

First-Time Attendee **FAQs**

When should I arrive?

The official start of the Conference is Sunday, May 7th, with the opening session beginning at 8:30 am. We'd recommend arriving on Saturday, May 6th, to ensure you have enough time to check in to the hotel, familiarize yourself with the Gaylord, and pick up your badge before the first session begins. There are also pre-conference events on Saturday beginning at 8:30 am.

Do I have to stay at the preferred hotel?

No, staying at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center is not required. HSPA has worked to secure the lowest rate possible for our attendees, and all educational sessions, social events, and exhibits take place at the Gaylord. Not only are you saving money by booking at the Gaylord, but it's also a great way to mingle, network, unwind, and recap the day with fellow SP professionals.

What does my conference registration include?

Each full registration fee includes access to all learning activities from Saturday, May 6, through Wednesday, May 10, 2023, and admission to the 2023 Expo, lunches, and the opening reception. Please note that pre-conference activities on Saturday, May 6, are offered on a first-come-first-served basis. The Educators Forum requires an additional \$99 fee.

What should I bring?

The dress code is business casual, and comfortable shoes are a must! We suggest packing a light sweater or two, as meeting rooms are cool. We recommend you pack a few business cards and have a notebook and pens to take notes.

Do I have to attend each session?

Attendance at each session is not mandatory, nor is it possible. We recommend trying to attend as many sessions as your schedule allows. The conference program is designed for each attendee to be able to participate in all general sessions and the flexibility to choose from various concurrent sessions based on what topic interests you most.

Do I have to pay for each session?

No, your conference registration includes access to all learning activities from Saturday, May 6, through Wednesday, May 10, 2023. The only session that requires an additional fee for entry is The Educators Forum (\$99 additional fee).

Can I bring a spouse or guest to an event or session?

To access sessions, special events, and meals, guests attending the Annual Conference must register as an attendee in full or purchase a daily pass(es) on-site. The daily rate for the Conference is \$300 and must be purchased on-site at the main registration desk. The opening reception on Sunday night will be available to purchase separately for guests on-site for a fee of \$125.

Are there events tailored to first-time attendees?

HSPA's new Mentoring program will match first-time attendees with seasoned conference attendees. Attendees will receive an email with information on how to participate in the program.



How can I network while at the Conference?

Networking is one of the most valuable benefits of attending the annual Conference and expo. Whether walking between sessions, grabbing coffee in the morning, or sitting beside somebody new before a presentation starts—always be willing to meet new people! Keep a few easy lead-in prompts on hand to strike up a conversation; “What did you think about that General Session?”, “Where are you from?”, “Is this your first time in Nashville?” The Opening Reception is a great place to meet new people and connect on the first day of the Conference. Daily lunches are another easy way to meet new people. Sit at a new table daily and start a conversation with the group!

How can/should I spend my evening?

Sessions and workshops end at 5:00 pm each evening, and our Opening Reception takes place Sunday night from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We highly recommend attending our Opening Reception. It’s a great place to network with fellow attendees and have fun! You will have free time in the evenings, and we suggest you take advantage of this time to explore Nashville with your fellow attendees. You can find a list of things to do around the Gaylord and downtown Nashville on the conference website here: https://s6.goeshow.com/hspa/annual/2023/Experience_Nashville.cfm

If I hold a certification from CBSPD, can I attend the HSPA conference and obtain credit?

Yes, all are welcome to the Conference. The Conference is approved for CBSPD credit. Stop by the registration desk to obtain a copy of the 2023 approval codes.

When should I expect to receive my credits for attending the Conference?

Please allow up to 7 days following the close of the Conference for your credits to be applied to your HSPA account. If you are certified with CBSPD or need nursing credits, please visit the registration desk for more information.

Does HSPA Have a courtesy pickup at the airport?

No, HSPA does not offer a pickup service or a shuttle at the Nashville International Airport. We recommend either taking an Uber or Lyft to the Gaylord (approximately \$17-\$22 one way). If you plan to rent a car, please note that you will be responsible for on-site parking. HSPA has secured a 20% discount. Parking validation tickets are available at the HSPA registration desk.

What if I have dietary restrictions? Are there alternatives available at the lunches?

Yes, HSPA is working closely with the Gaylord to meet everyone’s dietary restrictions. To help us plan accordingly, please indicate your allergen on the conference registration form. All meals have vegan, gluten-free, and vegetarian options.

Do we get a copy of the speaker presentations?

Paper handouts are not provided by HSPA, but registered attendees may view and/or download the presentations from the HSPA mobile app, or from the HSPA website. To access the available PDF downloads, visit <https://www.myhspa.org/my-conference.html>, and log into your HSPA account. Once logged in, you will see conference attendee information, and you may download or review any of the available presentations.

Please note: Presentations are only available when provided by the speakers. Pre-conference workshops, discussion groups, and keynote speaker presentations are not included.

Is there a tour before the opening ceremony to ensure I go to the correct sessions?

HSPA does not offer a formal tour, but we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the Gaylord and conference floor plan before the opening session begins. You can find a copy of the conference map within the Mobile App and the Conference Program Guide. We recommend planning which sessions you'd like to attend before the conference starts to help map out your days. You can also stop by the registration booth anytime; we will be happy to help guide you in the right direction!

Are there interpreters available?

No, HSPA does not offer interpreters for the conference sessions. If you indicated a special accommodation on your registration form, we will work closely with you to make the Annual Conference as fully accessible as possible.

Can I record a session with audio or video?

No, recording (in any manner) educational sessions or events or disseminating copyrighted is not permitted. Recording content within any HSPA-occupied spaces (including hallways) without expressed written permission from HSPA is considered a violation of our code of conduct and may result in removal from the Annual Conference.

Are shuttles available if I am not staying at a preferred hotel?

No, HSPA does not provide shuttles to and from other hotels or the airport for attendees.

Is there information for medical assistance in the area?

In the event of a medical emergency on-site, remain calm and dial 9-1-1. Gaylord staff will be available throughout the Conference to help guide you to the best assistance in the local area if needed.

Can someone share information about HSPA certifications, and can I buy study guides at the Conference?

If you are interested in general certification information, check out our Certification Town Hall meeting on Saturday, May 6th at 3:30 p.m. Additionally, don't hesitate to ask fellow attendees about their certifications. Certification designations are listed on the conference badge. If you still have questions, stop by the registration desk or the HSPA booth inside the expo hall. Study guides will not be available on-site, but we can help you purchase one online or complete a paper order form.

Does HSPA share attendee information?

By registering as an attendee, you agree to receive periodic emails and mailings from exhibiting companies directly related to exhibits and social events for the 2023 Annual Conference & Expo. Additionally, the QR code on your badge allows participating exhibitors to collect your registration details on request.