



Co-hosted by:



Death Valley Natural History Association
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<https://www.dvnha.org/programs-events/science-conference>

Call for Presenters

—Submission Deadline: October 14, 2019—

The 2nd Death Valley Science Conference: *2020 Natural History from the Eyes of Scientists* will take place at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center Auditorium in Death Valley National Park on June 4-6th 2020.

People are naturally curious about what makes Death Valley tick. The presentation of research and findings within a conference setting provides a valuable means of exchanging information and ideas. The purpose of this conference is to encourage original research within the spectrum of natural sciences and to disseminate this research to a **general audience** through the conference presentations and the production of a free video series making the research readily available to a world-wide audience.

Expectations: presenters will be given 15-20 minutes of presentation time in front of a live audience. Five minutes will be given for audience questions after the presentation. It is suggested that presenters have a maximum of 15-20 Power Point slides which need to be provided for use in the production of the video, but we understand each project will vary depending on study and storytelling style of presenter. The presentations are expected to be more of a TED Talk type format (See tips below).

Does it sound like presenting at our conference is for you? Please submit an abstract (400 words or less) of your proposed presentation to: **ScienceConference@dvnha.org** by the submission deadline. Proposals must be accompanied by the submission form below and be made via electronic attachment. Accepted formats for abstract submission are: Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format, or PDF.

*Conference presenters will be selected by committee; preference will be given to research specific to Death Valley National Park and its immediate geographic area. In order to present at the conference; an abstract must be submitted and accepted, the presenter registration/production fee of \$100 must be paid, and the presenter must agree to be filmed. Additional details regarding presentation will follow upon acceptance of abstract.

A registration scholarship will be available to one undergraduate or graduate student if selected to present at the conference. Scholarship will be based on need. Additional information on how to apply will be provided upon acceptance of abstract.

Interested in sponsoring? Please contact David Blacker at director@dvnha.org

Tips for preparing your 15-20 minute presentation:

Remember that you are presenting information to a general audience: sharing your results by presenting your study, observations, and conclusions.

You may want to simply, clearly and concisely express your idea: what are you trying to find out and why? What's your hypothesis, what did you observe and record during your study?

Power Storytelling Techniques to Consider:

- You only have time to present your one idea while on the stage
- Grab your audience's attention in the first 30 seconds by introducing your story not yourself (we'll introduce you before you hit the stage)
- Make the story relatable
- Conflict is compelling
- Draw from personal experience: what's your reaction or personal feelings?
- Give your audience a visual image of the story, add sensory details: sight, sound, taste, touch, smell. It helps create a mental movie of the experience
- Use specific details if possible: dates, characters, scenes
- Positive messages are better than negative ones
- What's the take away message? The message that is meant for the audience
- Use dialogue if possible with vocal variety: change the pace, pitch and volume of your voice to keep audience attention
- Watch other presenter's videos to see what works for you
- Make the take away message short so the audience can remember it
- Be sure to practice your timing to make sure your presentation doesn't get cut short without expressing everything you intended

Tips to avoid telling a bad story:

- Be prepared but not too prepared (give yourself wiggle room to explore what is working)
- You don't have to be funny
- Name names if pertinent to telling the story
- If you can't make peace with your own story then your audience won't be able to either (empathy not sympathy)
- Start at the beginning and End at the end
- Simpler is better for your audience to understand
- Don't make a controversial statement unless you have to (you might lose your audience)
- Rules can be broken and sometimes need to be to tell a better story: practice, practice, practice to see what works for you

Multiple resources on giving talks can be found online. You may also consider reading, "How to Deliver a Great TED Talk" or "How to Design TED-Worthy Presentation Slides" by Akash Karia if you have never delivered this kind of presentation before.

2nd Death Valley Science Conference Abstract Submission Form

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Primary Presenter

Full Name _____

Affiliation (Government Agency, University, etc.) _____

Primary Contact Number _____

Primary Email Address _____

Mailing Address (where flash drive or disc of complete video series can be sent after publishing)

Please Check One

Is this a multiple researcher project? Yes No

(If yes, please list names and affiliations of other researchers)

Title of presentation

Do you have a Death Valley National Park research permit? Yes No

Do you understand we are looking for a presentation in a TED Talk type format? Yes No

Have you read the presentation tips page? Yes No

Do you agree to allow us to use your PowerPoint slides and film you for this video series? Yes No

Do you agree for your video to be included as a free video series publication which will be posted on YouTube and/or the web?

Yes No

Please explain how your research is relevant to the Death Valley Area

Please confirm you are providing an abstract of your proposal including: Hypothesis, Methods, Results, and Conclusion?

Would you prefer a 15-minute or 20-minute time slot with 5 minutes for additional questions?