

2027 NIRSA CONFERENCE & CAMPUS REC EXPO SESSION PROPOSALS

Please use these guidelines as you prepare to submit a proposal to present a general education session, or panel session at the 2027 NIRSA Conference & Campus Rec Expo.

Below is a basic timeline for the proposal application window this year:

- Proposals are due **September 18, 2026**
- Accept/decline status notifications will be sent in **November 2026**
- Scheduling notifications will be sent in **January 2027**

Before you submit a proposal, note the following presenter requirements:

- Presenting at the NIRSA Conference is a benefit of membership, therefore all speakers are required to hold NIRSA membership. You may submit a proposal if you are not an active member, but if a speaker of an accepted proposal does not hold membership at the time of acceptance, they must obtain a membership status before the date of the event
- All presenters must register for the conference. Registration for 2027 NIRSA Conference & Campus Rec Expo will open in November, check our website for more registration updates

Instructions

Please be prepared to complete the following Information and consent to the speaker agreement. These sections of the proposal will be shared with reviewers. NIRSA strives to maintain a "blind" process for the peer review (meaning reviewers will not know who the presenter is or what institution they are affiliated with); so **please do not include any personal or organizational details in your proposal.**

For example, if you choose to upload additional documents—Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, Excel files, etc.—please ensure neither your name nor organization are listed on those materials. After the peer review process is completed, identifiable information will be available to the final selection team.

Strong proposals clearly articulate the professional need, demonstrate evidence or experience supporting the content, strive for meaningful participant engagement, and provide practical takeaways that attendees can apply immediately.

Review the [presenter resources in NIRSA Learning](#) for tips on how to develop a strong proposal.

Thank you!

Email events@nirsa.org if you have questions about the proposal form.

Proposal Elements and Response Limitations

Session Title (150-character limit)

Session Description (8,000-character limit)

The session description appears in conference program materials. Please provide a concise, public-facing description of your program and what tangible takeaways an attendee will leave with. This needs to accurately represent the content you will deliver.

Learning Objectives (Up to three)

Relevant track/topic (Single selection)

- ☐ Access, Community Impact & Support
- ☐ Aquatics
- ☐ Community Programming, Youth Camps & Special Events

- ☐ Esports
- ☐ Facility management, Planning & Design
- ☐ Fitness
- ☐ Higher Education Issues, Trends & Theories
- ☐ Intramural Sports, Officiating & Extramurals
- ☐ Leadership & Management
- ☐ Marketing
- ☐ Membership Services
- ☐ Outdoor Programs
- ☐ Small College & Community College
- ☐ Sport Clubs
- ☐ Student & Staff Development
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Wellness
- ☐ Wellbeing

Session Format (Single selection)

Please select from the following session formats:

- ☐ **45-minute GENERAL ED SESSION** - These sessions feature engaging lectures, and interactive learning experiences facilitated by up to three presenters.
- ☐ **45-minute PANEL** - Panel discussions are facilitated by a moderator who guides panelists and the audience through a conversation about a specific topic. Panelist roster is limited to six.

Audience (Single selection)

Select the primary audience that your session will be the most relevant to. Help attendees identify if this session is right for them! (single selection)

- ☐ Students
- ☐ Early Career
- ☐ Mid-level
- ☐ Senior level

Session Details

Value Proposition (10,000-character limit)

Tell us why your session should be in our program! What opportunity or problem does your session address, and why is it important to campus recreation professionals? Who will benefit the most from this session?

Supporting Evidence (10,000-character limit)

Describe the evidence or experience that informs your content (e.g. research, assessment data, institutional results, lived experience, etc.)

Presenter Qualification/Expertise (5,000-character limit)

Why are you the right person to lead this session? Describe your personal and professional experience with the topic, and previous presentation experience. Tell us about your speaking style, and how you'll keep the attention of attendees and the energy up.

Program Design (10,000-character limit)

Describe how attendees will experience your session. Provide a program outline demonstrating how you will use the time. Include how much time you anticipate spending on each item, describing specific engagement strategies (discussion, activities, polling, case studies, reflection, etc.).

Planning for takeaways (10,000-character limit)

Describe any tools, resources, templates, or examples you will share, and how you will meet the learning outcomes listed previously.

Professional Relevance

NIRSA Core Competencies

The educational content at NIRSA Conference & Campus Rec Expo is designed to provide attendees with the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and experiences that support their growth in NIRSA's five core competency areas listed below.

Operations

Operations focuses on delivering high-quality programs, services, and facility experiences. Professionals demonstrate operational excellence by planning effectively, managing logistics, solving problems, improving processes, and ensuring participants receive consistent, high-quality experiences.

Questions related to *Operations* include:

- How effectively are programs and services delivered?
- How do we improve participant experiences?
- How do we create systems that support success?

Leadership

Leadership focuses on developing people and creating positive workplace cultures. Leadership is not limited to formal supervisors. Every professional has opportunities to influence others, build trust, foster inclusion, and support growth.

Questions related to *Leadership* include:

- How do I help others succeed?
- How do I build accountability and trust?
- How do I contribute to a healthy team culture?

Risk & Resource Management

Campus recreation professionals are entrusted with people, facilities, finances, equipment, technology, and institutional resources. *Risk & Resource Management* focuses on stewardship. It includes safety, compliance, financial management, responsible resource use, ethical decision-making, and the growing responsibility associated with data, technology, and artificial intelligence.

Questions related to *Risk & Resource Management* include:

- How do I protect participants and the institution?
- How do I use resources responsibly?
- How do I balance innovation and risk?

Communication

Communication is about more than sharing information. It includes collaboration, relationship-building, conflict management, advocacy, emotional intelligence, and storytelling. As professionals advance, communication becomes increasingly important in building partnerships and influencing decisions.

Questions related to *Communication* include:

- How do I build trust?
- How do I navigate difficult conversations?
- How do I help others understand the value of campus recreation?

Professionalism & Service

Professionalism & Service focuses on continuous learning, ethical practice, and contribution to the profession. The strongest professionals never stop learning. They seek new knowledge, share expertise with others, and help strengthen the profession for future generations.

Questions related to *Professionalism & Service* include:

- How am I growing?
- How do I apply what I learn?
- How do I contribute to the profession beyond my own role?

NIRSA Core Competencies (select all that apply)

Please identify which core competency domain(s) will be represented in your session.

- ☐ Operations
- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Risk & Resource Management
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Professionalism & Service

Secondary presentation topic (Single selection)

If applicable, you'll be able to indicate a second topic that is also relevant to your proposal's content.

Note that *Wellness* and *Wellbeing* are now separate options. Presentations about wellbeing must include explicit consideration of systems and setting ("focus on the whole") to be accepted. [learn more at www.nirsa.org/hands-in]

- ☐ Access, Community Impact & Support
- ☐ Aquatics
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- ☐ Leadership & Management
- ☐ Marketing
- ☐ Membership Services
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- ☐ Sport Clubs

- ☐ Student & Staff Development
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Wellness
- ☐ Wellbeing

Previous presentations (5,000-character limit)

Has this content been presented at other learning events in the last 12 months? If so, which events?

Room style (5,000-character limit)

If a specific room style is integral to an effective delivery of your session, please state those needs here. We typically utilize theater style, rounds, and panel setups with theater seating. We cannot guarantee a specific room set, though we will do our best to accommodate reasonable requests.