NSTA Web Seminar:
How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Goal of this Web Seminar

To provide tips on how to make the NSTA National Conference in New Orleans a successful PD experience for you.

But first, a true story…
Why Professional Development?

State and district mandates now require that you demonstrate you are “Highly Qualified” in your content area.
What is the National Science Teachers Association?

• The largest professional science educators organization in the world

• Our current membership includes more than 59,000 teachers, supervisors, administrators, and others involved in science education.

• NSTA is the major voice of science educators and a key player in setting the nation’s science education agenda.
Are you an NSTA Member?

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<th>YES</th>
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NSTA Membership…

…Means you Belong!

• Book discounts
• Conference discounts
• Free journals, newsletters, e-publications, seminars
• Networking, listservs, online teaching products
• Student chapters
How does NSTA Improve Science Education?

• Journals, Publications, Classroom Products and Services
• Best-in-Class PD
• Networking and Leadership Opportunities
• Unified voice among policymakers
Publications

- Award-winning NSTA Press books
- Journals devoted to elementary, middle, high school and college teachers
- SciLinks – vetted science websites
- E-newsletters with up to date science news
NSTA Press Publications

- For teachers, by teachers.
- More than 100,000 publications sold annually.
- Wide range of topics for all grade spans.
What Attendees Say about the NSTA Conference...
NSTA National Conference 2009 in New Orleans
Are you registered to attend?

New Orleans, LA
March 19-22, 2009
How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience

Let’s talk about the Conference Sessions
NSTA Conference: Components

- Invited Presentations
- Concurrent Sessions
- Short Courses
- Symposia
- PDIs
- RDC
- Field Trips and Social Functions
- Exhibition of Science Teaching Materials

Reminder: Evaluate all sessions!
NSTA Conference: Invited Presentations

• General Session
  – Mark Plotkin, Ethnobotanist and President, Amazon Conservation Team
  – Michael DiSpezio, Author and Global Educator

• Featured Presentations
  – Renowned experts
  – General interest topics
NSTA Conference: Concurrent Sessions

- Presentations
- Workshops
- Exhibitor Workshops

For all of the above:
- 30 or 60 min. sessions
- No ticket required
- Arrive early!
- Hundreds scheduled
### NSTA National Conference 2009: First timer or experienced?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>I am attending an NSTA Conference for the 1st time</th>
<th>I have attended an NSTA Conference before</th>
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*If a first timer, consider attending one of the two “first timers” sessions scheduled!*
NSTA Conference: Short Courses

- Three to six hrs.
- Fee based, ticketed events
- Several scheduled
- Content & strategies
NSTA Conference: Symposia

• Fee based, ticketed, half-day, workshops
• Content & pedagogical experts
• Follow-up Web Seminars
• Educational materials
• Stipend available (2 programs)
NSTA Conference: Symposia

• **NOAA**: The Heat is On! Climate Change and Coral Reef Ecosystems

• **NIH**: Exploring Bioethics – A New Model for Classroom Instruction
  
  *Stipend ($60) available for first 35 participants*

• **FDA**: Teaching Science with Food
  
  *Stipend ($60) available*

• **USFS, SRS, NOAA**: Earth Then, Earth Now: Our Changing Climate

**NSTA Press**: Energy: Stop Faking It!
NSTA Conference: PDIs

• Day long workshops
• Followed by recommended sessions
• Fee based, ticket required
• Pre-conference
NSTA Conference: RDC

• Day-long Research Dissemination Conf.


• Plenary Speakers: Peter Dow and Mike Klentschy

• Teachers Grades K-12

• Fee based, ticket required

• Saturday, March 21, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
If you have attended a previous NSTA Conference, do you have a positive experience to share?

1.

2.

Raise your hand to volunteer.
NSTA Conference: Field Trips and Social Functions

- Field Trips
  - Half or full day
  - Fee based, ticket required

- Social Functions
  - Fee based, ticket required
Let’s Pause for Two Questions from the Audience about the Conference Sessions
### Assessment Exercise: Matching

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<th>Field Trips</th>
<th>Short Courses</th>
<th>Concurrent Sessions</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Day long</td>
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<td>Explore host city</td>
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<td>Pre-conference</td>
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<td>Mark Plotkin</td>
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How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience

Let’s talk about the Conference Exhibits
NSTA Conference: Exhibition of Science Teaching Materials

Main Hall Days/Time

• Thu., 10 AM – 6 PM
• Fri., 9 AM – 5 PM
• Sat., 9 AM – 5 PM
NSTA Conference: Exhibits

• What’s there?
  – Latest textbooks
  – Computer hardware/software
  – Lab equipment
  – Ed. Materials
  – PD opportunities

• Registration badge: required
NSTA Booth: All about NSTA

- Membership
- Prof. Development
- Publications
- Awards and Competitions
- Networking
NSTA Booth: Your “Homebase”

• Complete your “Question Card”
• Redeem for a Pre-Loaded Flash Drive
• Preview and take home samples of Publications
• Create your profile and explore NSTA’s new Online Communities
• Explore the *NSTA Learning Center*
• Learn about NSTA’s—Awards programs for You and Your Students
• Network with NSTA staff and Elected Leaders
NSTA Conference: Science Store

- Hundreds of books and teachers’ resources
- New Spring releases for 2009
- Select authors discuss their work/sign books
- NSTA members save 20% on all NSTA Press® products; 10% on other products
Let’s Pause for Two Questions from the Audience about the Conference Exhibits
How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience

What can you do TODAY to prepare for the Conference?
NSTA Conference: Resources: Before the Conference

NSTA Web Site

• Dates
• Registration
• Sessions
• Travel
• Lodging

http://www.nsta.org/conferences
NSTA Conference: Resources: Before the Conference

Conference Preview

• Hardcopy publication
• Program highlights
• Forms and Info
• Also online!

Poll Question for the Audience

Have you used the NSTA Conference Personal Scheduler (CPS)?

A. YES, I have.
B. NO, I haven’t.
C. I don’t know what the CPS is.
NSTA Conference: Resources: Before the Conference

Conference Personal Scheduler

- Personal calendar
- Planning
- Identify conflicts
- Justify your trip

The Conference Personal Scheduler

NSTA National Conference, New Orleans, LA

Paul Tingler: your personal schedule of events is below. To delete an event, click the X located in the top right corner of each event box.

Please note: Adding sessions (even nonticketed sessions) to your personal schedule does not mean you are registered to attend the conference. See the registration page for information on how to register.

- Click here to add more events
- Click here for printer-friendly version

Click here for directions on exporting and importing calendar data

Thursday, March 19, 2009

- 8 am: New Teacher Academy Breakfast
- 9 am-10 am: Waterbury Ballroom, Sheraton New Orleans
- 10 am-11 am: SYM1: NSF/NSSTA Symposium: Teaching Biology: A New Model for Classroom Instruction
- 11 am-12 pm: Room 286, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
- 12 pm-1 pm: SYM2: Climate Change/NSSTA Symposium: Earth Then, Earth Now: Our Changing Climate
- 1 pm-2 pm: Room 286, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
Question

Now that I know how the Conference Personal Scheduler works, I plan to use it and tell others about it.

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How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience

Things to consider while at the Conference
NSTA Conference: Tips

- Read the Final Program
- Study the area map
- Sort sessions by location
- Carry a snack/Stay hydrated
- Lots of goodies…think about how to pack
NSTA Conference: Tips

What to wear?
NSTA Conference: Tips

What to do/where to go after hours?

- NSTA Social Functions
- Listserv and FaceBook get-togethers
- Check your Hotel
- Ask your colleagues
- Room Service?

Are you a night owl?
How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience

What can you do AFTER the Conference?
NSTA Conference: After you Return home

- Share the experience
- Give NSTA your feedback
- Get your transcript
- Attend Web Seminars
- Participate in listservs
- Present at future conference

http://learningcenter.nsta.org/transcript.aspx
Enjoy the Conference!

New Orleans, LA
March 19-22, 2009
National Science Teachers Association
Dr. Francis Q. Eberle, Executive Director
Zipporah Miller, Associate Executive Director
Conferences and Programs
Al Byers, Assistant Executive Director e-Learning

NSTA Web Seminars
Paul Tingler, Director
Jeff Layman, Technical Coordinator