed to capture many required elements. If you fail to complete a field or make an error when entering required data, an "error" message will appear that will contain a list of incomplete or erroneous items. You will need to return and correct these errors before your submission is submitted.

Will I be notified when I successfully submit my proposal?

The system will automatically generate a confirmation email to the listed planner when a proposal has been successfully submitted. The confirmation email will include the session title, abstract/session ID, and a link to revisit/review your submission. It is the responsibility of the planner or presenting author to share any information with all presenters associated with the session. Please note that only the proposal planner will receive a confirmation email. Only the listed planner (presentation sessions) or presenting author (research abstracts) can make changes to proposals once they are submitted.

Does everyone listed as a planner or presenter on a session receive communication from SHAPE America regarding that session?

No, only the listed planner (for presentation sessions or research symposia) or presenting author (for research abstracts) will receive communication from SHAPE America regarding the session (to include emails regarding notification status, date/time notification, handout upload, etc.). It is the responsibility of the planner or presenting author to share any information with all presenters associated with the session.

Who will review the proposals?

Individuals who review proposals possess broad expertise across many specialty areas within our discipline, and they represent many job sectors (e.g., K-12, higher education, government, etc.). Their backgrounds represent the multidisciplinary subject matter areas relative to the content presented during the national convention.

On what criteria are the proposals reviewed?

The review process utilizes an established set of criteria during its review of proposals. They include, but are not limited to, the overall quality of the proposal and relevance to the SHAPE America mission; appeal of the content proposed; content overlaps with sessions that were held during the most recent convention; and the completeness of the submission.

When will formal notifications regarding submissions be sent to those who proposed a session for consideration for the national convention?

All planners (presentation submissions) or presenting authors (research abstracts) will receive a formal decision notice from SHAPE America, typically sent 3 months after the submission deadline, following the full, multi-step review process. If session planners have not been notified by November 18, they should send an email to the SHAPE America office at proposals@shapeamerica.org. Please note that all notifications are sent only to the listed planner (presentation submissions and research symposia) or presenting authors (research abstracts); notifications do not go to all parties listed on a submission. It is the responsibility of the planner/presenting author to share all notifications with the rest of the presenters/authors on the session/abstract

Am I required to register if accepted as a presenter?

Presenters are responsible for all fees and expenses associated with submitting and presenting a session at the SHAPE America National Convention & Expo, including [registration and housing](#) costs. You can review registration rates and housing options [here](#).

How do I edit my submission?

The system will automatically generate a confirmation email when you begin a submission, which will include a direct link and your session title, abstract/session ID, and a session password for future editing of your proposal. Your submission can be edited until the deadline for submissions. To edit an existing proposal, return to the [Call for Proposals submission page](#) and enter the abstract session ID and password from the automatically generated email into the orange box on the right side of the screen or simply click the link in the email provided.

Can I withdraw my proposal after it has been submitted?

Yes. You can log in to the submission site before the deadline to withdraw your proposal from consideration. If you would like to withdraw your submission after the deadline, please contact SHAPE America via email at proposals@shapeamerica.org and formally request to have your proposal withdrawn from consideration. After a formal withdrawal, your submission cannot be resubmitted for consideration. Please provide your reference session ID# and proposal title to ensure that the appropriate proposal has been withdrawn, especially if you have submitted multiple programs for consideration. Withdrawal requests must be received by the listed planner/presenting author of the submission.

During submission of my proposal, can I request a specific date and time for my presentation to be programmed?

Upon submission of your proposal, it is outlined that you and your presenters must be available at **any time** during the week of the scheduled national convention (Thursday, April 8 at 9:30 a.m. through Saturday, April 10 at 5:00 p.m.). **We do not accept requests for specific programming dates or times.** If you withdraw your proposal after you have been notified of your presentation date and time, it will be recorded for reference and may impact the decision to accept future proposals from you.

What is considered a Solutions in Practice Session?

Corporate and nonprofit organizations that wish to lead an activity-based or presentation-based session during the 2027 SHAPE America National Convention & Expo have the opportunity to do so through [Solutions in Practice Sessions](#) - Power in Play Showcases (activity-based), Sports Park Experience (activity-based), or Learning Leader Spotlights (presentation-based). **Please note** that sponsorship fees do apply.

How can I submit a Solutions in Practice Session?

You may submit a Solutions in Practice Session proposal at this [link here](#). Before completing the form, you will be asked to acknowledge that you agree to pay the associated sponsorship fee and agree to the sponsorship terms and conditions. Upon submission of the form, an automated email will be sent to the person identified as the coordinator. All **Solutions in Practice Session proposals** must be submitted online through the [submission form](#) by the deadline of **Monday, February 15, 2027**, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time.