



National Science Teaching Association

Events Code of Conduct

Introduction

This Code of Conduct sets the standard of conduct expected of participants at all National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) events and activities. NSTA expects that all participants will work actively to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment and strictly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and sexual harassment. Participation in NSTA events and activities is conditional upon acceptance of the Code of Conduct.

Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to all aspects of NSTA events and activities where individuals' behavior affects the ability of others to participate. This includes conference sessions and workshops, networking, social activities, planning meetings, informal side meetings associated with the conference, social platforms, email discussion lists, and other related interactions. This Code of Conduct applies to all attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, staff, contractors, vendors, volunteers, scholarship recipients, reviewers, and guests at all NSTA events, whether they are conducted in person or online.

Statement of Inclusivity

NSTA is committed to fostering a culture of respect and inclusion in all that we do—internally and in our work with educators, members, and stakeholders worldwide. We are dedicated to providing a welcoming, respectful, and professional environment at both our in-person events and in virtual settings. Our priority is to ensure a safe, healthy atmosphere—regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, race, color, age, marital status, veteran status, socioeconomic status, religion, or any other group identity—feel valued and supported. We do not tolerate harassment or discrimination of any kind, whether intentional or unintentional. We are also committed to maintaining a productive environment for all participants that encourages open dialogue and the exchange of ideas. NSTA expects all partners and vendors to share and uphold our standards related to safety, security, and inclusiveness.

Code of Conduct Guidelines

Participants are expected to demonstrate professionalism by treating all individuals with courtesy and respect. This includes creating a collegial environment where constructive dialogue and the open exchange of ideas can thrive. Further, all exhibitors and presenters are expected to uphold standards of scientific integrity and professional ethics and agree that presentations, exhibition displays, and distributed materials are in accordance with [NSTA's official Position Statements](#).

All communication at NSTA events should be appropriate for a professional audience, including people of varying backgrounds regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, race, color, age, marital status, veteran status, socioeconomic status, religion, or any other group identity. By participating in NSTA events, you agree that you have read and will follow these expectations and guidelines.

Social Media, Photo, Video & Audio Recordings

Attendees are not allowed to record presentations/sessions unless the presenter gives explicit permission. Presenters may also reserve the right to request that session materials not be shared online or across social media networks. Presenters are asked to include a statement before and during their presentation regarding session photography, recording, and sharing of their presentation materials.

Disruptive Behavior

Any unruly, lewd, offensive, or threatening behavior; harassment; intimidation; coercion; use of sexually explicit or offensive language or conduct; excessive profanity; obscene gestures; or the use of any slurs—including but not limited to racial, gender-based, religious, ethnic, or any other derogatory or discriminatory language—will not be tolerated.

Harassment

NSTA prohibits intentional and unintentional harassment. Harassment includes offensive verbal or written comments, either in real or virtual spaces, including comments that are related to or based on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, race, color, age, marital status, veteran status, socioeconomic status, religion, or any other group identity. Harassment includes display of sexual images in public spaces, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, and unwelcome physical contact or sexual attention.

Weapons Policy

Unless state and local laws permit it, carrying or displaying weapons, including firearms, is prohibited at any NSTA event, including in any conference meeting spaces and meeting rooms. Event security will be notified should someone be found carrying a weapon.

Code of Conduct Violations

NSTA desires to provide an environment that encourages both civil and fruitful dialogue. Violations of this Code may be cause for removal from the event, exclusion from participating in future events, or revocation of NSTA membership.

If an individual experiences or witnesses harassment or disruptive behavior, they may notify any NSTA staff member, NSTA officer, or file a formal report by sending an email to codeofconduct@nsta.org. All reports will be investigated by NSTA's Chief Executive Officer. The results of any investigation will be reported to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.

If an individual experiences harassment, it is recommended that they write down the details. They are not expected to discuss the incident with the offending party. Their confidentiality will be maintained to the extent that it does not compromise others' rights.

Questions

If you have any questions about this policy, you can contact the NSTA Conference team at conferences@nsta.org.