



HSA 2026 Request for Proposals

It's Spicier in Texas!

**April 15-17, 2026
Holiday Inn, San Antonio, Texas**

The 2026 educational conference of The Herb Society of America will be held in San Antonio, Texas on April 15-17, 2026. The conference theme is *It's Spicier in Texas*. HSA is looking for presenters to promote participants' growth in knowledge, inspire creativity, engage attendees in conversation, and delight their senses.

We invite proposals for general and breakout sessions as well as pre-conference workshops. The formats include panel discussions, demonstrations, and lectures. Breakout sessions may incorporate a hands-on component. Historically, attendees are from all over the United States, as well as some from out of the country. We welcome members and non-members to present at the conference in the following areas:

- Cultivating herbs and spices in diverse climates, growing conditions and methods
- Spice up the garden and landscape with new herb varieties, including plants not always thought of as herbs
- "Spicy" (creative) and innovative herbal uses, including personal care products, wellness practices, craft and art projects
- Herbal history and ethnobotany, particularly that which focuses on this geographic region
- Spicing up your community: Impacting communities with herb focused programs
- HSA programs engaging members to get the most spice out of their membership
- "Spicy" ways herbs and research, horticulture and/or culinary industries are influenced

Submission Deadline: 4/1/25
Notification of decisions will be by: 5/15/25

Please provide the following information:

1. Name
Address
Phone
email
2. Presentation type (please check)
 - a. Lecture/powerpoint
 - b. Panel discussion
 - c. Workshop/interactive presentation
 - d. Roundtable discussion
3. Title of Proposed Session:
4. Brief description of the session: 30-50 words. If accepted, this description will be included in the conference program.
5. Biographical summary for each presenter: include speaking experience, relevant educational background, employment, publications, etc. highlighting expertise in the subject matter. If this session has been presented previously, please list where and when.
6. Briefly yet thoroughly describe the session content and presentation methods. (ie. interactive elements, powerpoint, demonstration) Include your preferred room setup. Workshop proposals should also include estimated cost of supplies.
7. Please state 3 learning outcomes. For example, state "At the end of this session, participants will be able to....."
8. Indicate audience skill level of the session: basic/intermediate/advanced
9. Email submission to Karen Kennedy: educator@herbsociety.org

Additional Details:

- Lecture/powerpoint presentations: 60 minutes in length and include time for Q&A. They may be a general or a breakout session
- Panel Discussion: 60 minutes in length to include discussion time at the end. This type of presentation will include two or more speakers presenting on different aspects, perspectives or thoughts on a particular topic.
- Breakout sessions: 60 or 90 minutes in length. Please indicate if your proposed session will require 90 minutes and if a particular setup is required. Breakout sessions can include discussion, lecture or hands-on.

- Roundtable discussion: 60 minutes with a moderator to guide participatory discussion on proposed topic(s). Discussion occurs at round tables concurrently and can include time for sharing with the larger group.
- Please include time for Q&A within each format.
- Rooms will be assigned based on presentation type and preferred room setup.

Room Setup:

- General Session: Set in round tables. Seats 240
- Concurrent session rooms: Set in round tables, seats 80
- Workshop - set with 6' tables with 3 people /table, seats 72

Speaker information:

- Accepted speakers will be asked for a headshot to use in the conference program and a brief bio to include in the program.
- Handouts must be submitted by **3/1/26** to be posted for participant download on the HSA website prior to the conference. Handouts given during the conference are the speaker's responsibility.
- Workshop receipts are required for reimbursement.
- Compensation for all presentations will be discussed following proposal acceptance.

HSA's Medicinal Disclaimer for Speakers:

The Herb Society of America, Inc. (The Society of HSA) is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of members with the community. It is the policy of The Society not to advise or recommend herbs for medicinal or health use. Please consult a health care provider before pursuing any herbal treatments.

In accordance with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, authors or speakers may quote scientific, ethnic, or historic literature and may cite how they personally use herbs. However, none of the information published/presented may serve as a recommendation or an endorsement of any particular medical or health treatment.

The Society is not liable for any decision made or actions taken or not taken due to use of materials published and/or presented. Electronic links are provided as an educational service only.

Questions? Contact Karen Kennedy, educator@herbsociety.org