

Call for Program FAQ

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1. **What is a program?**

A program is a 40 minute presentation on any topic of importance to a Residence Life staff member. Everyone who attends Southern RAP will have the opportunity to select programs in four different areas to attend during the conference.

2. **Who can present a program?**

Everyone! Resident assistants and other student leaders or professional staff members who have knowledge they want to share with others.

3. **Who is my audience?**

Anyone from the conference may attend, and these people might be student staff members, undergraduate student leaders, graduate assistants, or professional staff members. If you think that your program would be best for certain people, you can suggest who you would like your audience to be in your abstract. (For example, "This program is for professional staff members who...")

4. **Why would I want to present a program?**

These programs are the reason people come to Southern RAP. Presenting gives you the chance to Teach, Learn, and Improve. It is an opportunity for you to use your own skills or passions to teach others to better serve their own students or themselves. You can also use this opportunity to learn by expanding your own knowledge on a specific topic and getting new ideas from other people who attend your program. Finally, this experience can help you improve your presentation and public speaking skills, as well as add a valuable component to your ResLife job on your résumé.

5. **What types of programs are there for presentations?**

Programming—Present an actual program that has been successful on your campus and teach others how to use this program on their campuses. The goal of this program is that all who participate will walk away with the ability to replicate your program or modify it to be successful on their own campuses.

Skill-Building—Help Residence Life staff develop their own skills in an area of your expertise. The goal of this program is that all who participate will walk away with a new skill to help them to be successful on the job and/or in life.

Round Table—Facilitate a discussion between Residence Life staff members from different schools to brainstorm and share their experiences with a specific topic or issue. The goal of this type of program is that all those who participate will walk away with new insights and ideas about how to manage these issues on their own campuses.

6. What about Passive Programming?

Create passive programming to be displayed at the event. These passive programs will be available for participants to view throughout the day. You will not need to do any presenting or public speaking. Simply sign up and then bring your passive program to the event!

Passive programs convey information in a logical, interesting format in which no active participation is necessary. Residents are able to absorb the information at their own pace. It may be in the form of a pamphlet, poster, bulletin board, etc.

7. How should I choose a topic?

Think about the following questions: What is the most successful thing you have done as a Residence Life staff member? What successes have you had in areas where you used to struggle? What parts of your job do you do very well? What are issues that face most Residence Life staff members? How can I help others succeed? What skills are very important to student staff members in their jobs and for their futures?

Program submissions will be divided into four categories to help us organize them, but also to help you with your planning. Here are some examples of topics that fall into the following categories, but do not let these examples limit your creativity:

- Health/Wellness: body image, physical health, fitness, alcohol, drugs, mental health, nutrition, eating disorders, mental illness, stress, suicide, STDs, sexual health, risk-taking, relationships...
- Diversity/Social Justice: discrimination, privilege, environmental issues, prejudice, celebrating difference, political activism, community service, awareness, hate crimes, women's issues, men's issues, students with disabilities, LGBTQIA issues, racism, family issues, inclusiveness...
- Community Building: Social mapping, icebreakers, team-building activities, community standards, door decorations, incentive programs, staff development, social programs, warm fuzzies, safety and security, mentoring, roommate relationships, change...
- Personal Success: leadership, advertising/publicity, burn-out, finding balance, budgeting, resumes, mentoring, confrontation and mediation skills, career planning, interviewing, goal-setting, crisis management, time management, study skills, organization, prioritizing...

8. How can I make sure my program is a success?

Be prepared. Pick a topic you are excited to present on. Make sure that you know a lot about the topic you are presenting. This is a great opportunity for you to refresh yourself on important issues that you might want to speak to in your presentation.

Create a catchy title and abstract for the program that will make people want to attend.

Provide hand-outs so that attendees can take the major points of your program with them. This is especially useful if you are demonstrating a program, because you want it to be successful for them when they return to their campuses.

Finally, people always like interaction. Do an activity, play a game, give them discussion time, etc. so that attendees stay engaged and involved in your presentation. Leave time for questions as well.