



Getting the Most From Convention

BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO ATTEND

- Determine what you need and hope to gain from convention.
- Consider the value of convention – we only make progress if we accept the challenge of change – to learn and grow in knowledge, skills and experience.
- Ensure that your PTA includes a line item in the budget to send attendees to the State convention annually.

AFTER YOU'VE DECIDED TO ATTEND

- Write down your objectives for attending so you are clear about your purpose and what you want from convention.
- Plan how your time will be spent; design an itinerary that allows flexibility to pursue unexpected learning or networking opportunities.
- Be responsible about attending – your PTA is sending you to convention to participate fully – do not use the time away for a chance to play or shop on your PTA's money.
- Be positive about attending.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CONVENTION

- Review the program for changes and updates – revise your itinerary as appropriate.
- Participate in ALL general meetings and take notes.
- Voting delegates can participate in the business of the organization – vote on legislative platform that will direct our advocacy efforts; establish the priorities to be addressed; participate in the election of future State PTA leaders.
- Celebrate the outstanding work of local unit, council and district PTAs.
- Participate in a variety of workshops where ideas and skills can be learned; hear from experts in fields of PTA concern.
- Develop leadership skills
- Visit the exhibit hall and consider the potential of products and services to increase your PTA's ability to serve its parents and students effectively and efficiently.
- Meet State and National PTA leaders.
- Network! Exchange ideas and successes with others – learn from PTAs around the state.
- Create helpful lists of PTA contacts.

AFTER RETURNING HOME

- Report to your PTA on what you learned and how it can benefit you and your PTA.
- Demonstrate that your attendance was well worth the time and expense; show how the benefits outweigh the costs.
- Share your notes with others who can make the information work for them – adapt the information to benefit your PTA.
- Share the handout materials you collected.
- Share the handout flash drive you were given.
- Follow-up with contacts you made and nurture the rapport you established - continue to share ideas and success with others.
- Apply the knowledge and skills you acquired immediately.
- Encourage your PTA to send more attendees to future conventions.