

16th Biennial Longleaf Conference Call for Proposals – Seeking Submissions in Science, Arts, & Humanities

Deadline: May 1, 2026

The Longleaf Alliance invites you to join the [16th Biennial Longleaf Conference](#) on **October 27-30, 2026**. Set in Colonial Williamsburg, The Longleaf Alliance is excited to welcome attendees to southeast Virginia, the most northern extent of longleaf pine, where longleaf played a critical role in colonial American industry and where its first great losses were felt. Today, this landscape's restoration efforts reflect the powerful resurgence underway across the Southeast. The 2026 Longleaf Conference will illuminate how longleaf forests remain vital to our modern economies, communities, and natural world – and why their future depends on the choices we make now.

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

The Alliance encourages individuals, students, and professionals passionate about the longleaf pine ecosystem to use the Biennial Longleaf Conference as a forum for information exchange, project feedback, and networking. Submitting your work for inclusion in the Conference program provides a platform to do just that!

We welcome contributions from private landowners, longleaf enthusiasts, land managers, wildlife biologists, students, researchers, consultants, forestry, business and industry, and technology professionals, agency and outreach personnel, artists, and content creators.

WHAT TOPICS WILL THE LONGLEAF CONFERENCE FOCUS ON?

The 16th Biennial Longleaf Conference will explore *The Future of Our Founding Forests*, weaving together longleaf pine's historic legacy, modern conservation efforts, and innovations shaping its future.

We invite you to submit proposals connecting the values longleaf landscapes provide today and the emerging opportunities for the future, including topics related to management, fire, ecological services, groundcover restoration, economics, wildlife conservation, education, policy, history, art, and culture.

PROPOSAL TYPES

Presentations – Contributed presentations will be scheduled within Concurrent Sessions on October 28th and October 30th. Oral presentations will be 20 minutes, which includes 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions.

Organized Sessions – Lead coordinators of organized sessions may organize multiple oral presentations (3) around a cohesive theme. Organized sessions are 60 minutes and scheduled within Concurrent Sessions on October 28th and October 30th.

Panel Discussions – Sessions include a panel of speakers with a moderator or host engaging in dialogue on a proposed topic. Panel components may include structured Q&A, initial remarks, panel-listener dialogues, and interactive audience-driven sessions, structured as a traditional format or more informal “fireside chats.” Panels are 60 minutes and scheduled within Concurrent Sessions on October 28th and October 30th.

Posters – Posters can be submitted in any category about longleaf; cultural and historic aspects are especially invited. We also encourage student research; abstracts can include studies in progress, a proposed project (with a focus on study design); or results from completed undergraduate research

projects. The poster reception will be Wednesday, October 28th from 6-8 pm. Posters should be landscape orientation and will be mounted on a 4ft x 4ft display.

Workshops, Working Groups, & Meetings – The Longleaf Conference traditionally serves as a rallying spot for other organizations and agencies, like the Longleaf Partnership Council of America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative. Our Call for Proposals includes an opportunity for our partners to offer additional workshops, working groups, and meetings in conjunction with the conference programming. Proposed offerings may be incorporated into the conference as pre-conference events, concurrent session offerings, or the afternoon of October 30th as a post-conference session.

Sponsored Social Activities – We welcome creative events from our partners including receptions, meet-ups, organized hikes, etc. Proposed offerings may be incorporated into the conference as pre-conference events, evening activities, or the afternoon of October 30th as a post-conference session.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

The online portal for proposals is open. **The deadline for proposal submission is May 1, 2026.**

All information is required to complete online submission, including:

- Contributor information
- Contributor biography (150 words or 50 words per coauthor)
- Proposal Abstract or Description
 - 300 word maximum
 - Include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods, and outcomes.
 - Do not include title or author information in the 300-word limit of the proposal.
- Event or session details, if applicable

Individuals may submit more than one proposal for consideration but must complete separate submissions for each contribution.

There is no option to save partial work, but revisions are accepted until the submission deadline of May 1, 2026. A copy of your submission will be sent to the email address provided. Your confirmation email will also contain a link to edit your proposal if needed.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Contributed proposals will be evaluated based on technical merit, contribution to our knowledge of longleaf restoration, relevance to subject categories, and scheduling accommodations. Proposals will be reviewed by our Session Planning team. Due to time/space limitations, we will not be able to accept all proposals submitted. Notice of decision will be issued in June 2026 via email.

CONFERENCE DETAILS & REGISTRATION

The 16th Biennial Longleaf Conference will take place October 27-30, 2026 at the Williamsburg Lodge, in Williamsburg, VA. All presenters must register for the Conference, with discounted rates available for students and supporters of The Longleaf Alliance. Registration will open on July 1st.

QUESTIONS?

Questions about the conference program may be directed to Program Committee Chair, Lisa Lord at lisa@longleafalliance.org. For all other conference questions, please email Sarah Crate, Conference Coordinator, at sarah@longleafalliance.org.