A few months before the convention:

View NASP 2020 Annual Convention information at www.nasponline.org/NASP2020 and click ‘Plan Your Trip’ to view hotel and travel information. Register early to get the best convention registration rates and hotel room rates at the two official meeting hotels listed on the website. Use NASP’s Roommate Locator Assistance Service (when you register online) to find a fellow NASP convention attendee to share a hotel room with, and reduce your costs even further! Keep in mind that your first step is to register to attend the convention, then you will be approved for the discounted NASP hotel room rate and the roommate locator service.

A few weeks before the convention:

Order any poster and business card materials you’ll need for the convention. To avoid carrying your poster for one leg of travel, you could print your poster at a printing center near the convention. If you have friends or colleagues also traveling with posters, you could transport your posters together in a single tube, saving one or some of you the hassle of lugging individual posters. Sturdy travel poster tubes with straps are available for purchase online and at office supply stores.

Before leaving for the convention:

Make a packing list, and stick to it. Ensure you’ve packed all electronics (and chargers!), toiletries, and medications you’ll need as well as business and casual attire appropriate for both the convention and leisure activities. To save money on meals, pack nonperishable snacks and food items, or purchase these items when you arrive at the convention.

In transit to the convention:

If you’re transporting a poster, keep it with you; don’t leave it behind! Check aisles, under seats, overhead areas, etc. Traveling with others? Ask them to help you remember it!

Before attending the convention:

Plan your convention schedule in the convention mobile app (launching January 2020) or at www.nasponline.org/NASP2020. You can also use the physical program provided to you at registration. Give special consideration to attending graduate student meetings and events, such as the Student Welcome Orientation on Tuesday (time TBD), and Graduate Student Outing on Wednesday (time TBD). Refer also to the list of graduate student-oriented sessions disseminated by your program’s Student Leader.

Allot yourself time for breaks, meals, and sleep—otherwise, you’ll quickly burn out! If you need time alone to recharge, build this into your schedule. Also, schedule time to attend poster sessions. These go-min sessions include many posters, scheduled in themes, allowing you to peruse at your own pace, choose which presenters and posters to approach, and have in-depth conversations about session content.

At the convention:

Fill gaps in your schedule with trips to the Exhibit Hall. There you’ll have the opportunity to speak with schools, education companies, and publishers to learn about jobs, products, and services available to you. Exhibit booths often offer free goodies, such as pens, notepads, and bags. In exchange, vendors typically look to scan your ID badge and collect your contact information; you may receive an e-mail from these vendors in weeks to come! Also in the Exhibit Hall are the NASP Publications Center, where you can purchase books and other NASP products, and the NASP Connect Booth, where you can speak with NASP leaders and staff about the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential, NASP membership, and advocacy-related matters.

Throughout your time at the convention, take notes, collect business cards, network, and . . . enjoy yourself!