



How to convince your boss you should attend posit::conf(2026)

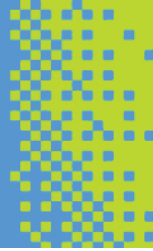
Posit::conf(2026) is an opportunity for Python and R users to sharpen their skills and connect with the data science community over one day of workshops and two days of conference keynotes and talks from September 14-16th in Houston, TX.

Step 1: Highlight what you will learn at the conference

Sample your agenda - Review our workshops, conference keynotes, and talks to make a sample agenda for yourself. Use this agenda to highlight what you will learn from attending, but also how this will relate to your current role.

Select your workshop and explain how it will make you more efficient in your role. There are several workshops to pick from, but here are a few examples of how one might present them;

- **Programming with LLMs in R and Python** This workshop introduces Posit's `ellmer` (R) and `chatlas` (Python) packages to simplify integrating Large Language Models into your development workflow. Participants will explore system prompt design, tool calling, and Shiny app integration through hands-on exercises tailored to their preferred language. By covering everything from basic AI interactions to advanced agentic workflows, the session empowers both beginners and pros to build sophisticated AI tools without needing an extensive machine-learning background.
- **Our Modern R Workflow (ft. Positron and AI)** Led by Hadley Wickham and Jenny Bryan, this workshop helps R-using data scientists level up their software engineering skills by mastering robust, maintainable coding practices. You will explore three core themes: modern package development (functions, testing, and documentation), leveraging AI assistants like Claude Code to accelerate productivity, and optimizing your workflow with Positron. By connecting contemporary development standards with cutting-edge tooling, the session provides concrete, reproducible skills for building better R projects. No experience with package development or AI tools is required—only a basic familiarity with R and function writing.



- **Practical Quarto: Patterns, Templates, and Tooling**

This workshop is designed for Quarto users eager to master advanced features through practical, reusable design patterns. Instead of a linear feature tour, the session focuses on solving real-world publishing challenges, such as maintaining consistent branding across projects, using template partials for maintainable structures, and leveraging Typst for simplified PDF generation. You will also learn to optimize your workflow in Positron, incorporate LLMs, and demystify reproducibility with Quarto's "freeze" mechanism. By the end, you'll possess a curated set of recipes and a robust mental model for scaling polished, professional documents across teams.

The text you craft will obviously depend on the workshop you choose and how that should be framed for your boss, but with so many workshop options this year, there will certainly be a workshop that is both interesting and valuable for you and your team.

Step 2: Consider the main reasons you want to attend

For example:

1. You will learn technical skills needed to increase your impact on "XYZ part" of your business. Posit Conference will feature some of the most thoughtful R + Python practitioners and effective speakers in science, industry, and technology.
2. You'll hear from other companies in your industry and learn from their experiences. Highlight the value of using other attendee's lessons learned (perhaps including the names of those companies) to speed up your own team's path to success.

Step 3: Send an email request to your boss

Include an overview summary of the main reasons you want to attend, details from your research about sessions you'd like to attend, how this will benefit you in your role, and the cost breakdown - including how much you will need for travel & lodging.

If you are unsuccessful: Ask how you can include this in the training & development budget for next year and what additional details your boss may need to agree to this.

On the next page you'll find an email template to get you started!



SUBJECT: Advancing our Data Science & AI capabilities at posit::conf(2026)

Hi [Manager's Name],

I am writing to request your approval to attend posit::conf(2026), taking place in Houston, TX, from September 14-16.

This is the premier event for the open-source data science community, focusing on the human ingenuity behind today's most powerful technical tools. As our team continues to leverage R, Python, and AI, attending this conference will allow me to bring back the latest best practices in craft and code that can directly improve our workflows.

Specifically, I plan to focus on:

- Workshop Day (Sept 14): I will participate in a deep-dive, hands-on workshop to sharpen my skills in [specific topic, e.g., Quarto, Shiny, or Production ML].
- Technical Breakthroughs (Sept 15-16): I'll attend sessions led by industry experts on turning complex data into meaningful solutions and real-world impact.
- Efficiency & Best Practices: I will learn how top teams are integrating open-source tools to solve challenges similar to the ones we face in [mention a current project or department goal].

Estimated Costs:

- Registration: \$[Amount] (Early bird pricing available now)
- Travel/Hotel: \$[Amount]
- Total: \$[Amount]

You can find more details about the event and the program at posit.it/conf.

I am confident that the knowledge I gain will more than offset the cost of attendance.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your thoughts.

Best regards,

[Your Name]