

STUDENTS

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CONVENTION EXPERIENCE

The 76th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo, June 24-27 in Orlando, is almost here! The NATA Student Leadership Committee has shared some tips for a fantastic student attendee experience.

- 1. Network!** Don't be afraid to talk to other people at convention. This is a great opportunity for you to connect with fellow students and athletic trainers in the profession.
- 2. Attend town halls and/or sessions** sponsored by your desired workplace setting or professional interests to increase networking opportunities.
- 3. Dress professionally** because any moment can turn into an informal job interview.
- 4.** Once the NATA 2025 app is released, **plan your schedule.** It can be difficult to remember what you want to attend if you don't have a set plan.
- 5. Have fun!** Even though this is a convention for professional development, it's still a fun event. Make sure to enjoy the time there and explore the city!
- 6. Attend the student-focused programming sessions,** be engaged in the lectures and ask lots of questions.
- 7.** Don't just attend the sessions about the topics you're most interested in and "good at." **Challenge yourself** by attending something that will enhance your knowledge base or may offer insights into a topic you don't think you currently like.
- 8. Bring a bag big enough for snacks** but not so big that it becomes cumbersome.
- 9. Bring a jacket.** Convention center rooms tend to be cold.
- 10.** Look for opportunities to **travel with classmates or friends.** It's a great way to share expenses, but it's also good to have a travel buddy. This helps make some social interactions less awkward when you have someone else in the room who you know.
- 11. Go to all the events** happening throughout convention week, especially the AT Expo, Opening Sessions, NATA Happy Hour and NATA Quiz Bowl.
- 12. Don't forget your phone charger.**
- 13. Attend the SLC events!** Its planning committee has made efforts to create learning opportunities and networking experiences that will be most beneficial for students.
- 14. Attend the NATA Hall of Fame Induction & National Awards Ceremony.** Even if you don't know the individuals being awarded, it's inspiring to hear their speeches and appreciate the impact they have had on the profession.
- 15. Wear comfortable shoes!** Convention centers can be pretty spaced out, so you want to make sure you're able to get around comfortably.