Hello!

Welcome to the FAQ page for AAPOR membership and conference participation, moderated by the members of the AAPOR Welcoming Committee of the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee.

Are you unsure about when to arrive for the conference? Where to stay? Whether you should ask a new member volunteer (the answer is YES by the way!)? This is the place to get those questions answered! Below, you will find a compilation of questions and answers to questions we've been asked. If you'd like to ask one of your own, please fill out the Google Form and we'll do our best to answer your questions or direct you to the right person to help!

Question	**Answer from the Subcommittee**
Do I need to stay at the conference hotel?	No - you don't need to. However, you will want to participate in all the conference activities. Unlike many conferences, there's less 'down time' in between events and starts early/ends late - so you may want to try to find a hotel as close to the conference as you can (and of course, just hang out at the conference hotel all day!). If you're looking for a way to lessen hotel costs, consider signing up for our roommate matching program.
Why is the registration fee more than other conferences?	Well, for starters, AAPOR tries to keep the registration fees as manageable as possible, while still delivering top-notch programming. Did you know that students are eligible for a reduced registration fee? Also, most of your meals are included for the duration of the conference, which both brings attendees together more often, and makes the costs of attending the conference a bit more predictable.
I don't know anyone attending the AAPOR conference, will I be able to meet people? How?	Yes! You'll be able to meet loads of people in various ways. First, attend all of the Student & Early Career Professional events, they are full of newer members so you'll be in good company. Also, the whole AAPOR membership is great - and there are opportunities at meals and mixers (like the first night) to meet all sorts of new people. To get you oriented, sign up for a Docent when you register to attend - they can be your point person for getting acclimated to the conference and AAPOR generally. For professional networking, be sure to sign up for

	Speed Networking and bring your resumes and business cards! Don't miss these events/opportunities and you'll be sure to meet loads of people!
What is the docent program? Should I participate?	Yes! You should definitely participate if you're a first time attendee. The Docent Program pairs a small group of first time attendees with a veteran member to help familiarize them with the conference and AAPOR. It's a great way to start off your networking!
What is the dress code at the conference? What about for the 'receptions' and other events?	The conference program states that dress at the conference is "business casual," though actual attire worn by attendees often ranges from casual (shorts and polos) to formal (suits and ties - particularly among those who are presenting). People tend to "dress up" more for the President's Reception and the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening (ties and cocktail dresses). Also note that the weather can vary significantly. Hotel meeting rooms can be quite cool, so you may want to bring a sweater or jacket regardless of what the weather is outside.
If I have questions while I'm there, who should I ask?	Great question - you can stop by the Membership & Chapter Relations booth anytime - it's located right next to the registration desk. It'll be staffed throughout the conference and the best spot to get information and answers to your questions.
What day should I arrive? Depart?	We strongly suggest you plan to attend the whole conference - unlike some others, we really plan a full and comprehensive program from midday Thursday to noon Sunday. Nearly everyone will arrive in time to participate in the Thursday mixer - and it really sets the tone for the conference, so don't miss it! Most will attend the dinner and party on Saturday night and begin to fly out Sunday morning - but try to take in a session if you have time.
How far in advance do I need to register for a	You can register up until conference registration

short course?	closes, but as there are finite numbers of seats, be sure to sign up ASAP.
How can I stay connected during the conference to everything that is going on?	Follow the conference using #AAPOR on Twitter for one, it's used by a large portion of the conference attendees and it's a great way to stay connected to what's going on and what is being discussed in other presentation rooms.
If I have feedback to give about my conference experience, where should I direct it?	Send us an email! We're always eager to hear from everyone to try to make your welcome into AAPOR great!
I'm on the job market. Any tips for successful networking at the conference?	Loads! First, bring plenty of business cards with your updated professional contact information, and attend all the social events where you'll have the opportunity to informally network. For formal networking, be sure to sign up for the speed networking (spots are limited and go quickly!), bring your polished resume (many copies) and dress professionally (suits don't hurt).
How do I learn more about regional chapters?	The Wednesday evening mixer will have representatives from each of the regional chapters where you can meet and network with them and learn all about your local chapter and their events.
Where can I find all this information in one place?	Check out the conference guide! A link will be available in the conference app, as well as on the AAPOR website. It'll have lots of information, links and detailed answers to these questions.
Will I be one of the only (students, early career professionals, first time attendees, attendees who don't know anyone)?	Not even close! There will be several hundred students, early career professional and first time attendees - somewhere in the ballpark of 20-25% of attendees will fall into one of these groups! Most of SEC is early career, or career changers, but we have recent undergrads, grads, and folks just new to AAPOR too.
When will I know my exact presentation date & time so I can plan my travel?	You should have received information along with your abstract submission. If you still have any issues, please email Justine Bulgar-Medina (justine.bulgarmedina@gmail.com) and we'll help you get it sorted out.

Presenting at AAPOR.	It's not uncommon to not hear from a panel moderator, especially if the panel wasn't invitation only. That said, you can reach out to the moderator, which should be listed in the AAPOR conference guide (I suggest downloading and using the AAPOR app, it's much more user friendly!). If you can't get in touch with them, I'd prepare for the 'AAPOR standards' which are: 1. you'll visit AV support 24 hours+ before your talk, and have them upload your talk via thumb drive to the computer that'll be used in your presentation room. PDF and PowerPoint formats are best. Then, prepare for a 12 minute talk (AAPOR tends to value heavy on methods & findings, light on theory), with moderated Q&A at the end of all talks, to last about 15-20 minutes.