



# American Horticultural Therapy Association®

## Requests for Presentation Proposals (RFP)

### *Thriving In The Grove: Building Resilience through Horticultural Therapy*

53rd American Horticultural Therapy Association Conference (In Person)

October 15-17, 2026

San Francisco, California

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 healing and wellbeing through activity-based interventions using plants and nature. The AHTA invites professionals engaged in horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture, researchers, educators, practitioners, students, and allied professionals to submit proposals for presentations at our upcoming in person conference.

This year's theme focuses on building resilience through horticultural therapy; the ability to rebound from difficulties, adapt to challenges, and thrive in our communities. The AHTA seeks presentations that demonstrate the theme of resilience.

### 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. **Workshops (45 or 90 mins):** These workshops will feature presentations that demonstrate and engage attendees with hands-on opportunities and networking. 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.

#### 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.



## American Horticultural Therapy Association®

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the conference theme “Thriving in the Grove: Building Resilience through Horticultural Therapy”
- Relevance to horticultural therapy
- Clarity and coherence of the abstract
- Innovation and originality
- Practical application of the content

### **Submission Process**

Please submit your proposal by March 31, 2026. Incomplete submissions or proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Important Dates:

- Submission Deadline: March 31, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: April 2, 2026
- Acknowledgement of Acceptance: April 20, 2026
- Conference Dates: October 15-17, 2026

### **Presenter Responsibilities**

If selected, you will be required to submit a 30-second to one-minute video describing your presentation for promotional purposes. All presenters must register for the conference by June 1, 2026, 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](mailto:info@ahta.org)