

2026 NASPE Annual Meeting Bid



Submitted by Washington State for:
Seattle or Portland

December 11, 2024

NASPE Executive Committee Members:

Please find below the State of Washington's bid to host the NASPE 2026 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA or Portland, OR.

We are excited about the possibility of hosting the NASPE Annual Meeting in the beautiful Pacific Northwest which is renowned for its long summer days and temperate climate, which invite attendance to countless outdoor activities, festivals, mountains/waterfront.

Both Seattle and Portland have a thriving downtown, featuring excellent hotel choices, live sporting events, live music festivals both small and large, and local attractions that in Seattle feature the iconic Pike Place Market, newly *glown-up* Seattle Waterfront, Experience Music Project and Space needle. In Oregon, famous attractions include some of the most diverse and expansive food trucks, Historic Mississippi Avenue, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Alberta Arts District, and the nearby Hood River.

As Olympia is located about halfway between Seattle and Portland, and because Seattle has already been a host city in the not-so-recent past, the Washington State Human Resources Team (SHR) wanted to submit a proposal for either city. The SHR team is committed to providing the planning and on-site resources necessary to ensure the 2026 Annual meeting is a success.

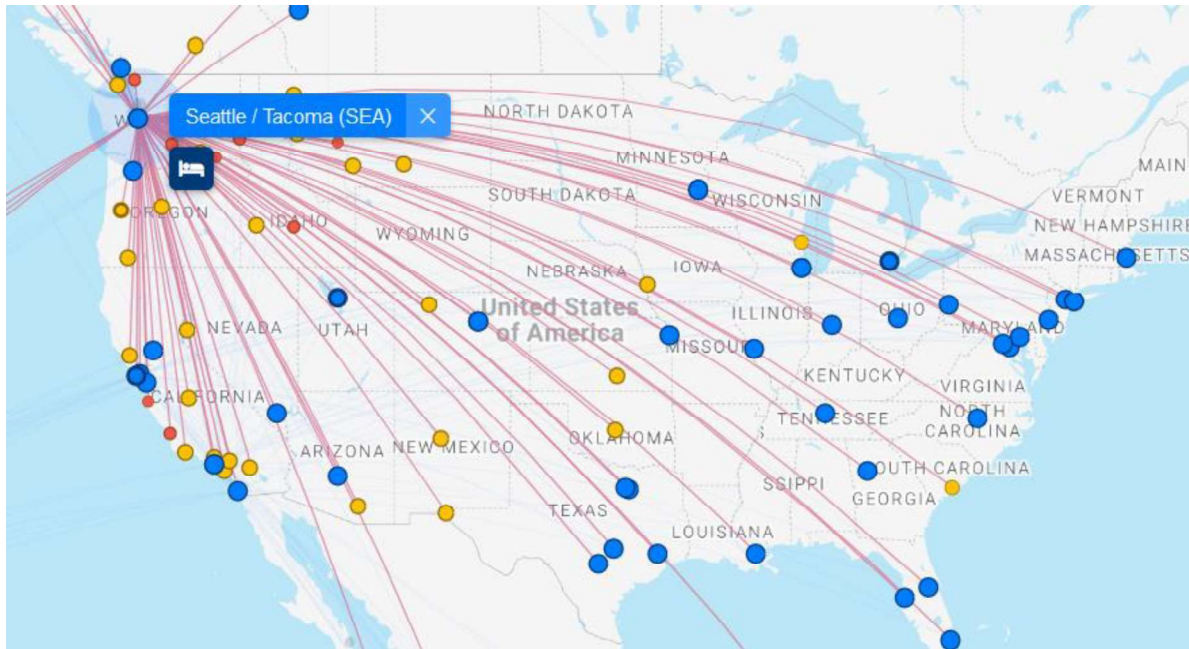
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Michaela Doelman

Getting to Seattle or Portland

Both SeaTac and PDX airports are international airports with incoming flights from all major airlines and direct or one-connection flights to all 50 states. Both airports are located within a 20 minutes' drive from downtown and also offer public transportation from the airport into the city.

Seatac Airport



Portland International Airport



Things to Do

Both Seattle and Portland offer a wide variety of places to eat, stay and visit within the metropolitan downtown area as well as within a short-day trip if folks want to extend their stay or family members want to take excursions during the Annual Meeting times.

Restaurants – there are honestly too many good restaurants to visit in both cities to call out by name so instead we'll share themes of types of food and neighborhood attractions for each city.

- **Seattle**
 - [International District](#) – boasting restaurants from all over the globe, the international district is home to small, family-owned businesses to internationally famous restaurants like Musang and Din Tai Fung.
 - [Seafood](#) – located on the water and with several seafood companies providing direct, fresh supplies to local restaurants, Seattle has a plethora of well-known and quaint seafood restaurants including The Crab Pot, Elliot's Oyster House, Taylor Shellfish, Salty's, and so man more.
 - [SODO/Georgetown](#) – previously a manufacturing and warehouse district, the Georgetown neighborhood has recently undergone a transformation with many new restaurants and breweries opening up in industrial buildings, maintaining the grungy vibe that Seattle is known for. Due to the infrastructure, this area offers places to eat that can serve large groups and very reasonable prices and is one of the few places in Seattle where parking can still be free and relatively easy to find. From it's famous Georgetown Brewery to Ciudad to Katsu Burger, Georgetown has something for everyone.
 - [Capitol Hill](#) – as one of the trendiest neighborhoods in the Seattle area, the main problem with Capitol Hill will be choosing which restaurant to eat at as there are several restaurants on every block, all boasting national recognition. Some of the most notable for their local connection are Taylor Shellfish Oyster Bar (their oyster farms are located in the Puget Sound), The Starbucks Roastery (full scale restaurant), and Spinasse (Italian), restaurants in Capitol Hill are known for their unique take on classic dishes as well as an active nightlife.
- **Portland** – Portland is known for “keeping it weird” and they do a great job of that through their culinary map of various types of restaurants from super cheap to upscale.
 - [Food Trucks](#) – located in clumps throughout the city, the food truck locations are a great choice for folks who want a cheap, but still delicious meal, and are with groups where everyone wants access to different types of food to try. In the summer time, food trucks are an especially popular choice because of their outdoor seating so everyone can order from their truck of choice and then sit at communal tables.
 - [NW 23rd Street](#) – formerly a purely residential area, NW 23rd street is now known for having some of the best restaurants in Portland, many located in what used to be former houses offering each place a unique look and feel. Portland is consistently ranked as one of the best places in the US for pizza so it's no surprise that this area

has several delicious pizza places to try ranging from Neapolitan to Detroit, to it's only PDF flare of style.

- [Chinatown](#) – After Seattle pushed out many of the Chinese and Japanese immigrants in the 18th and 19th Century, Portland was a city of refuge and now is home to one of the more robust Chinatowns on the west coast. With restaurants from many different Asian cuisines, including many Asian-fusion restaurants, Chinatown is the perfect place for folks looking for authentic and delicious Asian food while also being close to cultural heritage sites like the Lan Su Chinese Garden, the Shanghai Tunnels and even hosting the Portland Saturday Market.
- [Riverfront](#) – with both the Columbian and Willamette Rivers running through Portland, there is no shortage of places to eat with a calming waterfront view. Some of more widely recognized restaurants are Salty's, Noble Rot, and Portland City Grill (located on the 30th floor with a panoramic view of Portland).

Places to Stay – with both cities home to the tech industry, major league sports teams, and convention centers, there is no shortage of hotels in the downtown area that also have large conference rooms for the NASPE meetings to take place. Additionally, most hotels in the area offer government rate room options, helping to make sure that hotel rooms can be booked at an affordable price.

Seattle Hotels -

- [Seattle Marriott Waterfront](#)
- [The Westin Seattle](#)
- [Hilton Motif Seattle](#)
- [Hyatt Regency Seattle](#)

Portland Hotels

- [Holiday Inn Portland-Columbia Riverfront](#)
- [Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront](#)
- [The Benson Portland](#)
- [Hi-Lo Hotel](#)

Activities – The Pacific Northwest is known for it's long-summer days with temperatures that are perfect for outdoor activities. Knowing that many NASPE members choose to bring family members to the annual meeting and potentially extend their trips, the activities are highlighted both for what can be done with NASPE members in evening activities as well as for family members looking for excursions that may be a little further away or day-long trips.

Seattle:

- [Pike Place Market](#) – famous for the flying fish and home of the first Starbucks, Pike Place Market has hundreds of vendors, a view of the sound, and something for everyone.
- [Space Needle](#) – hailed as Seattle’s most iconic View, the space needle was built during the world fare and its structure and design have since been mimicked in places across the globe. It’s also located in an area that boasts the Pacific Science Center, and the world famous Chihuly Garden and Glass.
- [Museum of Pop Culture](#) – being home to internationally renowned musicians like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Bing Crosby, Macklemore, Jimi Hendrix, Alice and Chains and many more, the Museum of Pop Culture has a truly one-of-a-kind music experience for people of all ages.
- T-Mobile Park or Quest Field – hosting Major League Baseball, Soccer (men’s and women’s) and Football games, these two stadiums are side by side and offer great sporting events throughout the summer as well as large concerts.
- [Washington State Ferries](#) – WSF is the largest ferry system in the United States and also a state agency. With ferry service to many Islands in the Puget Sound Archipelago and up to Canada, it’s a great and very cost-effective way to see some of the most beautiful parts of Washington for either a daytrip or a weekend away.
- [Snoqualmie Falls](#) – the falls are one of the state’s most popular scenic attractions with more than 1.5 million visitors a year. A short drive away from Seattle, this is a great day trip for family members or for an extended stay with a lodge, a full restaurant, observation decks of the falls, and access to great hiking trails.
- [Mount Rainier](#) – perhaps the best-known natural attraction within the State Mount Rainier is so much more than a mountain. Located within the Cascade Mountain range, Rainier is the most glaciated peak in the contiguous USA and has hundreds of miles of trails and places to visit that are accessible by foot and by car. This would be a full-day trip from Seattle as it is more than an hour away by car.
- [Argosy Cruises](#) – Lake Union or Elliot Bay

Portland

- [Oregon Museum of Science and Industry \(OMSI\)](#) – as one of the most well-known science and industry museums in the United States, MSI offers something for everyone from a planetarium to rotating exhibits, to an empirical theater. This is perfect for a short daytrip but also hosts group events.
- [International Rose Test Garden](#) – with more than 10,000 individual rose bushes, the rose garden will be in full-bloom in July and is an excellent place to visit for an outdoor walk or group event.
- [Multnomah Falls](#) – boasting one of the tallest year-round waterfalls in the US and the most visited natural recreation site in the Pacific Northwest, Multnomah Falls is easily accessible for people of all ages and physical abilities.
- [Cannon Beach](#) – with its iconic Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach has been featured in several movie scenes including being made famous by the cult classic movie Goonies. A two-hour drive from Portland, Cannon Beach hosts a beautiful beach life with restaurants, several

places to stay, biking, Ecola State Park, and access to several tide pools to get an up-close view of the PNW marine life.

- [Providence Park](#) – home to the Timbers FC, Portland Thorns, and minor league baseball teams, Providence Park is located in downtown Portland right between the heart of downtown and the popular Pearl District.
- [Alberta Arts District](#) – known for hosting its summer street fairs, diverse eating spots and artisan shops, the this Northeast Portland neighborhood is a great place to come for a unique meal and then stroll around to sightsee the street art and potentially purchase hand-made souvenirs to commemorate their PNW trip.