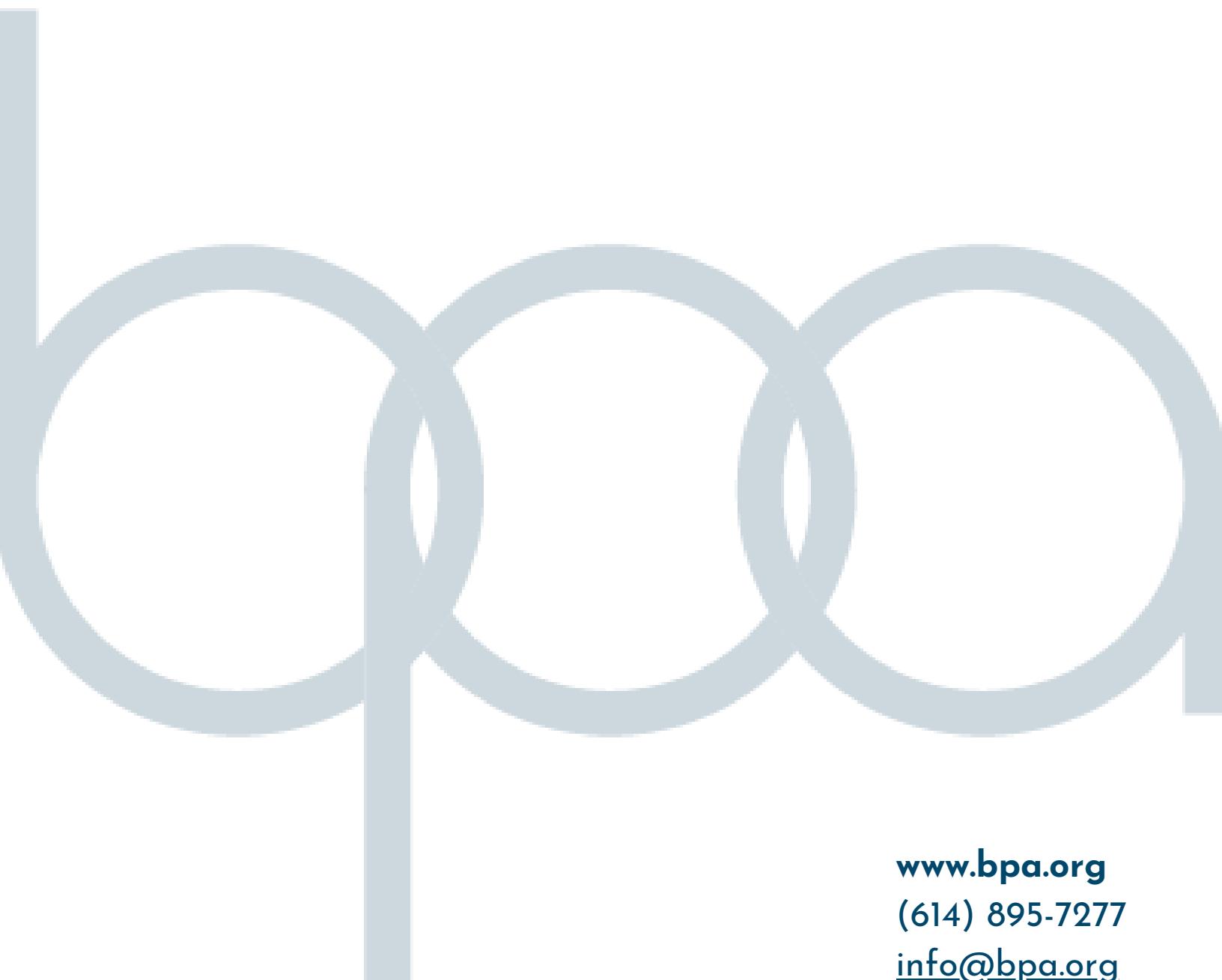


NLC WORKSHOP PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS *of* AMERICA



www.bpa.org
(614) 895-7277
info@bpa.org

JOIN US MAY 6-10 IN NASHVILLE, TN!

**Are you ready to amplify your impact and
inspire the next generation of leaders?**

In 2026, Business Professionals of America celebrates 60 years of empowering student leaders—and we want you to be part of the legacy. This year's National Leadership Conference (NLC), themed Amplify Your Impact, will bring together nearly 7,000 students, advisors, alumni, and partners for competitions, recognition, networking, and professional development. Workshops are a cornerstone of this experience—helping attendees build skills, spark new ideas, and connect with experts in business, education, and leadership.

Submit your proposal today and help shape the future of BPA!



BPA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2026
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, TN
May 6-10 | Workshop Dates: May 7-8 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)



GIVING PURPOSE TO POTENTIAL

ABOUT BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is a career and technical student organization with the mission to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth, and service.

Established in 1966, Business Professionals of America is an organization that is laser-focused on the professional development and future of our youth, providing the tools, skills and experiences students need to compete, succeed, and thrive in the business world. We provide student growth opportunities through career exploration, competitive events, leadership development, and community service.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

BPA's National Leadership Conference is the culmination of a year's work for students and chapter advisors and a celebration of member achievements. Student attendees are among the most motivated and accomplished young scholars and have qualified for national-level, business-related competitions. During the conference, they will vie for top honors in competitive events, attend leadership and professional development workshops, acquire industry certifications, receive awards for individual and chapter achievements, participate in community service activities, and network with industry professionals.

WHY PRESENT?

Presenting at NLC gives you the opportunity to:

- Share expertise with a diverse national audience of students, educators, and professionals
- Inspire and develop the next generation of business leaders
- Contribute to the professional learning of advisors and educators
- Showcase your organization, expertise, or innovation to a national community



PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

WHO SHOULD PRESENT?

We welcome proposals from individuals who bring expertise, passion, and a commitment to empowering the next generation of business and technology leaders. Ideal presenters include:

- Advisors & Educators – Chapter advisors, CTE teachers, and faculty who can share best practices, classroom strategies, and student development insights.
- Student Leaders – Current BPA members and alumni who can inspire peers through their leadership journeys, project experiences, or competitive event success.
- Industry Professionals – Business and technology experts with real-world experience to share in areas such as management, marketing, finance, health administration, information systems, and entrepreneurship.
- Higher Education Professionals – Representatives from colleges, universities, and training programs who can guide students on career pathways, admissions, and future opportunities.
- Leadership Development Trainers – Coaches, consultants, and facilitators specializing in personal growth, communication, teamwork, or career readiness.
- Community & Service Leaders – Professionals who can highlight the power of service, civic engagement, and social impact in leadership.

We encourage submissions from speakers of diverse backgrounds and experiences to ensure a variety of perspectives and voices are represented.

NLC AUDIENCES

- Students – Leadership Passport Sessions: Practical skills, strategies, or tools students can apply immediately in school, their chapters, or their future careers
- Advisors – Professional Learning Sessions: Evidence-based strategies, resources, and approaches advisors can bring back to their classrooms and chapter
- Other Audiences (optional) – Parents/families; alumni; other educational professionals (e.g., state advisors, Department of Education staff, CTE administrators)



PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

SESSION FORMATS

Workshops should be interactive, and designed for engagement.

- Workshop (45 minutes) – Hands-on, skill-building session; allow at least 5 minutes for Q&A
- Speed Sessions (20 minutes) – Short, high-energy presentation centered on one powerful idea, resource, or tool
- Other – Propose a unique format that enhances the learning experience

SUGGESTED CONTENT AREAS

Proposals should be educational, engaging, and practical. Examples include:

Business and Financial Skills
College and Career Preparation
Leadership and Teamwork
Communication and Public Speaking

Life Skills and Adulting
Technology and Innovation
Classroom and Chapter Strategies
Emerging Trends in Business and Education

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis by BPA staff. Strong proposals will demonstrate alignment with BPA's mission and conference theme, clear and practical takeaways for participants, interactive and engaging design, and a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Speaker Compensation – Speaking engagements are voluntary, and no funding is typically provided. In rare cases, limited support may be considered for proposals that offer exceptional value to attendees or when the presenter is also contributing in another capacity (e.g., competitive event judge, volunteer). Requests must be detailed in the proposal and will be reviewed case by case.
- Volunteer Policy – Presenters serve as volunteers; BPA provides standard A/V and marketing. Sponsored exhibitor demos require a BPA sponsorship agreement.
- Code of Conduct – All presenters must adhere to BPA's National Conference Code of Conduct, which emphasizes professionalism, academic integrity, inclusivity, and safety. The full policy is [available here](#).



PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

TIPS FOR CRAFTING A STRONG PROPOSAL

- Be Specific: Avoid vague language; clearly describe outcomes.
- Focus on Takeaways: List 3-4 actionable learning points.
- Make it Interactive: Use activities, discussion, or demonstrations.
- Align with the Theme: Tie to Amplify Your Impact and BPA's mission.
- No Sales Pitches: Educational, skill-based content only.
- Tailor for Students & Educators: Practical and inspiring.

Example: “Level Up Your Leadership: Three Strategies Students Can Use Today” versus “Leadership Skills”

SPEAKER TIMELINE

Below you'll find key dates for speakers.

SPEAKER TIMELINE	
October 1, 2025	Call for Proposals Opens <i>*Rolling review and acceptance.</i>
November 15, 2025	Proposal Submission Priority Deadline Proposals submitted after this date may be accepted pending value and availability.
January 2026	Conference Preview Guide Released Publicly Accepted proposals submitted by November 15 will be included in the Conference Preview Guide.
March 2026	Optional Speaker Orientation Webinar
May 7-8, 2026	Workshop Presentations at NLC



PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

All proposals must be submitted through the [online submission form](#). The following fields are required and should be prepared in advance:

PRESENTER INFORMATION

- Name
- Title/Position & Organization
- Contact Information (Email & Phone Number)
- LinkedIn/Website (optional)
- Short Bio: 150 words maximum
- Additional Presenters: Please note if there are any additional presenters.

SESSION DETAILS

- Audience (select one):
 - Leadership Passport Sessions (Students)
 - Professional Learning Sessions (Advisors)
 - Other
- Sub-Group(s) (optional; select any that apply):
 - Middle Level
 - Secondary
 - Post-Secondary
- Session Title: No more than 60 characters
- Session Description: Up to 400 characters
- Session Takeaways: 3-4 things participants will learn, practice, or be able to try
- Session Format:
 - Workshop (45 minutes)
 - Quick Stop (20 minutes)
 - Other
- Supporting Materials: Optional handouts, slides, or sample recordings

**Be part of BPA's 60th anniversary legacy.
Submit your proposal and #AmplifyYourImpact!**



NEXT STEPS

SPEAKER AGREEMENT

To be considered, all speakers must agree to the following terms. If you are not able to consent to all items but would still like to be considered, please contact programs@bpa.org to discuss.

- Availability: I confirm that I am available to present on May 7-8, 2026.
- Attendance: I understand that presentations must be delivered in-person at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, TN.
- Non-Commercial: I agree that my presentation will be educational and skill-focused and not promotional in nature or primarily intended to market a product, service, or organization. Note: If a session is determined to be promotional, BPA may require a sponsorship agreement in order to present.
- Marketing & Promotion: I grant BPA permission to promote my name, presentation title, and materials via print, electronic, and social media channels before, during, and after the event.
- Use of BPA Brand: I understand that I may not use BPA's name, logo, or likeness without the express written permission of BPA.
- Code of Conduct: I agree to uphold BPA's National Conference Code of Conduct, which emphasizes professionalism, inclusivity, and respect for all participants.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TODAY

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Gayle Robinson
Director of Strategic Programs and Experiences
programs@bpa.org



FAQs

WHO CAN SUBMIT A PROPOSAL?

Anyone who believes they have valuable insights, expertise, or experiences to contribute to BPA's mission. Examples include educators, students, alumni, industry experts, higher education representatives, trainers, and community leaders.

CAN I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROPOSAL?

Yes! We encourage speakers to submit multiple sessions for consideration. Please note that space is limited, and not all submissions may be accepted.

ARE PRESENTERS ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION?

Speaking engagements are voluntary, and BPA does not typically provide honoraria or cover expenses. In rare cases, limited support may be considered for proposals that offer exceptional value to attendees or when the presenter is also contributing in another capacity (for example, serving as a competitive event judge or volunteer). Requests must be detailed in the proposal and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT IF I'M NOT ABLE TO SUBMIT MY PROPOSAL BY THE NOVEMBER 15 PRIORITY DEADLINE?

Proposals submitted after this date may be accepted pending value and availability. Proposals submitted after the priority deadline will not be included in the conference preview guide.

