

INDIANA BPA

JANUARY 9, 2026

SLC NEWSLETTER

It may be hard to believe, but we are just a little more than eight weeks away from the 2026 Indiana BPA Secondary State Leadership Conference!! Please read the information in this newsletter carefully as it will help you and your students plan and prepare for a successful conference.

Based on feedback from advisors and students, the schedule for Monday night's activities will look much different. Please be sure to read Page 7 of this newsletter to see what we have planned. We are also excited to partner with Riley Children's Hospital and the National Pediatric Foundation for our service projects.

I'm excited for my fourth SLC as your State Advisor, and I am looking forward to seeing you and your students as they *amplify their impact* at this year's SLC!

Tina McCloud, State Advisor
tmccloud@indianabpa.org
812-453-3022



UPCOMING DEADLINES

- January 15 – National Virtual Events Submission
- January 20
 - SLC Registration
 - State Officer Application
 - Advisor of the Year
 - Chapter All-Star
 - Pre-Submitted Events
 - Statesman Torch for Review
 - BPA Cares for SLC Recognition
- January 27 – Executive Board Applications
- February 1 – Final Torch Award Submissions
- March 1 – Conference Payments Postmarked

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STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MARCH 8-10, 2026

INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

REGISTRATION AT THE CONFERENCE

- Sunday, March 8, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the second-floor registration area of the Downtown Marriott.
- Only advisors may pick up materials.
- If registration fees have not been received prior to the conference, the advisor will need to provide payment before picking up conference materials.
- Conference t-shirts will be available when advisors pick up their registration materials.
- Advisors will need to verify chapter Voting Delegates when picking up registration materials.

BPA CARES AWARDS AND TORCH AWARDS

To be recognized at SLC, documentation for BPA Cares and Torch Awards must be submitted by **January 20, 2026.**

TO SUBMIT BPA CARES AWARDS:

- Go to <https://bpa.org/>
- Login to the Member Gateway
- Use the Student menu to Access the BPA Cares web page
- Download the BPA Cares Handbook for further information
- Submit individual BPA Cares applications directly on the BPA Cares portion of the BPA website
- Be sure to follow all specifications for the BPA Cares Award. Once documentation has been submitted to be recognized at SLC, it does not need to be resubmitted for NLC.

TO SUBMIT TORCH AWARDS:

- Go to <https://bpa.org/>
- Login to the Member Gateway
- Use the Student menu to Access the Torch Awards web page
- Download the Torch Awards Handbook for further information
- Log Torch Award points at <https://register.bpa.org/members>
- Torch resumes will be reviewed by Shaylinn Geesaman (sgeesaman@indianabpa.org), Vice President of Member Activities.

PRE-JUDGED AND PRE-SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION

DEADLINE: JANUARY 20, 2026

Administrative Support Research Project
Broadcast News Production Team
Computer Animation Team
Computer Modeling
Digital Media Production
Economic Research Individual and Team
Entrepreneurship
Global Marketing Team
Graphic Design Promotion
Interview & Advanced Interview Skills
Network Design Team
User Experience Design Team
Video Production Team

Documentation for these events should be submitted using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/MGk7eMcQ5Uwvizdn8>

(You may begin submitting responses beginning January 12.)

Email Tina McCloud, State Advisor
(tmcccloud@indianabpa.org) with questions.

VOTING DELEGATES

Each chapter will designate voting delegates who will cast the chapter's votes for the 2026-2027 State Officer Leadership Team. The number of voting delegates a chapter receives is based on the chapter's paid national membership. Each chapter receives one voting delegate plus one additional delegate for each 10 members or greater portion thereof. (See the chart to the right.) If a chapter has more than 55 members, the pattern to the right should be continued to determine the number of voting delegates

NUMBER OF CHAPTER VOTING DELEGATES:

1-4 members.....	1 delegate
5-14 members.....	2 delegates
15-24 members	3 delegates
25-34 members	4 delegates
35-44 members	5 delegates
45-54 members	6 delegates

CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS

Students and advisors will receive a SLC t-shirt as part of their registration for the conference. Advisors will need to provide size information as part of their registration for all attendees, including advisors. This year, there is a \$15 registration fee for chaperones, which will include a t-shirt. However, chaperones who fulfill an assignment at SLC will not be charged a registration fee and will receive a free t-shirt. A \$2 charge will be added for each size larger than an extra-large.

Conference t-shirts will be distributed upon arrival when picking up conference registration materials.

In order to promote a professional atmosphere, BPA's Executive Board has developed the following official dress code policy for the Business Professionals of America, Indiana Association. Students, advisors, and chaperones must follow the dress code. It is also recommended that all guests follow the established dress code policy.

- Members not dressed in required attire will not be allowed to participate in any session or competitive event
- Members not adhering to the Professional Dress Code will not be allowed on stage
- Members refused entrance to an event will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire immediately and participate/compete in the event. Having changed into appropriate attire, the member will join testing in progress. No additional time will be given for time missed
- Members also have the right to grieve the issue immediately after being refused entrance. Grievance of the Dress Code policy will not be accepted if not received in writing at Competitive Event headquarters within 15 minutes of the infraction in question

PROFESSIONAL DRESS CODE

Required for all judged competitive events and to go on stage during any general session:

- Dress slacks, dress shirt, and tie
- Pant or skirt suit, blouse/dress shirt, and tie
- Dress skirt/slacks with coordinated blouse/dress shirt and/or sweater
- Sport coat, coordinated dress slacks, dress shirt, and tie
- BPA blazer with dress skirt/dress slacks with blouse or sweater
- BPA blazer with dress slacks/dress shirt and tie
- Dress shoes with dress socks or closed-toe dress shoes or dress sandals with heel are required

Business Professional and Business Casual:

- Footwear is required
- Denim is excluded from both categories.
- Skirt length may be no greater than two inches above the top of the knee

BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS CODE

Business Casual attire provides students, advisors, chaperones, and other conference attendees with a more comfortable style of dress for written competitive events, computerized events, leadership sessions, campaign rallies, exhibit halls, and general sessions, if not going on stage.

- Casual slacks or skirt
- Polo, blouse, or other collared shirt
- Sweater
- Casual shoes (not tennis shoes)

Note: Business professional or business casual attire must be worn by all registered conference attendees upon arrival at the conference and at all times during the conference. Sportswear (jeans), tennis shoes, and other casual attire are unacceptable attire for these categories.

CASUAL DRESS CODE

Casual attire may ONLY be worn in student rooms and on housing floors (3rd floor and above at SLC).

- Sportswear (jeans), pants, and shirt, t-shirt, and shorts

The following are deemed unacceptable during BPA activities:

- Strapless, spaghetti straps, tube tops, halter tops, midriff tops
- Spandex, lycra, or transparent clothing
- Cut-offs or ragged clothing
- Clothing with inappropriate words and pictures
- Swimsuits must be covered with appropriate attire while in any area except the swimming pool or designated sunbathing area.

2026 SLC COMPUTER SOFTWARE LIST

PC's with Microsoft Windows format will be used for all events.

Event	Software Package
Administrative Support Team	MS Office 2021
Advanced Desktop Publishing	Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, Publisher
Advanced Office Systems & Procedures	MS Office 2021
Advanced Spreadsheet Applications	MS Excel 2021
Advanced Word Processing	MS Office 2021
Basic Office Systems & Procedures	MS Office 2021
Database Applications	MS Access 2019
Fundamental Desktop Publishing	Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, Publisher
Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications	MS Excel 2021
Fundamental Word Processing	MS Office 2021
Fundamentals of Web Design	Notepad
Health Administration Procedures	MS Office 2021
Integrated Office Applications	MS Office 2021
Intermediate Word Processing	MS Office 2021
Legal Office Procedures	MS Office 2021

At the State Leadership Conference student competitors will not be tested on the certification piece of the competitive event.



Students competing in C#, C++, Java, and Python Programming must supply their own computer or laptop/notebook along with all supporting devices and software appropriate for the event.

Fundamental and Advanced Desktop Publishing contests will be completed prior to SLC.



This year the computer lab will be located in the Marriott Hotel (Indiana Ballroom E). All computer events, with the exception of C#, C++, Java, and Python Programming will be held in Indiana Ballroom E.

LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

SLC 2026 will once again feature six leadership sessions. This is a great opportunity for students who are not competing but would like to attend the conference. These sessions will be scheduled for Sunday and Monday. Students who are competing, but who would like to attend a seminar as it fits in their schedule are encouraged to do so. More details on the sessions will be included in the SLC Program. These seminars will cover a variety of topics to help our students amplify their impact!



INDIANAPOLIS DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT SMOKING/VAPING POLICY

The Indianapolis Downtown Marriott is committed to providing its guests and associates with a smoke-free environment and is proud to boast one of the most comprehensive smoke-free hotel policies in the industry. The Indianapolis Downtown Marriott hotel guestrooms are now equipped with REST air quality sensors. These sensors continuously monitor the air quality in each guestroom and can detect any combusted or vaporized tobacco, cannabis, and nicotine. A \$350.00 fee will be charged per detection of combusted or vaporized chemicals in each guest room. This fee is meant to act as a deterrent to smoking within the building to continue to allow all of our guests the ability to enjoy their smoke-free stay with us.



NO SMOKING
NO VAPING

MONDAY NIGHT AT SLC

HONORS SESSION, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Based on advisor and student feedback, we are shortening the Monday evening session and moving it to earlier in the evening. The Honors Session will focus on recognizing our members for their achievements in the Torch Award and BPA Cares Programs, as well as recognizing our Chapter All-Stars.

Since each chapter can nominate a student to be recognized as a Chapter All-Star, I encourage all chapter advisors to nominate a member who has contributed to the success of their organization. The nomination form is available at <https://indianabpa.org/resources/> under the Advisors/Forms tab. Nominations are due by January 20. One of the Chapter All-Star nominees will be selected as Indiana's Chapter All-Star and receive a cash award.

SPECIAL EVENT, 7:30 – 10:30 PM

The State Officer Leadership Team has organized an evening of activities for our Special Event that combines fun, service, and connection! Students will enjoy karaoke, trivia night, a BPA Roblox game, board games, and a service project creating get well cards for patients at Riley Children's Hospital. This event provides a relaxed setting to socialize, network, and connect with BPA members from across Indiana.

2026 SERVICE PROJECT



This year Business Professionals of America has partnered with the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation. The NPCF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding and developing novel research and clinical trials to find less toxic, more effective treatments for childhood cancer. Its purpose is to reduce the side effects of current treatments, improve survival rates, and ultimately eliminate childhood cancer.

Start gathering your coins for the Indiana BPA SLC 2026 Coin War! Regions will be competing, and results of the coin war will be included in the Region of the Year Spirit calculation.

Full details of the project will be available in February.



2026-2027 OFFICER ELECTION PROCEDURES

REGION PRESIDENTS

Region Presidents for 2026-2027 were elected at the Regional Leadership Conferences. All newly elected Region Presidents will need to attend officer screening on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the McKenzie Center of Innovation and Technology where they will complete an interview with current state leadership, give their campaign speech (2 minutes in length), and take a knowledge exam over Indiana BPA.

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

Statewide Candidates must submit their application materials to Adam McCloud (amccloud@indianabpa.org), State Officer Coordinator, by January 20, 2026. All statewide officer candidates must also attend officer screening on Saturday, February 6, 2026, at the McKenzie Center of Innovation and Technology where they will complete an interview with current state leadership, give their campaign speech (2 minutes in length), and take a knowledge exam over Indiana BPA. Each candidate must earn a combined score of 70% or higher of all points available in the officer screening process.

Candidates will give their speech during the Opening General Session at the State Leadership Conference. Candidates will campaign on Monday of the State Leadership Conference and have the opportunity to meet and talk with students and advisors. Voting delegates will cast their ballots on Monday afternoon. For more details, please feel free to email Adam McCloud, Indiana BPA State Officer Coordinator, at amccloud@indianabpa.org.

Download the State Officer Candidate Handbook and access the online application at <https://indianabpa.org/resources/> under SOLT Resources

ADVISOR CHECKLIST AND DEADLINES

SLC ADVISOR CHECKLIST

Prior to SLC:

- ☐ Choose voting delegates
- ☐ Review Torch Award resumes and submit BPA Cares documentation
- ☐ Mail a copy of the registration invoice and a check or PO, postmarked by March 1, for registration and housing to:

Indiana BPA
Attn: SLC Registration/Housing
PO Box 28
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

- ☐ Review contest guidelines with students
- ☐ Review dress code, code of behavior, and medical release forms with students. Bring signed forms with you.
- ☐ Inform students of your emergency plan
- ☐ Inform students where to meet outside of the hotel in case of an emergency
- ☐ Print copies of the conference program

At SLC:

- ☐ Pick up registration packets and room keys on the second floor
- ☐ Assign a student(s) to watch luggage until hotel rooms are ready
- ☐ Fulfill assigned duties (event administrator, grader, curfew, etc.)
- ☐ Monitor dress code and code of behavior for all attending students

DEADLINES

January 20, 2026

- SLC Registration
- Statewide Officer Applications
- Chapter All-Star Nominations
- Pre-Submitted Events (see page 3 for a complete list of pre-submitted events)
- Statesman Torch Award and BPA Cares submission

January 27, 2026

- Indiana BPA Executive Board applications emailed to tmcccloud@indianabpa.org.

March 1, 2026

- SLC registration invoice and fees postmarked

Indiana BPA Executive Board

Would you like to participate in decision making for Indiana BPA? Do you want to make a difference in our organization? Apply for a position on the Indiana Association BPA Executive Board!

There are two (2) board positions open this year. Members serve three (3)-year terms and attend approximately six (6) meetings during the year, of which four (4) are virtual. Lodging, mileage, and most meals are provided at all meetings. You can find the BPA Executive Board application at <https://indianabpa.org/resources> under Executive Board Resources. Applications should be emailed to Tina McCloud (tmcccloud@indianabpa.org) by January 27, 2026

Elections will be held at the SLC Advisor's meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2026.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

MAY 6-10, 2026

WHO CAN COMPETE?

Qualifiers and those competitors called to the stage during the awards must stay for the NLC meeting following the awards session at SLC. Advisors will be asked to respond affirmatively or negatively to whether qualifiers will be attending NLC. The State Advisor will only take a response during the meeting. No responses will be accepted before the meeting. Should a qualifier or his/her advisor decline competition at NLC or not be in attendance at this meeting to answer, the next student in line will be asked. Should a competitor drop out after SLC, the state advisor should be notified and the next qualifier will be contacted. Due to the short turnaround between SLC and NLC, withdrawals must be made by March 20, 2026, to allow replacements time to register.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Any registered member of BPA may attend the National Leadership Conference. Who attends from your chapter is a local decision. If a student did not qualify at SLC, he/she can compete in open events, participate in the Leadership Academy, or be an Ambassador Torch recipient.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The National Leadership Academy is for BPA members attending NLC but not participating in a competition. Each participant must commit to completing the Leadership Academy at NLC, serve as a National Leadership Intern during NLC, participate in after-conference activities via email, and present leadership materials/serve as a leadership resource to his/her local chapter.

NLC TRADING PINS

All Indiana BPA members attending NLC will receive three (3) trading pins at no cost. Extra pins can be purchased. The NLC report form must be submitted to receive any trading pins (free or extra). NLC pins will be distributed at the state meeting at NLC.

NLC HOTEL INFORMATION

Indiana will be housed at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. The room rate is \$287 (\$333.27 inclusive of taxes & fees; \$309.59 with sales tax exemption).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline to register is April 1, 2026.

HOTEL INFORMATION

All chapters participating at SLC are **required** to stay at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott.



The cost is \$265 (tax included) per room/per night. Chapters may share rooms with other chapters from their region, based on your local school corporation guidelines. There is a maximum of four per room. Housing assignments will be made after registration is complete. An effort will be made to keep regions together, if possible.

HOTEL CHECK-IN

The school check-in area at the Marriott will be on the second floor. If you have housing issues, please go to Conference Headquarters and not the hotel front desk. It is likely that you will have students in competition before getting your rooms. The hotel staff will turn around the rooms as quickly as possible. Due to a limited number of sleeping rooms with two beds, some triple rooms will have a king-sized bed and a roll-a-way bed.

LUGGAGE

The hotel will provide a luggage storage area. Check at the BPA registration desk for the exact location. Someone from your chapter should stay with the luggage at all times. The hotel and/or Indiana Business Professionals of America are not responsible for lost or stolen luggage. Please be sure to label all bags in an obvious fashion prior to your arrival at the hotel.

DURING YOUR STAY

You must have one (1) adult per ten (10) students. Encourage students not to incur incidental charges (phone, movies, room service, etc.), and be prepared to provide a credit card upon arrival to cover incidental charges.

HOTEL CHECK-OUT

There is no need to check out at the front desk. However, please check at the front desk to verify that there are no incidental charges for any of your chapter's rooms. If students incur any incidental charges, pay them before you depart. All incidental charges remaining on your rooms after check-out will be charged a \$20 service fee in addition to the incidental charges. Leave your key cards in the room.

PARKING

Valet parking at the Marriott is \$80 per night for cars. You can self-park cars at the hotel for \$59 per night. Vans and other similar vehicles 6' 7" and under may be parked at the Marriott. Mini busses cannot be parked at the Marriott. To check out alternative parking options, go to <https://downtownindy.org/explore/parking> to find parking with 24-hour service. Be sure to call for reservations and verify that you can park a school bus/van. Buses/vans should unload on the west side of the Marriott Downtown hotel in the bus-loading zone on Missouri Street.

CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Conference Program will be emailed to advisors and posted on <https://indianabpa.org> approximately one week prior to the conference for you to print and bring with you. Only a limited number of copies will be available at SLC.

COMPETITION REMINDERS

Screens will be provided for presentation events that require them. Students will still need to bring projectors, laptops, digital devices, carts, power strips, and electrical cords.

Judge's rubrics and comment sheets will be mailed to those who provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No materials (outside of the rubric) will be returned.

Be sure to follow the WSAP guidelines and bring copies of required forms and projects for preliminaries and finals, even if they were pre-submitted.

ADVISOR/CHAPERONE ASSIGNMENTS

All advisors will receive at least one assignment at SLC. This year, there is a \$15 registration fee for chaperones, which will include a t-shirt. However, chaperones who fulfill an assignment at SLC will not be charged a registration fee and will receive a free t-shirt. Should an emergency arise at SLC that prevents you from completing your assignment, please contact Conference Headquarters immediately.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

The Medical Release Form must be completed and signed by each student and his/her parent/guardian. It is **very** important that you bring these forms with you when traveling to conferences. The information is crucial in case of an emergency.

SECURITY INFORMATION

Wristbands must be worn at all times, and name badges must be worn while in the conference facility.

The hotel has a closed-door policy for sleeping rooms. At no time will hotel security allow the doors to be propped open. Therefore, males and females are **not allowed** to be in the same sleeping room without an advisor or chaperone present!

Coming to SLC 2026

INDIANA BPA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM CONTEST

Use this [Google Form link](#) to submit your application for the National Anthem Contest and upload your audition video. The application and audition video must be received by February 1.

SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR MEMBERS AT SLC

The purpose of the dress code and code of conduct is to encourage proper behavior and to provide a safe environment for all Business Professionals of America members at official BPA functions, to develop professional standards for our organization, and to develop respect and acceptance for proper business attire.

- If an advisor witnesses a violation of our Code of Conduct, a Demerit Report should be completed. Demerit forms are available from your Region Coordinator, any Executive Board Member, or may be picked up at SLC Headquarters.
- Should you witness a major violation (alcohol, drugs, etc.), please notify SLC Headquarters immediately.

WHAT TO BRING TO SLC

- Medical Release Form for each student
- Signed Code of Conduct for each student
- Emergency plan: All members of your group should know where to meet and what to do should there be an emergency.
- Conference Programs

ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all advisors attending SLC to enforce not only the Dress Code and Code of Conduct but also these rules specific to the conference:

- Attendees must wear name badges and wristbands
- Respect hotel rules and property
- Doors may **not** be propped open
- Respect others in the hotel by keeping the noise level down
- Use the stairs instead of the elevator when going between the lower floors
- Smoking/vaping is not allowed in the hotel. There is a \$350 hotel charge if smoking occurs in a sleeping room
- Students must observe the curfew
- Gambling is not allowed in the hotel

FLOOR MONITORING

While it is not always possible, due to region size and the number of rooms available on each floor, the hotel makes every effort to house chapters by region. For this reason, we ask that any sharing of rooms be with a chapter in your own region. Each chapter advisor is responsible for monitoring rooms each night after curfew. We suggest that at least one (1) chaperone/advisor be assigned to the hotel and/or hallway of your chapter's cluster of rooms so your students can report their whereabouts at all times.

CHAPERONES

You must have one (1) adult per ten (10) students. We ask that chaperones adhere to the Indiana BPA Dress Code.

THE “FINE PRINT”

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OFFICIAL HOUSING

All chapters participating in the State Leadership Conference are required to stay at the official conference hotel determined by the Indiana Association and reservations made must be made through Indiana BPA.

REGION OF THE YEAR (ROY) GUIDELINES

The Region of the Year title may be received by the same region in consecutive years per the approval of the State Officer Leadership Team. (Note: The scale is 10 to 1, with 10 being the highest.)

(1) *Torch Participation*: Divide the number of statesmen awards earned by each region by the number of members in the region for a percentage. Rank the regions from 10 to 1 and multiply by 3. Total points = 30

(2) *BPA Cares Participation*: Divide the number of BPA Cares awards earned by each region by the number of chapters in the region for a percentage. Rank the regions from 10 to 1 and multiply by 3. Total points = 30

(3) *Increase in Membership*: Rank the regions from 10 to 1 by the percentage of increase in membership for the year and multiply by 3. Total points = 30

(4) *Spirit*: Spirit. Rank the regions from 10 to 1 based on the scores received at roll call. State-wide officers will judge roll call scores. Total score = 10. ***This year noise makers will not be permitted.***

*Break a tie (for 1st place only) by adding 1 point to the score of the region ranking the highest in the Torch Participation category.

STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE COMPETITIVE EVENT CONFLICT

No contests will be administered outside of the State Leadership Conference time schedule. If there is a school-related conflict, students may take a non-judged contest at an alternate time during SLC.

REFUND POLICY

Indiana BPA has a no refund policy for any activity, event, or membership.

SLC CONTEST GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- Advisors should complete and submit competitive events-related complaints using the appropriate grievance form at the competitive events center.
- Grievances must be filed in Conference Headquarters no later than one (1) hour after the incident.
- The Grievance Committee will consist of two (2) members of the Indiana Executive Board, two (2) Regional Coordinators, and the State Advisor.

SLC SCORES ARE FINAL

All SLC scores and contestant rankings are ***final***, and no corrections will be made after placings have been announced.

SLC CALL BACKS AND FINALS PROCEDURE

SLC qualifiers will be decided based on the APG guidelines. Finalists will be posted and advisors/students will need to sign up for a presentation time. Contest administrators will be briefed on scheduling procedures.