

DON'T JUST ATTEND. BRING SOMETHING BACK.

Make the most of your conference time and money. A little planning before you leave campus can turn a good trip into ideas your SG actually uses.



BEFORE YOU GO

Pick the right conference. Talk with your advisor, past officers, and other campus groups. Choose events that address your SG's biggest needs. Early-semester conferences give you more time to use what you learn.

Plan the money early. Budget for registration, travel, meals, and lodging. Hold fundraisers in spring or summer so conference costs don't drain your SG's activities budget. Leave room for worthwhile opportunities that come up later.

Look for savings. Register early and ask about group rates. Compare the conference hotel rate with other options, including transportation costs. Carpool, share approved lodging, or use campus transportation when it makes sense.

GET YOUR DELEGATION READY

Split the workshops. Read the schedule in advance. If several sessions happen at once, divide up. You'll collect more ideas than you would by attending everything together.

Bring the next generation. When possible, include emerging SG leaders. They'll gain skills and connections that help your organization long after current officers graduate.

Come with questions. Ask members what problems they want solved. Research speakers and sessions. Bring a few specific questions instead of hoping inspiration will strike.

Pack for the trip. Bring business cards, a way to exchange digital contacts, your conference schedule, chargers, any needed medications, and something to take notes with. Check travel details before leaving.

YOU'RE HERE. MAKE IT COUNT.

Don't spend the whole conference with the people you came with. You can do that back on campus.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Get out of your bubble. Sit with students from other schools at workshops and meals. Ask what's working on their campuses and what they wish they'd done differently.

Use every session. Arrive on time, participate, ask thoughtful questions, and save useful handouts or links. Record speakers only when permission is given.

Make connections. Talk with speakers, advisors, and other SG officers. Exchange business cards or contact information. Follow up with people who face the same challenges you do.

Represent your school well. Wear your nametag, be courteous, and participate in conference activities or awards opportunities when appropriate. Share your SG's good ideas, too.

DON'T WASTE THE INVESTMENT

Watch the extras. Compare transportation options, plan meals, and avoid unnecessary hotel or airport purchases. Choose safe, practical lodging arrangements that follow campus policies.

Check in every evening. Meet briefly with your delegation. What surprised you? Which ideas could work back home? What did someone else learn that you missed?

Capture the details. Write down names, links, and next steps while they're fresh. Photos and notes can help you report to your SG and share useful lessons with students who stayed on campus.

Bring it home. Share what you learned at your next SG meeting. Use ASGA's Conference Assessment & Action Plan to decide which ideas deserve attention and who'll take the lead.

THE REAL TEST: What will your SG do differently because you went?