



American Horticultural Therapy Association®

Requests for Presentation Proposals (RFP)

Nurturing Community: Planting the Seeds of our Future 52nd American Horticultural Therapy Association Conference (Virtual) October 9-11, 2025

The American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) annual conference brings together experts and enthusiasts in horticultural therapy to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches that promote health and well-being through the use of gardening and plants. The AHTA invites professionals, researchers, educators, practitioners, students, and allied professionals to submit proposals for presentations at our upcoming virtual conference.

This year's theme focuses on the vision of horticultural therapy as a core piece of our social and healthcare infrastructure that supports healthy development for people of all abilities. The AHTA seeks presentations that represent HT and therapeutic wellness practices to promote physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being across the lifespan, from youth to elders.

Proposal Requirements and Guidelines

Proposal Types

1. **Lectures (50 mins):** These sessions will feature engaging presentations showcasing research findings, case studies, and evidence-based approaches in horticultural therapy.
2. **Interactive Sessions (90 mins):** These sessions will feature engaging presentations showcasing innovative practices, case studies, and evidence-based approaches in horticultural therapy. Presenters are encouraged to share hands-on techniques, and program success stories, that highlight the therapeutic benefits of connecting people with plants and nature.
3. **Panel Discussions (50 min):** These sessions will explore a single topic in horticultural therapy from multiple perspectives, fostering a comprehensive and dynamic conversation. Panelists are invited to share their unique insights, experiences, and research findings to illuminate diverse approaches and spark meaningful dialogue on innovative practices and challenges in the field.
4. **Poster Presentations (10 minutes):** These sessions will showcase visually engaging and informative displays highlighting innovative programs, research findings, and best practices in horticultural therapy. Presenters are invited to share concise, impactful content that fosters discussion. These presentations will be pre-recorded and shared during the virtual conference.
5. **Restorative Activity: (10 min):** This session offers participants a calming and rejuvenating experience designed to reconnect with themselves, alleviate screen fatigue, and offer restoration during the conference. These presentations will be pre-recorded and shared during the virtual conference.



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Proposals must include -

- **Title of Presentation** (no more than 10 words)
- **Abstract (75 words):** A clear and concise description of your presentation, including objectives, relevance to horticultural therapy, and key takeaways for attendees.
- **Learning Objectives (3-5):** Identify what participants will learn from your presentation. These statements should start with “Participants will...”
- **Summary (300 words):** A more robust overview of the session's purpose. It should highlight the significance of the session to the field, the learning objectives or outcomes participants can expect, and how the content will engage or benefit attendees. If applicable, mention any interactive elements, innovative approaches, or unique perspectives that make the session stand out.
- **Short Bio** (100 words): Provide a brief biography for each presenter.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the conference theme “Nurturing Community: Planting Seeds of Our Future”
- Relevance to horticultural therapy
- Clarity and coherence of the abstract
- Innovation and originality
- Practical application of the content

Examples of strong presentations can include effective tools to reduce stress, achieve healthy weight management, increase physical endurance levels, enhance emotional regulation and resilience, increase communication skills and teamwork, foster a sense of community, cooperation, and environmental stewardship.

Submission Process

Please submit your proposal via <https://bit.ly/AHTA2025RFP> by March 1, 2025. Incomplete submissions or proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Important Dates:

- **Submission Deadline:** March 1, 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** April 15, 2025
- **Deadline for Recorded Presentations:** Sept 1, 2025
- **Conference Dates:** October 9-11, 2025

Presenter Responsibilities

Presenters are responsible for attending their presentation.

All presenters must register for the conference by September 1, 2025 or their presentation may be pulled from the conference program. Presenters are given a discounted rate for registration as compensation for their contribution to the field.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

AHTA Conference Committee

Email: info@ahta.org