Call for Proposals
Submission Guide

Social Studies: Working in Harmony for a Better Tomorrow

103rd Annual Conference
Nashville | Dec 1–3, 2023
The National Council for the Social Studies invites you to submit a proposal to present at our 103rd Annual Conference.

The NCSS Annual Conference is the largest gathering of K-12 social studies classroom teachers, college and university faculty members, curriculum designers and specialists, district and state social studies supervisors, international educators, and social studies discipline leaders.

**OUR VISION**
A world in which all students are educated and inspired for lifelong inquiry and informed civic action.

**OUR MISSION**
The mission of the National Council for the Social Studies is to advocate and build capacity for high-quality social studies by providing leadership, services, and support to educators.
STEP 1: KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

BIG IDEAS

What is your big idea?

Consider submitting a proposal based on one of these big ideas!

3,500 EDUCATORS
230 EXHIBITORS

8 MOST COMMON ATTENDEE JOB ROLES

- Classroom Teacher
- Instructional Coach
- School/District Supervisor
- State Education Department Supervisor/Director
- Education Consultant
- Publisher/Writer/Developer
- Principal/Assistant Principal
- Preservice/Graduate Student
- Teacher Preparation Faculty

Advocacy
C3 Framework
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Informed Civic Action
Inquiry
TIPS FOR A GREAT PROPOSAL

STEP 2: PICK SESSION TYPE

**Poster Session.** Poster sessions involve a poster display and possibly technology. Presenters engage with attendees in small groups over a 60-minute time block.

**Teacher’s Take.** Short individual TED-style presentations.

**Session:** A 60-minute traditional session.

**Power Session:** A 30-minute session that is a short presentation over a topic, resource or tool.

**Workshop:** Workshops take place on the Sunday morning of the conference and are two hours in length. Workshops should include in-depth learning and exploration.

**Clinic:** Clinics take place the Thursday before the conference begins. Clinics can be a half day or full day, but should include in-depth learning and exploration.

**Off-Site Clinic:** These clinics should take place at a local site, but can be a half or full day. There should be a significant rationale for holding the clinic off-site and each clinic should include in-depth learning and exploration.

Make sure the type of session you choose matches with your objectives, session strategies, etc. This will help show that you have aligned all elements of your proposal.

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**Proposal Acceptance Rates By Type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Type</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinics</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sessions</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Sessions</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Sessions</td>
<td>75%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NCSS 103rd Annual Conference—Call for Proposals Submission Guide
STEP 3: CHOOSE A PRIMARY FOCUS AND SECONDARY FOCUS

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Assessment  Economics/Financial Literacy  Psychology
Civics/Government  Geography  Teaching and Learning
Cross-Disciplinary  Global Studies  Technology
Disciplinary Literacy  Law/Law-Related Education  U.S. History

SUB-THEMES

I. Inclusive Social Studies—Who are We?
This encompasses the larger themes of:
- Universal human rights
- Elevating historically marginalized voices: BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, SPED, ELL, indigenous peoples, refugees, immigrants, disabled persons, other marginalized groups
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Taking the binary out of social studies: understanding nuance, people are people, all are diverse and unique that we should honor/respect
- Recognizing differences and similarities

II. Starting at Home: Social Studies is Local—Where are We?
This encompasses the larger themes of:
- Geography matters
- Using local histories
- Storytelling
- Music and culture
- Government/politics
- U.S. History

III. Collaboration in Social Studies: Building Partnerships
Opportunities for collaboration may include:
- Family and community
- Teaching reading, writing, and research
- Peers across content areas and/or grade levels
- Supporting ESOL and ELL students
- Cross-disciplinary connections in different content areas
- Professional learning with local, state, and national groups

IV. Social Studies: Transcending “Borders” and Seeking Connections
This encompasses the larger themes of:
- Application and engagement activities
- Community involvement, service learning
- Civic discourse: how to agree and disagree
- Advocacy and civic engagement
- Global education
- Connections with international curriculum
- Comparative politics and international relations

V. The Future of Social Studies—What’s Next?
This encompasses the larger themes of:
- Teacher candidates, early educators, and young learners
- Skills vs. content
- Pedagogy, methodology, innovative methods of delivery, classroom management
- Assessment
- Technology
- Critical thinking skills
- Advocacy and the marginalization of the social studies
- Rho Kapp and Rho Kappa Junior

VI. Critical Issues Strand—TBD
TIPS FOR A GREAT PROPOSAL

**STEP 4: FINALIZE YOUR PROPOSAL**

**SELECT TARGET AUDIENCE**

Preservice Teachers  
Early Childhood/Elementary  
PreK–12  
Middle Level/Junior High  
6–12  
Secondary/High School  
Higher Education  
Supervisor/Administrative

**TIP**  
Be sure to select the target audience that most closely matches with your proposed session.

**ABSTRACT**

The description should be directed toward attendees and what they will learn by attending this session. Please start with an active verb such as explore, discover, receive—and avoid beginning with “This presentation will...” Please do not copy/paste from Microsoft Word.

**TIP**  
It is important that the abstract speak for itself. This is what attendees will see and is the only information they will have about your session.
STEP 5: SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

Create reasonable objectives for the session format you selected. Be sure to start objectives with verbs.

OBJECTIVES
Clearly state your goals for this session. What do you hope to accomplish?

CONTENT/SKILLS
Describe in detail what participants will learn by attending this session. What new skills, teaching methods, content, lesson ideas, or applications of technology will they come away with?

PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE
Outline what participants will experience. How will they Listen and Learn, Participate and Share, or Engage and Connect? If you are proposing a Round Table, list the questions that you will use to facilitate your discussion.

WHY THIS PRESENTATION
In 40 or fewer words, explain why this presentation should be chosen for this conference. How does this presentation align with the Conference Theme: Social Studies: Working in Harmony for a Better Tomorrow? Why would a participant choose to attend this presentation.

WHY YOU
In 40 or fewer words, explain why you (and other presenters) are the best individuals to present this session. What background/experiences/passions do you have that you want to share with others? Has this lesson, idea, tool, etc. been tried in a classroom? Elaborate.

Deadline for Submitting Proposals
February 27
1 How do I submit my proposal?  
All proposals must be submitted via our online submission form at https://proposals.socialstudies.org

2 Do I have to be an NCSS member to present?  
No, you do not. However, all presenters must register to attend the conference. A discounted registration rate is given to NCSS members who register before the advance registration period ends.

3 Is there a fee to submit a proposal?  
No. However, if your proposal is accepted you must register to attend the conference.

4 Can I submit more than one proposal?  
Yes. However, it is unlikely that multiple proposals will be accepted.

5 When do I need to complete my submission?  
The deadline for submitting proposals is February 27, 2023.
This is a sample proposal form for viewing purposes only. All proposals must be submitted online for consideration. Mailed copies of this sample proposal will not be considered.

*Indicates a required entry.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Acknowledgment** I acknowledge and understand presenters are required to register for the conference by November 24, 2023. Please share this information with any co-presenters. Note: NCSS does not reimburse conference presenters for travel or hotel expenses. Presenters are responsible for providing any materials they plan to use or distribute in their presentation. They are also responsible for the costs of any A/V equipment needed. You will find those costs listed in the proposal form. If your proposal form is accepted, NCSS will confirm your A/V needs and you will be billed for the options you choose.

☐ Yes

**Acknowledgment** I consent to the collection and use of my personal information, including receiving emails, for activities related to the participation in the 103rd NCSS Annual Conference. I have also obtained the consent of all other individuals whose information I provide.

☐ Yes

**Session Title**

**Session Type** (Select 1)
- Poster Session
- Teacher’s Take
- Session
- Power Session
- Workshop
- Full-Day Clinic
- Half-Day Clinic
- Off-Site Clinic

**Target Audience for Session** (Select 1)
- Preservice Teachers
- Early Childhood/Elementary
- PreK–12
- Middle Level/Junior High
- Secondary/High School
- Higher Education
- Supervisor/Administrative
SAMPLE PROPOSAL FORM

PRESENTER INFORMATION

First Name* ______________________________________________________________

Last Name* ______________________________________________________________

Email* __________________________________________________________________

Cell Phone* __________________________________________________________________

Organization _____________________________________________________________

Organization City __________________________________________________________

Organization State _________________________________________________________

Organization Country ______________________________________________________

Twitter __________________________________________________________________

Professional/Job Information*

- Classroom Teacher (public school)
- Classroom Teacher (charter school)
- Classroom Teacher (private, parochial, independent school)
- Homeschool or Micro school/Cooperative Teacher
- School Administrator
- District Administrator/Supervisor
- State Administrator/Supervisor
- District or State Curriculum/Instruction Specialist
- Education Consultant
- Preservice Teacher
- Publisher/Writer/Developer
- Teacher Preparation Instructor
- Foundation, Organization, or Museum Leader
Social Studies: Working in Harmony for a Better Tomorrow

Additional Information* Check all that apply.

- IB Teacher
- Member of a typically under-represented group of educators (i.e. teach in a rural school, BIPOC teacher, teach in a Title I funded school/high concentration of poverty, etc)
- Plan to bring K12 student(s) to co-present
- Teach others subject areas in addition to social studies
- NCSS HOD Delegate
- First-Time NCSS Conference Attendee
- First-Time NCSS Conference Proposal Submitter
- Rho Kappa or Rho Kappa Junior Student or Sponsor
- National Board Certified Teacher
- New Career Teacher (1–5 years teaching experience)
- AP Teacher
- None of the above

SESSION TOPIC AREAS

Primary Focus Area* (Select 1)

- Assessment
- Civics/Government
- Cross-Disciplinary
- Disciplinary Literacy
- Economics/Financial Literacy
- Geography
- Global Studies
- Law/Law-Related Education
- Psychology
- Teaching and Learning
- Technology
- U.S. History
- World History
SAMPLE PROPOSAL FORM

PRESENTATION INFORMATION

Abstract* Describe your session in less than 30 words.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Objectives* (Identify no more than three objectives)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Participant Experience (outline what participants will experience)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Why This Presentation (explain why this presentation should be chosen for this conference)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Why You (explain why you, and other presenters, are the best individuals to present this session)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NCSS Group, Exhibitor or Sponsor* Is this proposal being submitted on behalf of an NCSS Associated Group, Community, Committee, Exhibitor or Sponsor?

○ Yes ○ No

Group Name

A/V Needs*

○ No A/V

○ LCD Projector and Sound Patch - $125

○ Laptop, LCD Projector, and Sound Patch - $175

Internet*

Password*
All proposals will be reviewed blindly by 5–6 reviewers using the questions below. Use this as a guide in drafting your proposal.

- How well do the title and abstract match the presentation description?
- Do the presentation strategies include opportunities for audience interaction?
- How well does the primary focus designation correlate with the abstract and presentation descriptions?
- Does the proposal present an instructional method or strategy that you would like to learn more about?
- Are the objectives experience description, and purpose statements clearly stated?
- Does the proposal address an under served area of social studies?
- Are the content and/or skills highlighted in the presentation relevant to the intended audience?
- Does the proposal present a new topic or instructional practice?
- Can the objectives be met and participant experience described be accomplished in the type of presentation selected?
- Is the proposal relevant and of interest to social studies educators?
- Is this a session that you would want to attend?
- Overall recommendation to the committee