

40 years of Mainers Helping Mainers

For 40 years, Mainers have come together to support one another through service, generosity, and community connection. This year's conference celebrates that legacy while looking ahead to the future of volunteer engagement across our state. We invite you to share your knowledge, experiences, and innovative ideas to help strengthen and sustain volunteerism in Maine.

Applications are due by June 28th at midnight

We are seeking interactive workshops, presentations, and skill-building sessions in the following focus areas:

* 1. Please select which workshop session OR panel that you are creating an application for. If you have multiple sessions or panels that you are interested in, when you have finished the survey please **submit another response** for each proposal.

Detailed descriptions of each of the different sessions and panels listed below

- Engaging Corporate Partners Workshop
- Developing and Training Volunteers for Remote Opportunities Workshop
- Advocacy and Communicating Volunteer Impact Workshop
- New Mainer Volunteer Engagement Workshop
- Youth Volunteers Workshop
- Volunteering Across Lifespans Panel
- Citizen Science Management Panel
- Youth Engagement Panel
- Service in Higher Education Panel
- I have another session/panel that I am interested in leading

Workshops Opportunities:

Engaging Corporate Partners

Strong partnerships with businesses can expand your organization's reach and impact. We're looking for sessions that explore how to build, manage, and grow corporate relationships—from first connection to long-term engagement.

Topics might include:

- Planning and executing days of service
- Aligning corporate goals with community needs
- Preparing staff and sites for corporate volunteer groups
- Creating meaningful experiences that encourage ongoing partnership

Recommended presenters should:

- Have experience engaging corporate volunteer partners
- Have strategies around planning and executing corporate volunteer engagements
- Understand how to balance corporate partnerships with needs and capacity

Developing and Training Volunteers for Remote Opportunities

Remote volunteerism continues to open new doors for participation, but it also requires thoughtful planning and support. Sessions in this track explore the process from end to end in creating, managing, and evaluating remote opportunities and dive deep into the challenges of accessibility.

Topics might include:

- Designing effective remote roles
- Best strategies for identifying virtual volunteer opportunities in your organization
- Ensuring accessibility for volunteers with limited transportation or technology
- Engaging, training, and managing fully remote volunteers in roles such as citizen science, phone banking, mentoring, and administrative support

Recommended presenters should:

- Have experience in identifying/designing remote volunteer opportunities
- Have strategies on engaging volunteers in a remote space and managing those volunteers
- Understand how remote volunteering can reduce barriers to participation in volunteer opportunities and be able to speak to the benefits and challenges

Advocacy and Communicating Volunteer Impact

Telling the story of volunteer impact is essential for building support and advancing your mission. We're seeking sessions that focus on effective communication strategies with municipal, state, and federal partners, as well as philanthropic organizations.

Topics may include:

- Best practices for storytelling to engage your audience and generate sustainable engagement
- How to use social media and digital tools most efficiently
- Centering volunteer voices in a way that maximizes their stories and demonstrates impact that ultimately influences decision-making
- Creative communication methods for when digital media marketing is not effective

Recommended presenters should:

- Be knowledgeable of current social media and digital marketing platforms and technologies
- Understand the digital media landscape
- Have experience with storytelling in a variety of formats

New Mainer Volunteer Engagement

Maine has a vibrant immigrant population that may face barriers to access volunteer opportunities that more established Mainers do not. We are seeking sessions that focus on how we as the volunteer community can reduce these barriers to access and create infrastructure that is welcoming and sustainable for Maine's immigrant populations.

Topics may include:

- Common barriers to accessibility of volunteering for New Mainers
- Best practices for connecting with New Mainers to engage in volunteering
- Perspectives from New Mainers

Recommended presenters should:

- Have experience engaging New Mainers in volunteer opportunities
- Be connected with New Mainer populations or be a New Mainer themselves that can speak to the experience
- Understand the resources that New Mainers seek in order to be successful in volunteer opportunities
- Have experience developing projects or opportunities that engage New Mainers

Youth Volunteers Workshop

Statistics show that when people engage in volunteering from a young age they are more likely to continue to volunteer as they grow older. Volunteerism is linked to stronger community bonds, skill development, and may allow young people to engage in opportunities to help them. We are seeking session proposals that can speak to the logistical and social challenges of engaging with youth volunteers and how to overcome them.

Topic areas may include:

- How to engage & retain youth volunteers
- Challenges to managing youth volunteers
- Why youth volunteers are valuable to nonprofits
- Best practices to working with youth volunteers

Recommended presenters should:

- Have experience managing youth volunteers
- Understand documentation needed for youth volunteers
- Know how to recruit, engage, and retain youth volunteers
- Be experienced in creating volunteer service projects or positions for youth volunteers
- Provide mentorship and leadership skills to youth volunteers through job shadowing, workforce readiness, or other means that advance their goals
- Recognize and celebrate their contributions
- Ensure safety and supervision of young people

Panel Discussion Opportunities

In addition to workshops, we invite proposals for panel discussions that bring together diverse perspectives and real-world experiences. Suggested panel topics include:

Volunteering Across Lifespans

Explore how to engage volunteers at every stage of life—from youth to older adults. Consider strategies for working with families, mid-career individuals, and retirees, and how to adapt opportunities to meet different needs and motivations.

Citizen Science Management

Highlight successful models for recruiting, training, and sustaining volunteers in large-scale or remote efforts, such as environmental monitoring, public health initiatives, or community data collection. We are seeking organizations that have citizen science programs that use community volunteers to collect data for your agency. The discussion would include recruitment, role development, how your organization verifies the data, training structure, and communication methods.

Youth Engagement

Speak to how your organization utilizes youth volunteers and best practices for youth volunteers. Participating organizations should have knowledge on policies and procedures in place for youth participation in volunteer opportunities (documentation, application, and parental consent), prioritizing safety, recruitment, roles and responsibilities and how to balance busy work and meaningful tasks, training and onboarding, and engagement best practices.

Service in Higher Education

Examine how colleges and universities promote service and civic engagement, support student involvement, and partner with communities to create meaningful impact. We are seeking participants that have knowledge in: leveraging student skills, managing community partner expectations, balancing school and service workload expectations, incentivizing student and institution involvement, and increasing retention of young people in Maine.

Session Lead Presenter

* 2. Presenter Information

Name:

Company/Organization:

Professional Title:

Postal Address:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Email Address:

Daytime Phone Number:

* 3. Describe your qualifications as they relate to the session topic and presentations.

4. Provide a brief bio for use in conference materials if your session is chosen. (600 character limit.)

* 5. Add Co-Presenter Information?

- Yes
- No

Co-presenter Information

* 6. Co-presenter Information

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Company/Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Professional Title:	<input type="text"/>
Postal Address:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

7. Co-presenter Information

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Company/Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Professional Title:	<input type="text"/>
Postal Address:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

* 8. Describe your qualifications as they relate to the session topic and and experience with remote learning presentations.

* 9. Provide a brief bio for use in conference materials if your session is chosen. (600 character limit.)

* 10. Add Co-Presenter Information?

Yes

No

Co-presenter Information

* 11. Co-presenter Information

Name:

Company/Organization:

Professional Title:

Postal Address:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

12. Co-presenter Information

Name:

Company/Organization:

Professional Title:

Postal Address:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

* 13. Describe your qualifications as they relate to the session topic and and experience with remote learning presentations.

* 14. Provide a brief bio for use in conference materials if your session is chosen. (600 character limit.)

Session Details

* 15. List the learning objectives for the session.

1.

2.

3.

* 16. Propose a snazzy title for your workshop. Think marketing rather than academia!

* 17. Brief Workshop Pitch (max. 600 characters including spaces).

Provide a short description of the session -- a "sound bite" advertisement. ***Sell it*** in 600 characters!

This will be used in conference registration materials and is your opportunity to attract conference goers to your session.

* 18. Session Plan.

Please outline your presentation content and methods. Include a timeframe and indicate what interactive elements you envision. If several trainers are working together, please identify what material will be covered by each person and whether presenters will collaborate or cover sequential sections.

If you are proposing a shorter 5 minute presentation, please explain any audience participation you might use.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their session plan. The box is positioned below the instructions and occupies a significant portion of the page's vertical space.

Panelist Information

* 19. Panelist Information

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Company/Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Professional Title:	<input type="text"/>
Postal Address:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Daytime Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

* 20. Describe your qualifications as they relate to the panel topic

* 21. Provide a brief bio for use in conference materials if you are chosen. (600 character limit.)

Presenter Obligations

* 22. By submitting an interest form presenters agree to:

- Register for the conference by July 15th, 2026
- Deliver the session in the selected format and time allotment
- Provide presentation materials by July 29th, 2026
- Provide presenter information including bio and headshot by July 15th, 2026

Thank you for the time and attention you've invested in this proposal.

The planning committee will review and select proposals immediately. All respondents will be notified by email shortly after.

To submit your proposal, click the "Submit" button below.