

BPA Launch Conference Preview Guide

BPA Launch, the 2026 Student Leadership Summit is BPA’s premier leadership conference – three days of high-impact programming, real-world professional experiences, and unforgettable opportunities in the heart of the Washington, DC area. This is your chance to grow your network, develop your leadership skills, and strengthen your chapter. All BPA student members and advisors are invited to attend.

Conference At a Glance

Dates: November 11-14, 2026

Kickoff: 2:00 PM on November 11, 2026

Conclusion: 12:00 PM on November 14, 2026

Location: Washington, D.C. Metro Area

Hotel: Embassy Suites by Hilton Old Town Alexandria (Address: 1900 Diagonal Rd, Alexandria, VA 22314)

Questions: programs@bpa.org

Registration Costs

- Early Registration (before July 1, 2026): \$100 per attendee
- Standard Registration (after July 1, 2026): \$125 per attendee
- Late Registration (after October 15, 2026): \$150 per attendee
- *Registration fees apply to all attendees, including students and advisors.*

Hotel Cost

Room Rate: \$265.75 per room, per night (including taxes and fees)

Key Deadlines

- Early Bird Registration Deadline: July 1, 2026
 - Registration Deadline: October 15, 2026
 - Late Registration Deadline: November 1, 2026
 - Refund Deadline: November 1, 2026
- *Please note this applies to registration fees only. No refunds are available for optional add-on items.*

Conference Highlights

- **Leadership Development for Every Attendee** -- Students and advisors each have dedicated full-day programming on Thursday, including the Student Leadership Series and Advisor Professional Development tracks designed to build real skills and inspire growth.
- **Network with BPA Leaders from Across the Country** -- Connect with fellow students, advisors, and business professionals throughout the conference in sessions and experiences designed to expand your network and your perspective.
- **College and Career Fair** -- Explore post-secondary and career pathways with representatives from colleges, universities, and industries all in one place.
- **Real-World Professional Experiences** -- Choose from hands-on activities including business and college tours, informational interviews, resume reviews, and professional headshots.
- **Unforgettable Evening Experiences** -- From a professional sporting event with a behind-the-scenes facility tour to a guided night tour through the illuminated landmarks of Washington, DC, the evenings are anything but ordinary.
- **Explore the Washington, DC Area** -- With historic Old Town Alexandria right outside the hotel and the nation's capital just a Metro ride away, there is no shortage of iconic landmarks, world-class museums, and memorable experiences to discover.
- **A National Honor at Arlington National Cemetery** -- Participate in an optional wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier -- one of the most meaningful experiences the DC area has to offer.

Programming

The 2026 Student Leadership Summit features three days of high-impact programming including leadership development sessions, business tours, and hands-on skill-building experiences.

Leadership Experiences

Each attendee will select two Leadership Experiences during registration – a choice activity tailored to their goals. Options will include business and college tours that offer a behind-the-scenes look at iconic DC-area organizations, as well as interactive hotel-based sessions such as informational interviews, resume reviews, and professional headshots. Attendees will also have the opportunity to connect with representatives from a variety of industries at a College and Career Fair, building real-world connections and gaining actionable insights for their futures. Specific options and sign-up details will be released as the conference approaches.

Evening Programs

SLS will include an optional evening activity featuring a professional sporting event and a behind-the-scenes facility tour – a unique experience that combines the energy of live professional sports with exclusive access most fans never get. The specific sport, team, and venue will be confirmed once professional team schedules are released later this summer. Stay tuned for details – this is one you will not want to miss. Additional evening programming details, including the DC at Dusk night tour, will also be announced as the schedule is finalized.

Exploring Old Town Alexandria & Washington DC

The conference hotel is located in the heart of historic Old Town Alexandria – a destination that is every bit as exciting as Washington, DC. With the free King Street Trolley departing steps from the hotel and the Potomac River waterfront just a mile away, there is plenty to discover during free time. For a full guide to what Old Town has to offer, see the Travel & Transportation section of this guide.

Tentative Schedule

The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. All times are Eastern Time.

Wednesday, November 11

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Arrival and Check-In

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Optional Networking Events

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | Dinner on your own

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Check-In

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Social Event

Thursday, November 12

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Complimentary Breakfast

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Student Leadership Summit Kick-Off

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Student Leadership Series & Advisor Professional Development

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Lunch on your own

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Student Leadership Series & Advisor Professional Development

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM | Dinner on your own

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Evening Activity (Details Coming Summer 2026 – additional fees may apply)

Friday, November 13

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Complimentary Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Leadership Experience #1* (Choice Activity)

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Lunch on your own

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Leadership Experience #2* (Choice Activity)

Evening Social | Evening Activity (Details Coming Summer 2026 – additional fees may apply)

Saturday, November 14

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM | Complimentary Breakfast

8:30 AM | Optional: Depart hotel for Arlington National Cemetery Wreath Laying Ceremony (group Metro)

9:15 AM | Optional: Wreath Laying Ceremony -- Arlington National Cemetery

~11:30 AM | Optional: Return to hotel from Arlington National Cemetery

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Closing Session

12:00 PM | Conference concludes

**Luggage Storage: Luggage storage will be available on Saturday for attendees checking out before the closing session.*

Registration

Conference registration is open from June 1 to October 15, 2026. Student members and advisors are required to stay at official conference hotels, and those reservations must be made in the conference registration system.

Registration must be completed online at <https://register.bpa.org>.

Who Should Register

All BPA student members, advisors, and chaperones attending the 2026 Student Leadership Summit must register. Registration fees apply to all attendees.

Registration Fees

- Early Registration (before July 1, 2026): \$100 per attendee
- Standard Registration (after July 1, 2026): \$125 per attendee
- Late Registration (after October 15, 2026): \$150 per attendee
- *Registration fees apply to all attendees, including students and advisors.*

Registration Deadlines

- Early Bird Registration Deadline: July 1, 2026
 - Registration Deadline: October 15, 2026
 - Late Registration Deadline: November 1, 2026
 - Refund Deadline: November 1, 2026
- *Please note this applies to registration fees only. No refunds are available for optional add-on items.*

How to Register

Step 1: Conference Registration

1. Log on at <https://register.bpa.org>.

2. Select the Conferences tab in the chapter portal and locate 2026 Student Leadership Summit.
3. There are separate registration processes for advisors, students, and guests/chaperones. Select Register Advisors or Register Students. Complete registration for one group before moving to the next.
4. Select the members attending the conference. Click Continue after checking each applicable member. For more than one member, complete the registration process for one member at a time.
5. On the Verify screen, select the registration rate, badge title, and any other requested information. Complete the special accommodations section for anyone with a disability.
6. On the Items screen, select any appropriate items:
 - Transportation: Purchases SmarTrip cards for the DC metro.
 - Programs: Register for programming requiring an RSVP.
7. The Tour screen lists excursions available at an additional cost.
8. The Confirmation screen lists selections for that individual before moving on to the next attendee. Select Finish after completing and verifying all attendee registrations.

Step 2: Hotel Reservation

You will not be able to submit chapter registration without creating a housing reservation for attendees. Reservations must be submitted prior to leaving the registration system or they will be deleted. Before November 1, all reservation changes can be made in the Conference Registration System. After November 1, email programs@bpa.org with requested reservation changes. Do not contact the hotel directly to make reservation changes.

1. Select the Housing button.
2. Enter the chapter's arrival and departure dates. These can be changed on the housing screen by selecting Change Arrival and Departure Dates.
3. Select the members who will be rooming together, then select the room number and room type for those members. Select Add to Room.
4. Repeat until all attendees are assigned to a room.
5. Verify the accuracy of costs for each attendee. Report any issues to support@bpa.org.
6. After every attendee has been assigned to a room, select Submit Reservation.

Step 3: Finalize Your Registration

1. Select Accept Disclaimers. Carefully read all disclaimers and select the appropriate checkboxes before selecting Confirm.
2. Select the Status checkbox next to each member record to be included on the same invoice. Use Select All to include all records on one invoice, or submit separate invoices by selecting only those desired.
3. Click Submit Registration. A confirmation email will be sent to you, your state advisor, and the BPA National Center.
4. Print a copy of the conference registration and hotel reservation invoices.
5. Repeat the steps above until all registrations have been invoiced (only applicable when multiple invoices are needed).

Post-Registration Changes

Adding Attendees After Creating an Invoice

Log on to <https://register.bpa.org> and complete Steps 1-3 above.

Adding Items to Previously Registered Attendees

1. Log on to <https://register.bpa.org>.
2. Select the Conferences tab in the chapter portal.
3. Locate the appropriate attendee record and select the + icon under the Add/Edit Items column.
4. Follow the steps listed above for adding items.
5. Select Finish and Submit Registration to create a new invoice for the added items.

Canceling/Substituting Items for Previously Registered Attendees

1. Log on to <https://register.bpa.org>.
2. Select the Conferences tab in the chapter portal.
3. Select the Cancel/Substitute Request button.
4. Locate the appropriate attendee record and select the + icon under the Expand Items column.
5. Select the item(s) you wish to cancel or substitute, then select the appropriate checkbox (Substitution or Cancel).
6. Select the appropriate cancellation or substitution reason and/or leave any applicable comments. Click Submit Cancel/Substitute Request.

Registration Payments

- Registration fees must be paid by check or credit/debit card. Purchase orders are not a form of payment and do not satisfy an outstanding invoice.
- A 10% late payment fee will be applied to any invoice not paid within 30 days of the invoice date.
- Check payments mailed to the BPA national center must be received no later than November 10, 2026. If a check cannot be received by November 10, bring it to check-in on-site. If the check does not cover the full amount due, the remaining balance must be paid by credit/debit card.
- If payment has not been received in full, conference credentials and materials will not be released. Chapters with an outstanding balance must resolve payment before receiving materials.

Refund Policy

- Eligible refund requests received on or before November 1, 2026, will receive a 75% refund (paid after the conference). No refund requests will be accepted after that date.
- Refunds will not be given for an optional or last-minute change on the part of the attendee or for delayed travel.
- Refunds are not available for tours reserved or for pre-purchased merchandise such as t-shirts.
- Tour refunds will be made in full in the event a tour is canceled by BPA. Refunds will not be made due to inclement weather.
- Refund requests must be submitted via the conference registration system at <https://register.bpa.org>.

Chaperone Requirements

Students are not permitted to attend the conference without an advisor or chaperone. Students may travel with a designated advisor other than their own only with written notice to BPA. Email alternative chaperone assignments to Gayle Robinson at programs@bpa.org.

- Middle Level: 1 advisor/chaperone to 7 students
- Secondary: 1 advisor/chaperone to 10 students
- Postsecondary: 1 advisor/chaperone to 15 students

Additional Purchases

SmarTrip Metro Card (\$10 or \$30)

Attendees may optionally purchase a pre-loaded SmarTrip Metro card through BPA during registration. SmarTrip cards are required to pay Metro fares in the Washington, DC area and can be used on all Metro rail and bus services throughout the conference.

Options available:

- Standard Card -- \$10 total (\$2 card + \$8 transit value)
- Value Card -- \$30 total (\$2 card + \$28 transit value)

To help you decide, here are approximate round-trip Metro fares for common conference activities:

- Airport to/from hotel (DCA): approximately \$5 round trip
- Arlington National Cemetery (optional Saturday wreath laying ceremony -- group Metro): approximately \$5 round trip
- Hotel to/from downtown Washington, DC: approximately \$6 round trip per trip

Please Note: BPA cannot guarantee that any card value will cover every activity an attendee chooses to participate in, nor can BPA confirm that all card credits will be used. Card purchases are non-refundable. BPA is not responsible for lost or misplaced Metro cards.

Optional Tours & Experiences

DC at Dusk (\$90)

Washington, DC looks completely different after dark. This three-hour guided night tour kicks off at the U.S. Navy Memorial – right between the White House and the U.S. Capitol – and takes you through the most iconic landmarks in the country, all lit up against the night sky.

You'll pass the White House, stand in front of the U.S. Capitol with a panoramic view stretching across the entire National Mall, and walk the memorials behind some of the most defining moments in American history – World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and more. The Jefferson Memorial reflecting off the Tidal Basin, the Lincoln Memorial, the MLK Jr. Memorial – all of it hits harder in person, at night.

Note: All optional evening activities, including this tour, are tentative. Exact dates and availability will be confirmed once the full evening activity schedule is finalized later this summer.

Optional Experience: Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery

On Saturday, November 14, BPA will host an optional wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery -- one of the most meaningful experiences available to visitors in the Washington, DC area. Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 400,000 military service members and their dependents, and a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a profound tribute to those who gave their lives in service to our country.

The group will depart the hotel together at 8:30 AM and travel via Metro to the cemetery, with the ceremony beginning at 9:15 AM. The group will return to the hotel by approximately 11:30 AM, in time for the closing session.

Sign-Up Required: This experience is free but requires advance registration during the conference registration process (under Tours).

Transportation: Attendees are responsible for their own Metro transportation costs. A SmarTrip card can be used. Round-trip fare is approximately \$5. The group will travel together.

Dress Code

Arlington National Cemetery requires all wreath laying participants to adhere to a business casual dress code. This is strictly enforced out of respect for the ceremony and the grounds.

- Men: Collared shirt and dress trousers. No blue jeans, athletic wear, shorts, or sneakers.
- Women: Skirt or trousers of non-denim material with a top that covers the shoulders. No blue jeans, athletic wear, shorts, or open-toed shoes.
- All participants: Closed-toe, appropriate shoes are required. Athletic shoes are not permitted.

Please Note: All ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery are subject to cancellation or rescheduling due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. BPA will communicate any changes as quickly as possible.

Additional activities and experiences will be announced later this summer as details are confirmed. Stay tuned for updates through your state advisor and the BPA website.

Hotel & Housing

About the Hotel

Embassy Suites by Hilton Old Town Alexandria is located steps from bustling King Street in Old Town Alexandria. The hotel is directly across from the King Street Metro Station, providing easy access to Downtown Washington, DC attractions. Waterfront amenities including restaurants, bars, and water taxis are within a mile.

Address: 1900 Diagonal Rd, Alexandria, VA 22314

Included Amenities

- Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily
- Complimentary evening light snacks

Hotel Reservations

Follow the instructions below to complete your chapter's hotel rooming list.

Accommodation

All rooms are suites featuring a separate living area and bedroom. The following room types are available:

- Queen/Queen Suite (2 queen beds, up to 4 persons)
- King Suite (1 king bed, up to 2 persons)

Rate: \$265.75 per room, per night (including taxes and fees)

Important: BPA reserves the right to change the room type for any queen/queen suite reserved for fewer than 3 registered attendees.

Pre- and Post-Conference Stays

The official conference dates are November 11-14, 2026. Attendees who wish to arrive early or depart after the conference dates must submit a request by emailing programs@bpa.org. Pre- and post-conference room availability is limited and not guaranteed.

Housing Deadline

All housing rooming lists must be submitted by October 15, 2026.

Payment Instructions

All payments must be made directly to the hotel. Full payment is due on or before November 1, 2026. Rooms are not guaranteed until full payment has been received.

- **Check Payments:** Checks must be mailed and received by the hotel on or before November 1, 2026. If a check cannot be received by this date, the chapter must submit a purchase order in advance, and a check must be delivered at conference check-in.

Please Note: Room keys and conference materials will not be provided until full payment has been received.

Cancellation and Modification Policy

Refunds are not available for this event. Should an emergency situation require cancellation or modification of hotel rooms, official requests must be submitted to programs@bpa.org by a state advisor. Requests must include an explanation of the emergency and the specific changes being requested.

Requests submitted fewer than 5 days prior to the scheduled arrival date will be subject to a cancellation fee equal to one night's room rate.

Important Notes

- Housing assignments must be completed and submitted in one sitting. Holding rooms is not allowed. Partial, incomplete, and unsubmitted housing may be purged from the system to allow others to reserve rooms from the group block inventory.
- If you submit a housing rooming list, you may make changes up until the October 15 deadline. Changes are automatically saved; you will not need to re-submit. You can view your updated housing invoice at any time under the "Invoice History" tab.
- BPA reserves the right to change chapter hotel accommodations, including room types.
- School purchase orders are not accepted as final payment. A check must be delivered at check-in if a purchase order was submitted in lieu of a mailed check.

Room Sharing with Another Chapter

To successfully share rooms between chapters, both chapters must coordinate closely and complete their housing at the same time. Submitting housing independently or out of sequence will cause errors and may prevent submission.

Before You Begin

- Both chapters must be actively working in the housing system at the same time.
- All room-share individuals must be registered before the process can be completed.

Instructions for the Chapter NOT Making the Housing Reservation

- Do not assign room-share individuals to a room on your housing page.
- Leave all room-share individuals in the "Not Assigned" list.
- You cannot submit your housing until the other chapter completes the room-share process and pulls the individual(s) onto their housing page.

Instructions for the Chapter Making the Housing Reservation

- Select "Add Someone From Another Chapter" to begin the room-share process.
- Choose the state, then select the chapter from the dropdown menu.
- Only individuals who are registered and not assigned to a room on the other chapter's housing will appear.
- Select the appropriate individual(s), then click "Add Selected Users."
- If an individual does not appear in the search results, one of the following is true:
- The individual has not yet been registered by their chapter advisor, or
- The individual is already assigned to a room on their chapter's housing.
- Contact the other chapter advisor to resolve the issue before proceeding.

Changing Shared Room Reservations

- To remove a room-share individual from your housing page, select "Return to Chapter" next to their name.

Travel & Transportation

Recommended Airport: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)

DCA is the closest and most convenient airport for the 2026 Student Leadership Summit. It is approximately 5 miles from the hotel and is served directly by the DC Metro, making it easy to reach the Embassy Suites without a car or rideshare.

DCA to Hotel via Metro (Recommended)

Taking the Metro from DCA is the fastest and most affordable option. Follow these steps:

- At DCA, follow signs to the Metro station located inside the terminal.
- Board the Yellow or Blue Line train heading south toward Huntington or Franconia-Springfield.
- Ride two stops to King Street-Old Town station (approximately 7-9 minutes).
- Exit the station -- the Embassy Suites is directly across the street.

Approximate travel time: 15-20 minutes total, including walking

Metro fare: \$1-\$3 (distance-based, paid via SmarTrip card or contactless payment)

Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)

IAD is approximately 25-32 miles from the hotel. Travel time by car is roughly 35-45 minutes depending on traffic, but public transit is available and takes approximately 60-75 minutes.

IAD to Hotel via Metro

- From the IAD terminal, take the Silver Line Metro directly from the Washington Dulles International Airport Metrorail Station.
- Ride the Silver Line eastbound. You will need to transfer -- follow signage for the Blue or Yellow Line toward downtown.
- Transfer at L'Enfant Plaza or another connecting station to the Yellow Line heading south toward Huntington.
- Exit at King Street-Old Town station. The Embassy Suites is directly across the street.

Approximate travel time: 60-75 minutes

Metro fare: Approximately \$3-\$6 (distance-based)

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI)

BWI is approximately 35-40 miles from the hotel and is the least convenient option for this conference. Travel by car is roughly 45-60 minutes. Public transit requires a combination of bus or rail connections and takes significantly longer.

BWI to Hotel via Public Transit

- Take the free airport shuttle to the BWI Marshall MARC/Amtrak Rail Station.
- Board an Amtrak or MARC train to Alexandria Union Station. Note: MARC service does not operate on weekends, so Amtrak is the best option for weekend travel.
- From Alexandria Union Station, walk approximately 600 feet along King Street to the King Street-Old Town Metro station. The Embassy Suites is directly across the street.

Approximate travel time: 60-90 minutes depending on train schedule

Note: Check Amtrak and MARC schedules in advance at amtrak.com or mta.maryland.gov as service frequency varies.

Public Transportation & Local Transit

The King Street-Old Town Metro station is one of the best-connected transit hubs in the region. In addition to Metro, the following options are available:

- **Free King Street Trolley:** The King Street Trolley is a free shuttle that runs the full length of King Street, from the King St-Old Town Metro station (steps from the hotel) east to City Hall/Market Square near the Potomac River waterfront. It stops every two to three blocks and is a great way to explore Old Town Alexandria without needing a Metro card or rideshare. See the route map below.
- **DASH Bus (Free):** Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) operates free bus service on additional routes throughout Alexandria, connecting the hotel area to neighborhoods beyond the King Street corridor.

- Metrobus: Several Metrobus routes serve the King Street-Old Town station, connecting to destinations throughout Northern Virginia and the DC area.
- Amtrak & VRE: Alexandria Union Station, a short walk from the hotel, is served by Amtrak intercity trains and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter rail. VRE does not operate on weekends.
- Rideshare: Uber and Lyft are widely available throughout the area for those who prefer door-to-door service.

Exploring Old Town Alexandria

Old Town Alexandria is one of the best-preserved historic districts on the East Coast -- and most of it is walkable or accessible via the free King Street Trolley right from the hotel. Here are some highlights along and near the trolley route:

- King Street: Alexandria's main street for dining, shopping, boutiques, and galleries. The trolley runs its full length to the waterfront.
- Alexandria City Hall & Market Square: The eastern terminus of the trolley and home to one of the oldest continuously operating farmers markets in the country (Saturday mornings).
- Torpedo Factory Art Center: A working art studio and gallery complex on the waterfront, steps from the trolley's eastern stop.
- Gadsby's Tavern: A historic tavern and museum dating to 1785, once frequented by George Washington - located along King Street.
- Christ Church: A historic Episcopal church built in 1773 where George Washington held a pew, located along the trolley route on King Street.
- Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum: One of the oldest apothecary shops in the country, preserved as a museum near the waterfront end of King Street.
- History Museum at the Lyceum: Alexandria's city museum covering the area's history from colonial times to today.
- George Washington Masonic National Memorial: A landmark tower visible from the Metro station, located near the hotel with exhibits on Washington's life and legacy.
- Alexandria Waterfront: Restaurants, bars, and water taxis along the Potomac River, all accessible from the eastern trolley stop.

Tip: The King Street Trolley is free and no SmarTrip card is needed -- just board at the Metro station and ride to any stop along King Street.

SmarTrip Metro Cards

A SmarTrip card is required to pay Metro rail and bus fares in the Washington, DC area. Single-ride paper tickets are no longer widely available on the DC Metro system. Attendees may use a contactless credit or debit card as an alternative, but a SmarTrip card is the most convenient option for frequent use throughout the conference.

BPA is offering pre-loaded SmarTrip cards as an optional add-on purchase during registration. Two options are available:

- Standard Card -- \$10 total (\$2 card + \$8 transit value)
- Value Card -- \$30 total (\$2 card + \$28 transit value)

For reference, here are approximate round-trip Metro fares for common destinations:

- DCA airport to/from hotel: approximately \$5 round trip
- Arlington National Cemetery (Saturday wreath laying ceremony): approximately \$5 round trip -- attendees will travel as a group
- Hotel to/from downtown Washington, DC: approximately \$6 round trip per trip

Please Note: BPA cannot guarantee that any card value will cover every activity an attendee chooses to participate in, nor can BPA confirm that all card credits will be used. Card purchases are non-refundable. BPA is not responsible for lost or misplaced Metro cards. Cards may be purchased during the registration process.

Parking

Pre-paid parking is available at the hotel. \$22 per night. Parking can be purchased during registration under items.

Attire & Professional Conduct

Dress Code

Student members, advisors, and chaperones must follow the conference dress code, which promotes a professional atmosphere. It is also recommended that conference guests follow the dress code policy.

Business Casual Dress

Required for leadership development workshops, interactive sessions, tours, and general conference programming.

- Tops: Polos, oxford shirts, sweaters, dresses, or blouses
- Sleeveless shirts should be worn with a cover-up such as a blazer or sweater
- Bottoms: Dress pants or skirts
- Shoes: Dress shoes, heels, or flats

Casual Dress

Appropriate for evening social events and leisure activities outside of scheduled programming.

- Tops: T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other casual tops
- Bottoms: Jeans, shorts, or other casual bottoms
- Shoes: Any footwear including sneakers or sandals

Additional Notes

- All attire must not include any offensive graphics or slogans.
- All shirts should cover the midriff.

Unacceptable Items

The following items are prohibited in all conference areas:

- Strapless, spaghetti straps, tube tops, halter tops, and midriff tops
- Spandex, lycra, or transparent clothing
- Cut-offs and clothing with rips or tears

- Clothing with inappropriate words and pictures
- Mini/short skirts or dresses more than 2" above the knee
- Swimwear

Dress Code Violations

- Members not dressed in required attire will not be allowed to participate in conference events.
- Members refused entrance to an event will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire and return to the session.
- Members who wish to dispute a dress code decision should submit their concern in writing to BPA staff at the conference registration desk within one hour of the incident.
- Members not adhering to the dress code will not be allowed onstage.

Code of Conduct

By voluntarily participating in any officially sanctioned Business Professionals of America (BPA) event, members (middle level, secondary, postsecondary, advisors, and alumni) agree to adhere to the following code of conduct and ethics or forfeit their right to participate.

- Members shall respect and abide by the authority delegated to the Board of Trustees, state advisors, presiding officers, committee chairs, and advisor or authorized representative of the aforementioned.
- Members shall attend all sessions and activities assigned unless engaged in some specific assignment taking place at the same time.
- Members shall agree to, and abide by, the Academic Integrity Policy adopted by BPA.
- Members shall wear acceptable attire to all program activities as specified in the conference program.
- Identification badges shall be worn at all official functions.
- Members shall not smoke in public while wearing the BPA official blazer.
- BPA shall, under no circumstances, approve or condone the possession or use of tobacco in any form (including electronic forms of cigarettes) by any student member during official conference functions.
- BPA shall, under no circumstances, approve or condone the possession, use, or serving of alcoholic beverages by student members during official functions on any premises contracted. This is in effect from the time the member leaves home until they return home.
- BPA shall, under no circumstances, approve or condone the use of drugs in any form, except for medical purposes, by anyone at a BPA national conference or any other state or national activity. This is in effect from the time the member leaves home until they return home.
- BPA shall, under no circumstances, approve or condone the possession of any firearms, dangerous weapons, explosive compounds, or objects that could reasonably be considered or used as a weapon.
- Spouses are allowed to attend events if they officially register as a guest. They shall not have membership privileges and shall abide by all event rules.
- Non-registered individuals will not be allowed at event activities.
- Whether at the event site or in public places, members shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to not bring reproach to the organization or to themselves.
- Members shall conduct themselves in a professional manner.

- Members shall stay at the approved hotel/motel during a BPA conference. Participants residing within a 50-mile radius of the conference site may be exempt from the policy at the discretion of the Director of Strategic Programs & Experiences.
- Student members shall keep their adult advisors informed of their activities and whereabouts at all times.
- Student members shall not use their own cars or ride in cars belonging to others during the conference unless accompanied by an authorized advisor.
- Curfew each night shall be midnight, and all student members shall be in their rooms by curfew.
- It is the responsibility of the chapter advisor to assign in advance and manage chapter guestroom accommodations on-site according to their school and/or district travel policies.
- When alumni division members serve or participate with any of its sister divisions at any official function, the alumni members shall abide by the code of conduct established by that division.

Local chapter and state advisors are responsible for the supervision of student member conduct. Any member who violates or ignores any Code of Conduct and Ethics policy or engages in any form of behavior deemed unacceptable may be brought before the grievance committee for an analysis of the violation.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, forfeiture of privileges to attend further events, removal from office, disqualification from the event and any associated competitions, relinquishment of awards and recognition, and expulsion from the event at the member's expense. Appropriate authority figures, including but not limited to parents, guardians, supervisors, and employers will be notified as to the infraction and penalty imposed. BPA also reserves the right to notify law enforcement.

Important Notices

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of Business Professionals of America that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination of any program or activity for which is responsible.

Publication, Promotional Release, and Use of Images and Materials

You understand and acknowledge that, in conjunction with your participation in the SLS, BPA may capture photos, video, and other recordings of participants before, during, and after events at the SLS. You expressly authorize BPA and grant to BPA, without further consent, an irrevocable limited license to use, display, and reproduce any and all photos, video and/or other recordings of you captured before, during and after events at the SLS by BPA in any medium or format. You acknowledge and agree you have no right to review or approve such materials before they are used, displayed, or reproduced. BPA may, but is not required to, use, display, and reproduce such photos, video, and other recordings of you in future print materials, online materials (including the BPA website and its official social media accounts), signage, slideshows, podcasts, videos, and other uses in physical and digital forms. By participating in the SLS, you waive and release BPA from any and all claims relating to the use, display, and reproduction of such photos, videos, and recordings.

Event Participation Assumption of Risk, Release and Waiver

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present, even with the use of personal protective equipment and social distancing. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that can lead to severe illness and death. Although Business Professionals of America (“BPA”) has implemented necessary and appropriate safety and sanitation measures, attendance at the Student Leadership Summit (“SLS”) may be hazardous and involve an unavoidable risk of illness due to contact with or proximity to people or things exposed to the coronavirus. By attending the SLS with the express understanding of such potential hazards, you knowingly and voluntarily acknowledge and assume the risk of such hazards. You expressly waive and release, to the fullest extent permitted by the law, any and all claims and potential causes of action, of any nature, against BPA on account of any and all injury, illness, and/or death arising out of or attributable to attendance at the SLS, COVID-19 related or otherwise. You understand and acknowledge that BPA, its adult leaders and representatives may not be present at all times during SLS and cannot guarantee your safety or mitigate all risks involved in your participation in the SLS. Attendees should, at all times, follow BPA staffs’ instructions and use their best judgment. BPA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property.

Social Media Use

BPA encourages members to use social media in productive and positive ways. Malicious use of social media will not be tolerated. Malicious use may include, but is not be limited to, photos, videos, or comments that are unprofessional, derogatory, demeaning, incriminating, or threatening toward any other individual or entity; photos, videos, or comments that depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (e.g., hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, or illegal drug use). BPA will not tolerate any type of inappropriate behavior from any individual involved, engaged, or associated with BPA or participating in any BPA activities on the local, regional, state, and national level. Anyone found violating this policy may be expelled from the event or conference, and their membership can be terminated. If necessary, appropriate legal actions may be taken. BPA reserves the right to modify the consequences, as appropriate.

Questions?

BPA Programs Team

Email: programs@bpa.org