

2026 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE
October 28, 2026
Docking State Office Building, Topeka, KS

CALL FOR PRESENTERS GUIDELINES

[Kansas Volunteer Commission](#) is seeking presenters for 50-minute workshops at the 2026 Civic Engagement Conference. The conference will be held at the Docking State Office Building, in Topeka, on October 28, 2026. The theme for the conference is **“Empowering Kansans Through Civic Engagement.”**

Specifically, we are seeking a diversity of session proposals that will be informative and relevant, encourage opportunities for learner engagement, and/or demonstrate application to the work of participants. Our goal is to select proposals which:

- Contain new and innovative ideas
- Provide an appropriate mix of information presentation and engaging activities
- Stimulate and provoke discussion
- Address current or trending issues
- Offer practical information and tools that participants may use immediately

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The Call for Proposals Guidelines and Application can be found at <https://kanserve.ksde.gov/home>. Completed applications must be emailed to volunteer@ksde.gov by **September 4, 2026**.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The expected conference attendance is around 100-150. The primary audience is:

- Educators and students (High School, College)
- Community partners
- Individuals passionate about civic engagement
- Mentoring, nonprofit and volunteer management professionals
- National service members and staff (including AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Senior)

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The morning of the conference, there will be two general sessions. Workshop sessions will be held in the afternoon of the conference after lunch. All types of sessions will be considered, such as a presentation, panel, round table, or a combination of the above.

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Presenters must be willing to:

- Provide training for a wide range of participants
- Include a hands-on component for participants to practice or dialogue what they are learning in some interactive way: individual, small or large group activities or discussions, games, reflection, etc.
- Allow time for questions
- Use tech/audio/visual equipment

SUGGESTED SESSION TOPIC AREAS (please note these are only suggestions)

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| • Advocacy | • Leadership development |
| • Board development and engagement | • National service topics |
| • Change and growth management | • Nonprofit sustainability |
| • Civic engagement ideas | • Service-learning |
| • Communication and messaging | • Social media strategies |
| • Data collection and reporting | • Technology tips and best practices |
| • Developing a talent pipeline | • Youth development/youth in service |
| • Diversity, equity, and inclusion | • Youth mentoring best practices |
| • Fundraising and resource development | • Volunteer recruitment, management, and retention |
| • Grant-writing techniques | |
| • Increasing collective impact and collaboration | |

ROOM SETUP

All training rooms will have basic Audio/Visual including a screen, LCD projector, flipcharts, and markers. Some rooms have air media only, must have USBC plug and or an HDMI cable to connect with your laptop, which you must provide.

Room setup will be determined based on the ability to maximize the number of participants able to attend each workshop.

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PROPOSAL SELECTION

Proposals will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Building of participants' skills/knowledge
- Presenter's appreciation/knowledge of topic (expertise)
- Presenter provides relevant and helpful information
- Presenter provides effective, practical application of the training
- Methodology addresses various learning styles (auditory, visual, kinesthetic)
- Topic, content and methodology and whether it meets the target audience's needs
- Clear outcomes for increasing participants' skills, knowledge or other resources

SELECTED PROPOSALS

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by the conference planning committee. Presenters will be notified if their proposal has been accepted by September 18, 2026 at the latest.

Presenters will be asked to complete the following tasks and instructions will be provided later:

- Register for the conference
- Add their professional bios and photos to Sched, the conference website
- Send handouts to be printed to volunteer@ksde.gov by October 1, 2026
- Upload any conference materials to Sched by September 25, 2026

PRESENTER BENEFITS

If you are selected as a presenter(s), the Commission will provide free conference registration for up to two presenters. No per diem, mileage or honorarium will be provided to session presenters.

QUESTIONS

Please email Sarah Nelson at volunteer@ksde.gov or at 785-296-7801.