



The Tejas Storytelling Association Summer Conference

The best place to experience the art of storytelling!

When & Where?

June 21-23, 2024

Holiday Inn Energy Corridor

1112 Eldridge Pkwy

Houston, TX 77077

Conference Theme

Storytelling: *Context, Culture, Connection*

Bi-Annual Summer Conference Mission Statement

Our conference in June, 2024, is an education centered event providing safe and supportive opportunities for attendees to enhance and improve their storytelling skills during stage performance, in a work environment, or in an informal setting such as a guild meeting or story swap. To further meet these needs, the conference will focus on four interest groups:

1. Professional storytellers who currently or plan to make storytelling a livelihood
2. Those who use storytelling in their vocations (e.g. teaching, clergy, therapy, branding)
3. Individuals who love telling stories as an avocation
4. Our youth who wish to learn storytelling skills for presentations

Categories for Potential Workshop Presentations Relevant to the Interest Groups

Here is a list of possible workshop topics you might consider.

The Professional Storyteller: Those *who make or wish to make* storytelling a livelihood.

Potential Topics for this interest group:

1. Choosing methods for developing stories appropriate for a variety of audiences
2. Developing folklore or historically grounded stories to deliver to target groups (schools, cultural interest, recreational facilities, academic conferences, and the like)
3. Preparing story programs for in person and virtual performances
4. Creating methods for marketing, networking, developing storyteller persona for professional settings or serving as a program emcee

The Working Storyteller: Those *who currently work in settings* which would benefit from enhanced storytelling skills

Potential Topics for this interest group:

1. Employing storytelling as pedagogy for the classroom
2. Exploring methods for including stories in sermons, messages of inspiration, words of compassion, and the like
3. Incorporating stories in toasts, roasts, and other ceremonial speech
4. Using storytelling as a tool for branding, public relations, and other forms of persuasion

Storytelling as an Avocation: Primarily, though not exclusively for the novice teller who wants their stories to share *meaningful messages to family and friends* about memories frozen in time.

Potential Topics for this interest group :

1. Exploring ways to collect and chronicle stories
2. Learning the reasons for the power of storytelling
3. Examining story genre: historic stories, sacred stories; folk tales; tall tales; personal stories; origin tales
4. Practicing telling through informal story swaps, debriefing, and coaching

Storytelling for Youth (Or those young at heart): This is especially useful for primary and middle school teachers. Since storytelling is valuable as a teaching tool, this area concentrates on ways to develop storytelling skills of students, campers, and any child in a context where storytelling is seen as a meaningful activity.

Potential Topics for this interest group :

1. Shifting from telling traditional stories to personal narratives
2. Exploring the roles of disclosure, vulnerability, and trust when telling a story
3. Examining ways to access one's "youthful" repertoire
4. Developing strategies for reaching any listener

Instructional Resources: The hotel will supply white boards, markers, and flip charts. Anything else (tech support, computers, etc.) must be supplied by the presenter.

How Proposals Are Selected:

The committee will carefully review and discuss each proposal submitted by the deadline. Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria seen on the proposal form.

Who May Submit Proposals:

We welcome proposal submissions from anyone. Presenters are not required to be members of TSA. However, 80% of sessions must be presented by TSA members.

Registration and Stipend: Selected presenters are asked to pay their own way (early bird rate) when registering for the conference. Also, each presenter will receive a stipend of \$125.00

Where to Submit Proposals:

Please send your proposal as an *Attachment to your email* to:

tsa@tejasstorytelling.com

Subject Line: TSA Conference Workshop Proposal

Submission Deadline:

February 1, 2024

Note: If you have any issues, problems, or dilemmas in forwarding proposals, do not panic. Call 940-380-9320. Carol Barrow and/or someone from the committee will assist you.

Our Hope:

...is that conference attendees promote synergy and inspiration in each other by blending the rich experiences of our storytellers from each category by enjoying great sessions, engaging in safe and open discussions, and interacting with the veteran and novice tellers who enrich our dynamic association. The committee is excited about June 2024, and we hope you are too.

The TSA Conference...

Storytelling is a type of human expression for which there is no substitute. Thank you for keeping it alive!

