

# IAFP 2026: A Day in the Life

New Orleans, Louisiana • What to expect from check-in to banquet night  
Quick guide to your first day, meeting flow, evening events, and the last day



Registration first

Welcome + PDGs

Plan app schedule

Awards Banquet

## First Day Essentials

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- ◆ **Registration first:** Stop by registration before attending meeting events to pick up your name badge, lanyard, and materials such as a notebook, pen, and bag.
- ◆ **Hours:** Registration is open Saturday 12:00–6:00 PM and Sunday 8:00 AM–9:00 PM.
- ◆ **Personalize your badge:** Ribbons and stickers help customize your lanyard and identify first-time attendees, new members, committee members, preferred pronouns, and more.
- ◆ **Fast check-in:** If already registered, use the barcode sent by email to scan and receive materials.
- ◆ **Need details?:** The IAFP app lists registration hours, and signs will be posted inside the conference center.

## Saturday + Sunday Highlights

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- ◆ **Saturday welcome:** Registration is open 12:00–6:00 PM. The Welcome Reception runs 5:00–6:30 PM and is a casual mingling event with music and light snacks.
- ◆ **Sunday PDGs:** Professional Development Group meetings are loosely structured 1.5-hour gatherings that include introductions, guest or student technical presentations, and small- and large-group discussions.
- ◆ **Opening Session:** Everyone is invited to the conference welcome, IAFP President update, IAFP Foundation update, awards recognitions, and the Ivan Parkin Lecture.
- ◆ **Programs:** Programs are provided upon arrival, and the Opening Session lasts about 1.5 hours.
- ◆ **Sunday evening:** The Cheese and Wine Reception in the Exhibit Hall includes refreshments, networking, exhibitor booths, and the Silent Auction before it closes Tuesday afternoon.

## Typical Meeting Day

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- ◆ **Session types:** Scientific programming includes symposia (three 30-minute presentations), roundtables (expert panel discussions), and technical presentations (15-minute talks).
- ◆ **How the day flows:** Sessions typically last 1.5 hours with 30–45-minute breaks between them.
- ◆ **Sample schedule:** 8:30–10:00 AM Symposia • 10:00–10:45 AM Refreshment break • 10:45 AM–12:15 PM Roundtable • 12:15–1:30 PM Lunch in the Exhibit Hall • 1:30–3:00 PM Technical session • 3:00–3:45 PM Break • 3:45–5:15 PM Symposia.
- ◆ **Choose your own path:** You can move among sessions during the day and do not need to stay in one room. Plan your schedule in advance using the IAFP Meeting App.
- ◆ **Evening activity:** Exhibit Hall receptions on Monday and Tuesday evenings let you mingle, visit booths, and view scientific posters. The exhibit hall closes after the Tuesday evening reception.
- ◆ **Poster timing:** Posters are displayed in the Exhibit Hall, attended by presenters at times listed in the app and during the evening reception. The Wednesday poster session continues through lunchtime.

## Evenings + Last Day

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- ◆ **Affiliate meetings:** Some affiliate meetings may happen during or after the Exhibit Hall reception. Check the app for time and location; attendees can explore affiliate membership opportunities.
- ◆ **Dinner plans:** Dinner is on your own, so plan to eat outside the convention center and make restaurant reservations in advance.
- ◆ **Last day flow:** The final day is similar to the first two meeting days but ends at 4:30 PM. Lunch is provided and posters remain in the Exhibit Hall.
- ◆ **Final events:** The John H. Siliker Lecture is at 4:00 PM. The Awards Banquet Reception starts at 6:00 PM, followed by the Awards Banquet at 7:00 PM.
- ◆ **Travel home:** If traveling home that day, luggage can be held at baggage check in the convention center.
- ◆ **Banquet info:** Business casual attire is typical. The banquet lasts until about 10:00 PM; refreshments are served at the reception and dinner is provided. Some tables are reserved for award recipients near the stage.
- ◆ **Affiliate directory:** [foodprotection.org/affiliates/directory/](http://foodprotection.org/affiliates/directory/)

**Tip:** Use the IAFP Meeting App to customize your day and check event locations, poster times, and affiliate meetings.

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