

2024 VSA Conference - Participation Guidelines

The Visitors Studies Association (VSA) Conference—and other professional meetings, events, webinars, and projects organized by VSA—are steadfast in providing a safe, welcoming, inclusive experience for everyone attending or participating. We will not tolerate harassment of people in any form, and we empower all participants in our community to actively engage in creating a friendly and safe environment for all.

These Participation Guidelines are part of VSA's mission as a premier professional organization focusing on all facets of the visitor experience in museums, zoos, nature centers, visitor centers, historic sites, parks and other informal learning settings. We're committed to understanding and enhancing visitor experiences in informal learning settings through research, evaluation, and dialogue.

VSA is unwavering in its commitment to providing a safe, all-encompassing, and welcoming virtual conference experience for everyone. VSA will not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying, xenophobia, or racism in any form.

These Participation Guidelines apply to all VSA events, including all conference venues, virtual or in-person, and any conference-related social activities.

As an attendee, presenter, exhibitor, sponsor, or guest at the VSA Annual Conference and other events or programs organized by VSA, I will:

- Conduct myself with integrity, respect, honesty, and credibility.
- Approach all events and interactions in accordance with the highest ethical standards of professionalism and personal conduct.
- Embrace VSA's diverse community of professionals and learners, and be inclusive of all audiences in my presentations, demonstrations, and conversations.
- Seek help from Elyssa Ciresi, VSA Association Manager (visitorstudies@visitorstudies.org) if I do not know how to fulfill any of the stated actions.

These Participation Guidelines are in place to protect the safety of all participants. Contact, language, or imagery of a violent, threatening, sexual, discriminatory, demeaning, racist or disruptive nature is not appropriate for any in-person or online conference or project venue, including talks, workshops, social gatherings, and online forum or media. If you witness any misconduct of this code, please report it to any VSA staff or board member:

- Online by emailing visitorstudies@visitorstudies.org

Attendees or project participants asked to stop any harassing or discriminatory behavior are expected to comply immediately. VSA leadership, at their sole discretion, may take action to redress anything disrupting the event or project making the environment unsafe for participants, including asking any individuals to leave the event or project at their own expense and without a refund of any fees paid.

Consequences

These Participation Guidelines are in place to protect the safety of all attendees. Attendees asked to stop any harassing or discriminatory behavior are expected to comply immediately. VSA staff or board members may take action to address anything disrupting the event or making the environment unsafe for participants. Anyone engaging in any of the behaviors outlined above may be subject to expulsion with no refund from meeting and related events, or future events.