

AWS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM FACT SHEET

Background

The AWS Leadership Symposium is an annual meeting designed to strengthen District Representatives' leadership skills, give tips on planning activities, provide an opportunity to meet key AWS Staff, as well as a chance to learn about helpful resources available from AWS.

In addition, the Symposium provides a forum for Section leaders to communicate and share ideas, problems and solutions. It is anticipated that, by attending, Symposium participants will gain a greater appreciation of the Society and will become more enthusiastic volunteers, in addition to becoming more knowledgeable of AWS and its programs and services.

The Selection Process

One representative from each District, to be selected at or before each respective District Conference (depending on when your District's Conference is scheduled), will attend this annual event. Sections wishing to nominate a candidate should provide a brief write-up, outlining why the person should be selected, to their District Directors as soon as possible. Current and former AWS Board of Directors may not be selected as the District Representative; however, an incoming District Director who has not yet taken office, may attend the event.

If Sections want to sponsor another representative to attend the Symposium, they will be allowed to do so at their own expense and on a first-come, first-served basis (only 35-40 spots are available).

Symposium Dates

The Leadership Symposium will be held in July or August in Miami, Florida, covering three nights and 2 ½ days (usually Saturday evening to Tuesday noon). Holding the meeting at this time of the year will enable participants to return to their Sections energized and better prepared to help plan events for the coming Section year. Another separate AWS event held in Miami, the AWS Instructors Institute is also held in the summer, and runs four nights and three ½ days (usually Tuesday evening to Saturday noon). Districts may nominate the same individual to attend both events. Please contact Cassie Burrell (cburrell@aws.org) or Paola Chacon-Celis (pcelis@aws.org) at AWS Headquarters for special information on the Leadership Symposium or the Instructors Institute, respectively.

Symposium Location

The Symposium will take place at AWS Headquarters in Miami, Florida. The conference will include an opportunity to meet AWS Staff, and time will also be allocated for the representative to visit the Departments of their choice.

About the Facilitator

Mr. Ron Gilbert, an outside facilitator experienced in working with associations (AWS in particular) and trained in leadership development, has been retained to work with Staff in creating a diverse and fun-filled program. The program itself will consist of structured events to ensure maximum benefit to the attendees. Sufficient time for brainstorming and informal conversation between participants will also be allotted and will be strongly encouraged.

Sharing Information AFTER the Event

One of the guidelines we recommend in choosing a District Representative is selecting someone who communicates information effectively to others. It will be this individual's responsibility to funnel information learned to their District Director and to other Section leaders. The Leadership Symposium will also be a new standing item on each of the District Conference agendas so that feedback can be shared.

Funding

National will provide travel and lodging reimbursements for each of the 22 District Representatives attending the event. Specific information will be forwarded directly to the selected individuals following all of the District Conferences (mid-June). Section-sponsored representatives will need to secure travel and hotel funding from their respective Sections, or from an alternative source.