



American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.

C/O VTL Solutions

217 Oscar Drive, Suite C, Jefferson City, MO 65101

www.apsna.org

POSTER GUIDELINES

The posters will be judged during the Annual Conference and then recognition for exemplary poster presentations will be awarded. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winner. A poster primary author **MUST** be present during the allotted poster viewing time frames during the conference to answer attendee questions.

To assist you in your endeavor, here are some poster guidelines you may want to consider when planning your poster presentation:

Posterboard Dimensions

All posters must be mounted to a firm cardboard or foam core board for display. Tripod easels will be provided to all poster presenters. Please ensure that your poster size does not exceed 36" x 48" or 48" x 60". The poster should not be accompanied by any audio-visual or technology aids.

Conference Event App

Poster presentations can be created in a number of software applications but should be exported to PDF format to submit a copy for us to post in the conference event app. Please email a PDF of your poster to sara@vtls.org by March 1, 2026. Please note, APSNA's e-mail server does not deliver files larger than 10MB.

General Instructions

Lettering size should be large enough to read all text from 5 feet away. The smallest recommended font size is 24 (18 point for super and subscripts).

Key Poster Contents

1. Title (or banner): Includes poster title on top, then author(s), and affiliation. One inch lettering (72 point) should be considered a minimum size for the title. (104 point is most common). Titles are usually done in all caps and should accurately describe the subject. Use smaller font sizes for list of authors and other information. If there are multiple authors, the one who is the conference presenter should have an asterisk after their name.
2. Introduction: State the problem or performance improvement project and any essential background.
3. Objectives: List 2-3 behavioral objectives. These objectives must be listed on the poster for evaluation purposes for continuing education hours.
4. Methods: Describe with appropriate details to facilitate study or project replication.
5. Results: Presentation of data as graphs, tables, photos, artwork, etc.
6. Conclusions: List key findings, summary, interpretation, management implications/applications. **NOTE:** Viewers usually read the abstract and conclusion statements first. Make sure they are clear and easy to understand. Consider using a "bullet" format to make your points here, as well as to separate the ideas.
7. References. Concentrate on key references only. To share more, use handouts. Ensure that references are listed on the poster or provided as a second slide or handout if not incorporated into the poster itself.

Secondary (optional) Poster Contents

1. Site Description: Overview of study area, sampling locations, etc.
2. Acknowledgements: Funding sources, research partners, etc.
3. Photograph of presenter (so those who want to find you, can).

Data and Text Organization

The ideal poster is designed to attract attention, provide a brief overview of the study or project, and initiate discussion.

Use borders or space to separate the key poster contents (listed above). Maximize the use of figures. Minimize the use of tables, particularly complex ones. Keep the figures simple and label them with a “take home” message. Provide easily read, separate statements that are short and clear in a logical sequence.

Provide adequate “white space” around statements for easier reading. Seek to communicate your message clearly and concisely. Eliminate excessive wording and technical jargon. When in doubt, edit out. Focus on one or a few key concepts you would like to get across to your audience.

Posters should be as self-explanatory as possible. This will save your efforts for discussion. Double-space all text using left justification making it easier to read. Proofread your poster to ensure accuracy of all statements and conduct a spell check. Let someone else review it before final printing.

Overall Presentation

Choose one font type for the poster. “Sans Serif” lettering fonts should be used such as Arial, Calibri, Gilmer Sans, Helvetica, Innovate, Segoe, Univers or Visby. All text should be legible from 5 feet away. Minimum recommended font size for text is 24 point (approximately ¼ inch). Super and subscripts can be 18 point. Avoid excessive use of all capital lettering. Add emphasis by using boldface, underlining, or color. **NOTE:** Italics are difficult to read.

Photos should be clear and depict the intended object or thought. If they do not, consider artwork instead. Photos are indeed worth a thousand words and can enhance text.

Make overall presentation pleasing to the eye. Emphasize visuals. However, artistry does not substitute for content. Simplicity and legibility are more important than artistic embellishments.

Color can be added to the poster by:

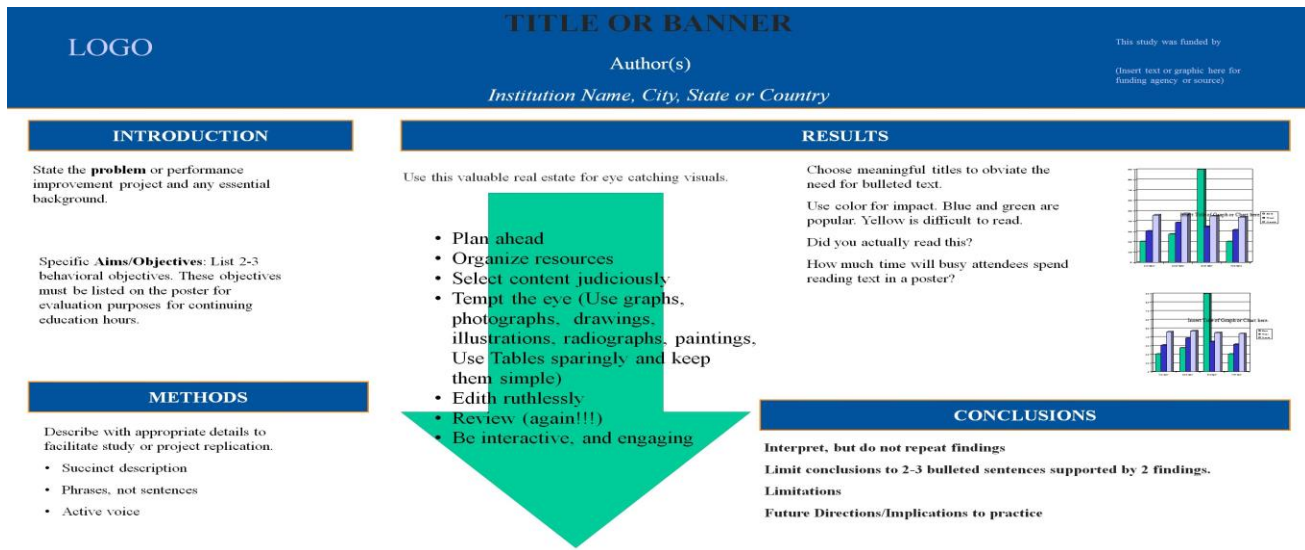
- Color films or tape
- Computer output
- Photographic conversion onto color print paper
- Colored lettering
- Colored backgrounds with white lettering using photographic processes

Photo backgrounds can be either attractive or distracting, so consider your choice carefully. Setting your text in boxes is a helpful communication approach.

Final Tips and Advice

Preparing a poster will take as much time as you let it. Don’t wait until the last minute to do even a minor task. Back up your files, save it to a disk and allow for a contingency plan. All materials to be displayed should be prepared before you arrive.

SAMPLE
(Visit www.APSNA.org for Larger Image)



Mission - We are the voice that shapes pediatric surgical nursing through advocacy, collaboration, mentorship and leadership. Based on a foundation of research, education and innovation, we will transform care delivery for pediatric surgical patients.

Vision - The American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc. (APSNA) will be the leading authority for the nursing care of pediatric surgical patients.