



**REGISTRATION**  
**and**  
**WORKSHOP**  
**INFORMATION**



# Summer Leadership Conference July 18-19, 2026

Crowne Plaza-The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY



Dear PTA Leaders,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 2026 Summer Leadership Conference on July 18-19, at Crowne Plaza-The Desmond Hotel in Albany! NYS PTA has planned an exciting 24-hour event, which includes over 30 training workshops, keynote speakers, exhibitor opportunities and networking with members from across the State. This is an approved and encouraged use of PTA funds.

Summer Leadership Conference 2026 is a wonderful opportunity to meet new PTA friends, network and expand your leadership skills. NYS PTA Governance Team members and other professionals will provide you with the tools and skills you need to be strong and confident leaders. A well-run PTA will serve the children and community most effectively; trained and motivated members will lead to the successful longevity of your PTA unit.

This year we are planning an all-encompassing event with our theme: *Camp PTA – Adventure Awaits!* We invite you to embrace the fun theme with your favorite camping accessories. Take a look at the workshop offerings, share the information widely, register and attend a wonderfully planned conference, while you enjoy meeting other PTA leaders in a fun, relaxing environment.

Please visit our website at [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org), where you can view the latest up-to-date information, printable fliers, registration information and [register online](#). Make your own hotel accommodations at a reduced room rate (see below for that information).

If you have questions about this event, please contact your PTA [Region Director](#) or send an email to the 2026 Summer Leadership Conference Coordinator Carol (Raymond) Clementi at [craymond@nyspta.org](mailto:craymond@nyspta.org). Registration inquiries should be directed to the Conference Coordinator.

We hope that you and members of your unit, council and region will join us for a fun filled, informative and energizing conference, as we continue Measuring Our Mission for all Children!

Looking forward to seeing you in Albany!

Carol (Raymond) Clementi  
Summer Leadership Conference Coordinator



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**Hotel Reservations** are made on your own (under the NYS PTA room block) at Crowne Plaza-The Desmond Hotel before June 24, 2026 at the room rate of \$161/night, per room (not per person). Hotel reservations for Summer Leadership Conference [CLICK HERE](#) or call the hotel directly at 518-869-8100 using **Group Code LSZ**.

# Schedule at a Glance



## Saturday, July 18, 2026

12:00pm – 6:00pm	Registration / Information / 1 <sup>st</sup> Timers
12:00pm – 4:45pm	Exhibitors
12:00pm – 4:45pm	PTA Store
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Dedicated Exhibit time / NYS PTA Team Tables
1:00pm – 1:45pm	Opening Session
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Dedicated Exhibit time / NYS PTA Team Tables
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Workshop Session 1
3:30pm – 4:15pm	Dedicated Exhibit time / NYS PTA Team Tables
4:15pm – 5:15pm	Workshop Session 2
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Workshop Session 3
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Dinner
7:45pm	First Timers Group Photo; Full Group Photo
7:45pm – 9:00pm	Evening Session/Activity

## Sunday, July 19, 2026

7:45am – 8:30am	Breakfast
8:45am – 9:45am	Workshop Session 4
10:00am – 11:00am	Workshop Session 5
11:15am – 11:45am	Closing Remarks and Prize Drawings



**July 18 only!**  
**Visit the PTA Store  
for your PTA-related  
merchandise and  
exclusive specials!**

# WORKSHOPS - Saturday, July 18, 2026



**Session 1: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

## **101 Youth Meet and Greet** *(for registered youth only)*

## **102 Set your compass to our 31 Points for a Successful PTA Year**

Why plan in the wilderness? Let our 31 Point Checklist guide your unit through a successful PTA year! Check off everything you need to do to be mission focused, stay in compliance with your bylaws and offer engaging activities for your members and families.

## **103 Women's Health Across the Lifespan: Screening for Every Stage**

This presentation highlights the importance of preventive health screenings tailored to each stage of a woman's life, emphasizing a proactive approach to care. Drawing from evidence-based guidelines, it outlines how screening needs evolve from early adulthood through midlife and into older age. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of key health areas—including behavioral health, cardiovascular risk, cancer screenings, reproductive health, and bone health—and how early detection and regular monitoring can improve long-term outcomes. The goal is to empower women with the knowledge to make informed decisions, personalize care, and promote lifelong wellness.

## **104 Charting the Course for Inclusive Family Engagement**

Participants will explore practical strategies to strengthen family/school community partnerships through inclusive, intentional engagement, with an emphasis on reaching underrepresented families and distinguishing between events and meaningful engagement. The workshop will also highlight the importance of male involvement and provide actionable tools and real-world examples that can be immediately applied across regions, units, and programs.

## **105 Focus your Binoculars on Advocacy 101**

Gather around the Camp PTA campfire and discover how advocacy can help create meaningful change for every child. Whether you're speaking up in your school, community, Albany, or Washington, DC, your voice matters. In this interactive session, we will share ideas, explore advocacy strategies, and help you turn your passion into action. Bring an advocacy idea and leave with a practical plan, new connections, and the tools to champion students, families, educators, and schools while helping to Measure Our Mission for Every Child.

## **106 Queerness and Queries: Allyship for All**

The third installment of the Queerness and Queries workshops, this time with a focus on the topic of allyship. Now more than ever we need to band together and create a strong community that can stand together and offer support and compassion for all students. Come to learn about resources, organizations, and how to be an effective ally for all.

## **107 Camp Reflections: Pack for Success!**

New to the National PTA Reflections program or a returning leader looking for a refresh? This session is for you! Learn how to confidently lead the program through the 2026-2027 theme, "What My Culture Means to Me". We will wrap up with breakout discussions, offering new leaders' guidance and support, and giving returning leaders space to reflect on past practices and explore what's new for the year ahead.

## **108 From Basecamp to Breakthrough: An Interactive Membership Strategy Lab**

Step onto The PTA Trail: From Basecamp to Summit, where every step counts and every member matters. In this hands-on workshop, participants will move through dynamic stations, including a Shark Tank-style pitch experience and collaborative problem-solving around real membership barriers. Leaders will explore practical strategies to strengthen recruitment, deepen engagement, and create more inclusive, welcoming PTAs. Walk away with actionable ideas and a clear path to turn small steps into lasting impact in your community.

## **109 Safety Systems and Synergy**

This interactive workshop empowers parents and educators to build a culture of safety by aligning proactive measures with daily school routines. Attendees will learn how to strengthen the synergy between home and school, ensuring consistent, collaborative communication during both everyday scenarios and emergency situations. Leave with actionable tools for fostering a supportive, secure environment that allows students to focus on learning rather than threat assessment.

# WORKSHOPS - Saturday, July 18, 2026



**Session 2: 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.**

## **201 AI Smarts: Using Technology Responsibly, Creatively, and Effectively**

This session would help students explore how AI can be used responsibly and effectively in school, leadership, and everyday life. Students would discuss helpful uses of AI, such as brainstorming, organization, studying, and project planning, while also talking about what is appropriate, what crosses the line, and why originality, privacy, and ethics matter.

## **202 Bylaws 101 for Units and Councils**

Are your bylaws expiring, expired or does your unit or council want to make some changes to the bylaws? Are you unsure how to start the bylaws update process? This workshop will explain why having bylaws that are current are important and will guide you through the steps to update bylaws using the Bylaws Wizard.

## **203 We're a Title 1 School; What Does That Mean?**

Build a shared understanding of what it means to be a Title I school, with a focus on the legal requirements tied to federal funding and the critical role of family engagement. Participants will explore how PTA and school leaders can work together to meet these requirements while creating meaningful, inclusive opportunities that support student success, strengthen families, and build thriving school communities.

## **204 Be a Happy Camper! Fire-Up Your PTA Knowledge**

Come huddle around the PTA campfire with us. Go fishing to find out how much great information you can catch! By participating in this fun and interactive camping workshop, unit and council leaders will gain so much s'more knowledge on many topics that help them run their PTA successfully.

## **205 Camp Temperament: Finding Your Inner Rhythm**

Whether you're a "Trailblazer" (Sanguine), a "Steady Scout" (Phlegmatic), a "Mountain Guide" (Choleric), or a "Deep Woods Mapper" (Melancholic), it's time to pack your gear and discover how your natural wiring affects how you lead, follow, and campfire-bond with your team. You'll also learn how you can share this knowledge with your communities as a fun family event.

## **206 PARP Around the Campfire**

Come and learn about the PARP Grant launching in Fall 2026. We will walk through important deadlines and highlight what you need to know to submit a grant proposal for the new grant.

## **207 Empowering Families and Strengthening PTAs Through the School Mental Health Resource and Training (SMHRT) Center**

The School Mental Health Resource and Training (SMHRT) Center was created to support schools in implementing mental health education, however, its focus has evolved and now works to ensure that all members of school communities (including families) can access the tools they need to address mental health challenges and maintain wellness. This session will provide an overview of the importance of family engagement, provide strategies to enhance communication on mental health along with detailing all the supports and resources the SMHRT Center can offer families and PTAs which include monthly Family Education Webinars, resources on communication, an annual summer movie event and presentations to PTA meetings. Participants will come away empowered by learning the benefits of collaborating with the SMHRT Center all at no cost to schools, families or PTAs.

## **208 Region Membership Training for RMCs**

Part 1 of Region Membership Chair training (*for Region Membership Chairs only*).

## **209 Starting Strong: A Trail Guide for New & Rebuilding PTAs**

Starting a PTA (or rebuilding a PTA) can feel overwhelming without a clear path forward. This session will walk leaders through essential first steps, key priorities, and strategies for building momentum. Participants will leave with a roadmap and practical tools to confidently launch or revitalize their PTA.

# WORKSHOPS - Saturday, July 18, 2026



**Session 3: 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

## **301 Camp Change-Makers: Turning Youth Service into Leadership**

Pack your backpacks and join us around the “Camp PTA” campfire as we explore how youth volunteering sparks leadership, advocacy, and civic engagement. From community cleanups and local libraries to shelters and service projects, volunteering gives young people a front-row seat to how communities function—and how their voices and actions can create real change. This interactive workshop will explore how everyday acts of service help youth build confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of citizenship. Together, we’ll discover how today’s volunteers become tomorrow’s advocates, leaders, and change-makers.

## **302 Adolescent Substance Use: What They Are Using, Why Are We Concerned, and What You Can Do About It**

Adolescent substance use, including nicotine/tobacco products such as e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches, cannabis, caffeine patches, psychedelics, and fentanyl and other opioids, remains of great concern. Newer forms of these substances continue to infiltrate the market, with flavors and misleading marketing attracting our youth. This presentation will provide detailed information on these substances, including rates of use, addiction, and other health effects, as well as marketing of these products. The presentation will also provide information on reasons for adolescent use of these products, including flavors, appeal, marketing, perceived reduced harm, stress, anxiety, depression, and misperceptions. Evidence-based resources that can be used to help prevent and reduce use of substances, as well as advocacy efforts occurring in the US to reduce use, will be provided.

## **303 Treasurer 101 - Packing Your Backpack/Budget Correctly**

Camping is hard without a properly packed backpack. Budgets are just as necessary for PTA groups. Where do you start? What are the must-have items that can keep your mission/trip on track? This workshop is geared for new leaders and will also include Q&A with the State Treasurer.

## **304 Connecting by the Campfire**

Presidents, let's gather 'round the campfire and share our stories whether they are scary as a ghost tale or sweet as a s'more. We will chat about the skills needed for the great adventure of being a PTA president.

## **305 Camp Tech Trek: Tech Tools to Power Your PTA!**

Grab your flashlight and hiking boots as we explore the digital tools every PTA leader needs for a successful year! This workshop will guide participants through practical technology resources including Google for Nonprofits, BAND, Zoom, social media tools, online signups, leadership development resources, and more. Attendees will leave ready to blaze new trails in communication, organization, engagement, and leadership growth within their PTA communities.

## **306 Hot Topics in Education**

Join this interactive session where we discuss what's happening in Albany, DC, in our schools, and answer your questions!

## **307 The Secrets to Becoming an Influential Board Member**

This workshop provides guidance on how to be a more effective board member. It covers key responsibilities, best practices, and strategies for contributing positively to board activities and organizational governance. The content is intended to help both new and experienced board members enhance their impact and leadership.

## **308 Region Membership Training for RMCs**

Part 2 of Region Membership Chair training (*for Region Membership Chairs only*).

# WORKSHOPS - Sunday, July 19, 2026



**Session 4: 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

## **401 Your Voice Matters: Youth Leadership, Service, and Civic Engagement**

This session would focus on the importance of youth voice, volunteering, and understanding how government works. Students would explore how they can use their voices through service, advocacy, school leadership, and community involvement, while learning why their perspectives matter now — not just in the future.

## **402 Camp Canva**

Welcome to Camp Canva, where PTA leaders learn to create eye-catching flyers and posts using Canva - no experience needed! Explore templates, branding, and teamwork tools around our 'campfire'. Leave with ready-to-use designs and the confidence to make your PTA shine!

## **403 Micro Volunteering: The Secret to Engaging Busy Families**

This session aims to help PTA leaders attract more families by offering small, flexible, low commitment ways to help. Participants learn what micro volunteering is, why it removes barriers for busy caregivers, and how to design roles that fit real family schedules. Components to include slideshow, brainstorming session, and toolkit with ready-to-use examples.

## **404 Financial Accountability Training...aka "Keep the Campfire Going"**

Most campsites have some type of campfire to provide basic needs, your group's finances provide similar basic needs to your unit/council/region. This workshop is **REQUIRED** for Presidents and Treasurers annually to be a unit in Good Standing. Learn essential tools to ensure financial accountability and transparency within your organization. Leave with practical knowledge to protect your "flame" and ensure that you have the fuel to last throughout your entire trip.

## **405 IEP 201: So, You Have an IEP, Now What?**

This workshop will help parents and guardians understand how to implement and monitor the services and accommodations outlined in their child's IEP. Participants will learn what steps to take if services are missed, effective preparation techniques for the next CSE meeting, and how to advocate for changes when needed to ensure their child's success.

## **406 Givebacks - What You Need to Know!**

This workshop is for PTA *unit officers*. You will receive an overview of how to utilize Givebacks as a PTA officer. We will cover the modules for officer compliance, membership, remitting state dues, and 990 filing confirmation. We will also briefly cover PTA communications and utilizing your online store.

## **407 Givebacks for Region Support**

This workshop is for *region leaders*. We will cover running reports, supporting local units, and navigating Givebacks as a region or council member.

# WORKSHOPS - Sunday, July 19, 2026



**Session 5: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

## **501 Hike the Trails! The Path to PTA Awards and Recognitions**

Do you have volunteers who go above and beyond? Not sure how to recognize their efforts? Hike through the trail of awards and recognitions offered by NYS PTA. We'll show you how to celebrate your volunteers, promote your unit, and cheer on your students! Bring your Bug Juice and your questions!

## **502 Following the Trail to Success**

PTA mission, values, bylaws, procedures, policies, ethics, and being in good standing - what do all these have to do with making every child's potential a reality? A lot, as it happens: they're all part of a PTA survival kit that provides your team with the gear they need to find the right path and stay on course for a successful PTA year. Let us guide you through packing the essential tools and resources you'll need to lead your PTA trekkers on this rewarding adventure!

## **503 Balancing Leadership, Family, and Self-Care**

PTA leaders often juggle many responsibilities. This workshop offers practical strategies to manage time, set boundaries, and prioritize self-care, helping you lead effectively while maintaining a healthy balance at home and within yourself.

## **504 Volunteer Management Best Practices to Strengthen Engagement**

Effective volunteer management can take your PTA's approach to engagement to the next level. Begin developing a concrete plan for continuously recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers.

## **505 Rise and Shine, Campers! Today's Challenge is PTA-ing at the Secondary Level**

From Campfire Stories to Campus Connections; it feels like just yesterday we were planning their first book fair and kindergarten orientation, and now our campers have grown into teens! Leading PTA programming at the middle and high school levels comes with new trails to navigate and exciting opportunities to engage and empower students and families alike. In this workshop, we'll explore teen-centered programming for grades 6–12, including activities that support literacy, the arts, mental health awareness, driver safety, and more. Gather fresh ideas, practical tools, and trail-tested strategies to keep PTA engagement thriving as students journey through middle and high school.

## **506 Navigating the Rocky Landscape of Conflict**

This workshop will provide guidance for PTA leaders on conflict resolution. We will share tools and procedures for navigating conflict and effective mediation.

## **507 Financial Accountability Training...aka "Keep the Campfire Going"**

Most campsites have some type of campfire to provide basic needs, your group's finances provide similar basic needs to your unit/council/region. This workshop is REQUIRED for Presidents and Treasurers annually to be a unit in Good Standing. Learn essential tools to ensure financial accountability and transparency within your organization. Leave with practical knowledge to protect your "flame" and ensure that you have the fuel to last throughout your entire trip.

## **508 Givebacks - Beyond Membership**

Givebacks is for more than just membership. Learn how to use features like fundraising, Shop-to-Give, newsletters/messages, website design, and more.