



Welcome to your first NALP Conference!

We hope you will go home from this meeting with lots of new ideas, new energy, and new friends. You wonder, “How can I get the most bang for my buck — make my absence from the office cost-effective — learn the most — meet the most people — and acquire the most ideas and resources during this educational conference?” In this age of accountability, these questions need answers. NALP’s conference offers ample opportunity to maximize your learning experience if you simply do a little advance planning and follow these suggestions from your NALP colleagues.

Download the app in advance of the event. You can also go to the mobile site in advance and print any handouts you want on site - <https://crowd.cc/2017npf>

Bring business cards – a lot of them. You will meet many colleagues from around the country whom you might want to stay in touch with. A business card is an easy way to introduce yourself, and your collection of exchanged cards will be a key resource once back at the office. You can connect with the people you meet on NALPconnect once you return to the office as well.

Develop a road map. The conference agenda in the app provides details on the schedule, programs, subjects, and speakers. Before each day’s programming, highlight the sessions of special interest to you and be sure to take advantage of all the additional opportunities like one on one consulting, dinner groups and roundtable discussions.

Network, network, network. Use the meal and social functions to meet your colleagues and learn informally about the field. There is plenty of networking time scheduled. Don’t be afraid to sit down to a meal with strangers; because of the nature of this particular conference, most of you are first-time attendees and are in the same boat. NALP members are a very friendly group!

Use the attendee list. Print it out from the logistics emails and check off the names of people you have met. Make notes to help you remember what you learned from them. Use the app to meet and connect with people as well.

Learn about your professional association. Learn about NALP through the special programming offered here and by talking with the speakers, all of whom have extensive experience with the association.

Consider volunteering for a NALP section when you return to the office, an excellent way to grow both professionally and personally. Join a section on NALPconnect and contact the section chair to get additional information.

Use the conference materials. Keep your conference materials as reference tools. They are full of contacts and names of experts who can help you solve problems in the future, and the program handouts are a valuable resource as you deal with new issues on the job.

Ask questions. When in doubt, ask questions. NALP members really are a friendly and caring group of people... and at one time, we all were “Newcomers”!

Evaluate the conference. Every single evaluation is reviewed and discussed. Much of the content for future conferences will be taken from the suggestions given after prior events, so please, take time and voice your opinions!