Call for Proposals

Workshops, Research Presentations, and Poster Showcases

April 10-13, 2017
Renaissance Asheville by Marriott
Asheville, North Carolina

Key Dates:
Proposal Submission Deadline: November 1, 2016 (5:00 pm, CST)
Notification of Accepted Proposals: December 1, 2016
Confirmation of Acceptance: December 20, 2016

Purpose
The National Extension Conference on Volunteerism (NECV) is an opportunity for sharing and learning the latest research and trends in volunteerism, gaining innovative ideas for reaching new volunteers, investigating best practices for developing and retaining current volunteers, and strengthening volunteer management efforts. Conference participants will gather tools and skills through interactive sessions and networking with colleagues and develop plans to utilize new resources in their own programs.

Target Audience
The intended audience for this conference is national, state, regional and county professional Extension staff interested in building the capacity of volunteers into program efforts and creating an effective volunteer delivery system within their programs.

About the Conference
The 2017 NECV provides an exciting opportunity for Extension staff working on issues related to volunteerism, to learn and share resources with colleagues and collaborators across the nation. The conference brings together the resources of the land-grant system with county and state Extension faculty who build and sustain effective volunteer programs.

The NECV Planning Committee invites Workshop, Research Presentation, and Poster Session proposals for presentation in April 2017. Individuals and teams with information that can help conference participants reach their program and professional development goals are encouraged to submit proposals. Presentations are intended to be interactive, engage participants, and provide useful, research-based, programmatic and evaluation information/tools that participants
can apply to their own programs. Workshops and research presentations will be planned for 45 and 90-minute sessions.

In developing proposals, consider pertinent research, knowledge, competencies, and best practices in your program/subject matter area in relation to components of a volunteer system such as: personal readiness; organizational readiness, engagement of volunteers, education of volunteers, and sustainability of volunteer efforts. Youth Development staff in particular but Extension colleagues in other disciplines, as well, are welcome to review the Volunteer Development for the Next Generation Knowledge and Skill Rubric which can be found at: http://nextgeneration.4-h.org/Volunteerism/ which speaks to the components mentioned above.

Presentations
There are three (3) presentation format options. Each has a decidedly different character and requires different preparation. Please give careful thought to the format best suited to your presentation content. Most participants prefer interactive presentations that provide useful information attendees can apply to their own work. Priority will be given to proposals that engage the participants in active learning. If your proposal is accepted for presentation, the expectation is that it will be precisely what you have committed to in this proposal. Proposals will be accepted for:

WORKSHOPS - Training sessions for participants to explore new ideas, concepts and approaches to accomplish program outcomes. Workshops should be interactive, engage participants, and provide useful, research-based, programmatic and evaluation information/tools that participants can apply to their own programs. Teams of Extension staff, community partners, and adult presenters are welcome. Workshops may be 45 or 90 minutes. Please indicate on the proposal application form if you would consider participating in the poster showcase if your workshop is not accepted.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS – An opportunity to share research conducted or compiled by the presenter(s) that is pertinent to the area of volunteerism and relevant to Extension work. Research presentations may be 45 or 90 minutes. Please indicate on the proposal application form if you would consider participating in the poster showcase if your research presentation is not accepted.

POSTER SHOWCASE - An opportunity for presenters to showcase successful volunteerism related projects, programs, research, or evaluation information. Showcases might include a short abstract, charts, graphs, or sample program materials to encourage informal discussion on volunteerism. Presenters are responsible for bringing and/or shipping their own display boards as well as set up, take down, and staffing during designated times. Skirted tables will be provided for display use.

Proposal Guidelines
Either as an individual or as a team, you can join the ranks of recognized experts in the Extension profession. To ensure that a balanced conference is offered, all submissions are
reviewed and evaluated by a team of Extension professionals. The evaluation process is competitive.

- No speaker may be the lead presenter on more than two proposals and/or co-presenter on more than three accepted proposals.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically or they will not be evaluated.
- Notification of acceptance will be made electronically by December 1, 2016.
- The committee will correspond with the primary presenter only. It is the primary presenter’s responsibility to notify co-presenters.
- Time limits for workshops and research presentations are 45 and 90 minutes.
- Abstract word limits for inclusion in Conference Proceedings are: 500 words or less.

**Selection Criteria**

Be sure to answer the following questions within your presentation proposal. Your proposal will be judged on the following selection criteria:

- Are the ideas presented relevant and significant to Extension’s work with volunteers?
- Are the concepts introduced useful, practical, forward thinking, visionary?
- Is the scope of your presentation appropriate to the allotted time period?
- Is there demonstrated knowledge of the subject matter?
- Is the material presented in a logical or sequential manner?
- Is the instructional design creative, allowing for interaction among the participants?
- Is the scope appropriate for Extension audiences of all backgrounds?

Questions regarding the RFP process should be directed to NECV Programs Committee Member Courtney Dodd at cfdodd@ag.tamu.edu (979)845-6533.

Completed proposals should be submitted online at: NECV Abstract submission no later than 5:00 pm CST on November 1, 2016. Notification of acceptance will be given by December 1, 2016.