

2019 Boarding School Healing Conference Concurrent Session Proposal Guidelines

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is excited to announce that the 2nd annual boarding school healing conference, hosted by the Tulalip Tribes, will be held from **November 19-21, 2019** at the Tulalip Resort and Casino in **Tulalip, WA!**

Last year, we held our inaugural conference in Carlisle, PA to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the closing of Carlisle Industrial Indian School—the first federal off-reservation Indian boarding school in the U.S. Feedback from participants included many comments like this, “Loved the conference! The knowledge, the people, and being filled with healing!” This year, our national conference will be held in the Northwest near Chemawa Indian School—the second federal off reservation Indian boarding school and the longest continuously run Indian boarding school in the U.S.

With that in mind, our 2nd annual boarding school healing conference, *Honoring Native Survivance*, aims to bring diverse speakers and participants together to raise awareness around the history of U.S. Indian boarding schools and begin healing within tribal communities. We welcome session proposals from boarding school survivors and descendants, tribal leaders, elders and youth, and anyone working to understand and address the impacts of boarding school trauma on Turtle Island. In particular, we encourage participants to design their proposals with NABS’s key focus areas, education, advocacy, and healing, in mind. Submissions can be national in scope but should address the historical impact, ongoing legacy, or other topics connected U.S. Indian boarding schools. Proposals will be reviewed by the NABS Conference Planning Committee.

Audience: boarding school survivors and descendants, tribal leaders, anyone working to understand and address the impacts of boarding school trauma in Indian Country.

Goals for the conference are to:

1. Continue the national boarding school healing movement by bringing people together to raise awareness of boarding school history and ongoing impacts
2. Begin healing within tribal communities impacted by boarding schools
3. Strengthen the Boarding School Healing Coalition network so that we can collectively break the silence around boarding school history, educate a broader public about the legacy of this trauma, and push for accountability from the federal government and church denominations involved.

Proposal Selection

- **Session Proposals are due by July 31, 2019.**
- **Submitted proposals will be reviewed by the NABS Conference Planning Committee and presenters will be notified by the end of August 2019.**

Proposals are considered as drafts, and feedback may be provided to the Presenter beginning in September 2019. Proposed sessions may be asked to be combined with other proposals in order to maximize knowledge and resource sharing for conference attendees.

Factors Affecting Proposal Selection

The NABS Conference Planning Committee encourages session proposals under this year's theme: *Honoring Native Survivance*.

Proposals should include one or more of NABS's key focus areas:

- **Truth in History—the facts about U.S. Indian Boarding Schools:**
Proposals within this category should seek to tell the truth about boarding school history and raise awareness about this U.S. policy that has been largely ignored in most narratives of U.S. history. Sessions should be crafted for those interested in research and education around U.S. Indian boarding schools as well as those who are new to this topic.

- **Oral Histories—sharing our stories and honoring our memories:**
Proposals in this category will focus on sharing personal stories and oral histories of boarding school survivors and descendants. Presenters should focus on the importance of indigenous-led narratives and knowing our histories and acknowledging our ancestors and memories.
- **Impacts—understanding and confronting intergenerational trauma:**
Sessions should focus on the impacts and manifestations of intergenerational trauma, as well as healing methods. Sessions might be speak to either Native audience on understanding the intimate effects of historical trauma within our families and communities or speak to a general non-Native audience to help educate them on how the U.S. policy has affected Native Americans as a whole. Presenters might highlight and prioritize indigenous worldview and ways of knowing.
- **Healing—transcending the pain and honoring our Indigenous life ways:**
Proposals within this category should address how we might cope with the social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural and language devastation that occurred as a result of U.S. Indian boarding schools and how to revitalize and honor “Native Survivance” and uplifts indigenous world view and life ways. These proposals should be designed for boarding school survivors and descendants, as well as healing practitioners.

Proposals will be selected on the basis of appropriateness and significance of the topic, as well as indications that the presentation will be organized and well prepared. The NABS Conference Planning Committee will balance the range of topics, levels of expertise, the interests covered, and the professional and regional representation of the program presenters.

To Enhance Your Proposal

1. State topic and point of view clearly
2. Select an appropriate format for the topic (panel, discussion, workshop, etc.)
3. Clearly define learning objectives with an audience in mind
4. Fit the proposed session to the time allowed (no longer than 90 minutes)
5. Show knowledge of better practices and research
6. Use a title that reflects the content

Format of Sessions

We encourage session designers to include audience interaction and participation. We have listed examples of session structures below. However please note: you **DO NOT** have to

conform to any of these session types. *Innovative/creative session formats are highly encouraged*

Panel

Goal: To inform your colleagues, showcase a variety of approaches to supporting issues or communities, and generate creative thinking.

Structure: A 90-minute session with no more than four speakers framing issues, sharing stories of their work, using multimedia, and/or dialoguing with each other.

Open Discussions or Talking Circle

Goal: To share experiences and encourage peer connections

Structure: A 90-minute discussion facilitated by 1-2 presenters on issues, strategies, or challenges identified by participants.

Hands-on Workshop

Goal: To provide participants with new skills or tools that can be applied to their work.

Structure: A 90-minute session built around small group discussions or hands-on exercises.

Participants leave with practical skills or tools.

TED-style Talk

Goal: To present a short and engaging talk that can be new in theory or a new argument that can challenge or expand on a basic idea.

Structure: A 30 minute TED-style Talk comprised of 15 minute presentation and 15 minute Q&A.

Responsibilities of Presenters

1. All presenters **must register** for the conference at the early bird price by October 1, 2019 or regular full price two weeks prior to the conference (November 5, 2019).
2. All presenters will be responsible for their own travel expenses, including airfare, per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous expenses.

3. When two or more people are presenting, the Contact Presenter is responsible for notifying all co-presenters about the status of the proposal.
4. No session selected for the conference should have its content significantly changed once accepted.
5. Bios, handouts and any PowerPoint presentations are due to NABS—at the latest— two weeks in advance of the conference.

How to Submit a Proposal

Please submit your proposal using the online form no later than July 31, 2019. Final selections will be made by late August.

<https://event.boardingschoolhealing.org/>

Submit Your Proposal Today