

TIPS FOR SHARING A VISION CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Here are some ideas from “veteran conference goers” to help make the most of your Sharing a Vision Conference experience.

- Upon arrival, orient yourself. Familiarize yourself with all of the conference locations (workshop rooms, general sessions, luncheons, exhibits, hotel restaurant, restrooms, and gift shop).
- Bring your favorite personal survival “musts” such as aspirin, gum, cough drops and bottle of water.
- There’s a map in the conference guide. Study it. It’s amazing how confusing big conference centers can be!
- Know where you are and where you’re going. Look at the floor plans in your program.
- Look at the program beforehand and plan your day. Decide what sessions you want to attend and pick alternatives in case the session you pick is full. Sessions do fill up and are closed by the session facilitator when at room capacity.
- If a session isn’t meeting your needs, leave quietly and at an appropriate time. You only receive credit for sessions you attend in entirety.
- Bring a sweater or layer your clothing so that you will be comfortable whether the room is hot or cold. Conference planners will have no control over room temperatures.
- Write notes on the back of business cards you obtain from others to remind you what you learned or what you were going to do in regards to this person/agency.
- Wear your nametag high so people can see it and so you can get into events and lunch. Look at other people’s nametags for use in networking and meeting new people. Assume that anyone wearing a conference committee tag is extra approachable!
- You may have to stand in a few lines (at registration, to get coffee, etc.). Use the extra time to your advantage and network with others in the line.
- Wear comfortable shoes or bring an extra pair for changing.
- Go see the exhibits. Consider using one of the breakout times to visit the exhibits! Exhibits are fun and often have fun freebies you can take (plus you may learn something).
- If you are a family member of a person with a disability, be sure to visit the Family Table in the exhibit hall. The folks there want to talk with you!
- Keep a list of the people that you met and want to contact after the conference.
- Throughout the conference, keep a list of how you plan to put what you’ve learned into action when you get home. Refer to the list when you get back home and take action!
- Be sure to complete and turn in your evaluation form. The conference planning committee will use the information you provide to plan and improve the next conference!