

What to wear at the Annual Meetings

The Annual Meetings are an opportunity for you to meet students and professionals from around the world in the fields of Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences. It is also a chance to experience an integral part of what it's like to be one of these professionals. When deciding what to wear to each event, think about how you'd like to be seen by others. Also consider that at any time you may share an elevator ride with a future employer, the dean of the college where you're applying to grad school or a representative from an Agency that gives you the biggest grant of your life. You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

Wearing Nametags: Make sure it's face-up and height-adjusted so it can be easily read. The adjustment bead goes in back of your neck with any additional length of lanyard hanging off the back.



Shoes: Wear nice shoes, but make sure they're comfortable, practical, and broken-in. You may end up covering a lot more mileage than intended going from session to session and blisters will only slow you down. Since college students aren't known for being able to spend lots of money on things like shoes, think about things like comfort insoles, socks, liners and (when all else fails) moleskin.

Attending Sessions/Symposia: Generally, business casual dress is acceptable if you're roaming around the convention center and attending lectures. Students seem to have a good relationship with polo shirts and that's ok, especially when paired with nice dress pants or a skirt. Also keep in mind that room temperature can be unpredictable in convention centers and temperatures can vary widely from one location to another. Having a nice sweater or blazer than can be removed is usually a good bet.

Tours: You may be walking quite a bit. Dress comfortably, and check the session description to see if you'll be in muddy areas like farms or soil pits. Close-toed shoes are usually required on most tours. Prepare for the weather - fall weather can be hot, cold, and rainy all in the same week.

Plenaries and Awards: If you're getting an award, this is the time to look good. You will be standing in front of a room full of some of the top people in their fields, and it's a great time to impress them. Many people will be in suits, dresses, skirts, and ties. If you're not receiving an award, business attire is not as important. However, be aware that most of the room will probably be dressed as if they are, and you probably won't want to stand out as underdressed.

Career Fair: The career fair is chance to meet people and see what kind of jobs are available. It's not necessary to dress like you would for an interview, but it is possible that this will be your first impression on your first employer. What you wore to sessions that day should be fine for the career fair.