

Agenda



NAAS Leadership Summit

Building Stronger State Science Ecosystems

Friday, July 24 – Saturday, July 25, 2026
Chicago, Illinois

Friday, July 24

Time	Agenda	Notes
Day 1: Leadership, Innovation & Networking Location: Hotel Lincoln		
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Arrival & Informal Networking	Reconnect with colleagues from across the country while meeting new academy leaders over light refreshments.
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks	An overview of the Summit, its goals, and opportunities for collaboration throughout the weekend, including connections to the National Conference of State Legislatures and partnerships that strengthen the role of state academies in science and society.
4:30 - 5:45 PM	Lightning Talks: State Academy Innovation	Hear short presentations from academies across the country highlighting innovative programs, successful partnerships, emerging initiatives, and lessons learned. This fast-paced session offers opportunities to discover new ideas that can be adapted in your own state. Topics may include: • Junior Academies of Science • Science policy initiatives • Public engagement • Member development • Partnerships • Fundraising and organizational sustainability

5:45 - 6:00 PM	Networking Break	
6:00 - 6:30 PM	Dinner Service	
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Dinner & Fireside Conversation: Strengthening Science in the States	A moderated conversation featuring academy leaders discussing how state academies can expand their impact, engage policymakers, strengthen scientific communities, and respond to emerging opportunities.
7:30 - 8:45 PM	Networking Reception	Continue conversations with colleagues while exploring opportunities for collaboration across states. Participants will help identify priority topics that will shape Saturday's peer exchange discussions.

Saturday, July 25

Time	Agenda	Notes
Day 2: Strategy, Collaboration & Professional Development Location: Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum		
8:00 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast	
8:30 - 9:45 AM	Peer Exchange Roundtables	Interactive discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges facing state academies. Participants will rotate among small-group conversations to share best practices, identify common needs, and explore opportunities for collaboration.
9:45 - 10:00 AM	Group Photo & Break	
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Mapping the State Science Ecosystem	An interactive workshop examining the organizations, institutions, and partnerships that shape science within each state. Participants will explore how academies can strengthen their role within this broader ecosystem and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

11:00 - 12:00 PM	Strategy Session: The Future of State Academies	Participants will work together to identify shared priorities for the coming years, discuss opportunities for national collaboration, and help shape the future direction of the National Association of Academies of Science. Discussion topics include: • Shared priorities across state academies • Resources that would strengthen academy capacity • Opportunities for interstate collaboration • Building stronger partnerships across the science ecosystem
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch	Following lunch, participants will transition to the NASEM Workshop .
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Welcome	NAAS & NASEM
1:20 - 2:40 PM	Engagement with States and Communities	Many national organizations have ongoing or new initiatives relevant to state and local policymakers. This session highlights examples from four national science institutions that provide assistance to policymakers through different mechanisms of engagement.
2:40 - 3:00 PM	Networking Break	
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Identifying Science Gaps in Agriculture and Energy Policy	State governments and communities have policy goals in agriculture and energy that would benefit from scientific research. In this session, state and local actors identify how science has helped achieve policy goals and what scientific results are still needed to advance policy further.
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Fireside Chat	Institutions Supporting State and Local Policy
5:15 - 5:30 PM	Closing Remarks	
5:30 PM	Reception	

Attendee List

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