



**ASPEN
IDEAS**

ATTENDEE GUIDE



WELCOME

You're registered for Aspen Ideas! Now what? From where to pick up your event pass and how to get around campus, to where to eat and what to wear, this guide is your go-to resource for answers about attending the [2026 Aspen Ideas Festival](#) and [Aspen Ideas: Health](#). We can't wait to see you there!

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DETERMINING YOUR TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Identify your travel dates based on the start and end times listed below. Please note these are DRAFT times and are subject to change.

HEALTH: June 22-25, 2026

- Registration Begins: 10:00 AM MT on June 22
- Programming Begins: 3:00 PM MT on June 22
- Programming Concludes: 12:00 PM MT on June 25

FESTIVAL 1: June 25-28, 2026

- Registration Begins: 12:30 PM MT on June 25
- First-Time Attendee Orientation: 2:00 PM MT on June 25
- Programming Begins: 4:00 PM MT on June 25
- Programming Concludes: 5:00 PM MT on June 28

FESTIVAL 2: June 28-July 1, 2026

- Registration Begins: 12:30 PM MT on June 28
- First-Time Attendee Orientation: 2:00 PM MT on June 28
- Programming Begins 3:00 PM MT on June 28
- Programming Concludes: 2:00 PM MT on July 1

LODGING

Hotels in Aspen book quickly, so we encourage you to make reservations early to secure a space that best meets your needs. [See our lodging list](#) for some recommendations. Please contact the properties directly to book your stay.

***First-Timer Tip:** Review the property's location! While Snowmass, Basalt or Glenwood Springs hotels may offer lower rates, you will need transportation and drive times may vary.

If you would like assistance in finding accommodations, we offer access to two Aspen-area travel specialists. Please contact Marcie Cutler, Ski.com Mountain Travel Expert at marcie@ski.com or (970) 900-8827 or Lauren Hawley, Stay Aspen Snowmass Vacation Specialist at lhawley@aspensnowmass.com or (888) 649-5982.

TRAVELING TO ASPEN

We recommend booking your flight into Aspen/Pitkin County Airport (ASE), which is approximately 10-15 minutes from the Aspen Institute's campus and hotels throughout Aspen. During the summertime, direct flights to Aspen are available from Denver, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Complimentary airport transportation is included at many of the hotels and should be coordinated directly with the property.

TRAVELING TO ASPEN (continued)

Driving Directions

- From Denver, Aspen is 220 miles via I-70 West to Glenwood Springs. From Glenwood Springs, take Highway 82 to Aspen.
- A scenic route from Denver is I-70 West to 91 South through Leadville to 24 South, then west onto Highway 82 over Independence Pass.
- From Grand Junction, Aspen is an easy 128 miles. Take I-70 East to Glenwood Springs. From Glenwood Springs, take Highway 82 to Aspen.
- From Eagle/Vail, Aspen is about 70 miles, first on I-70 West to Glenwood Springs, and then connecting with Highway 82 to Aspen.

GETTING AROUND ASPEN

The [Aspen Institute's campus](#) (1000 N. 3rd Street, Aspen, CO, 81611) is located about one mile from downtown Aspen. The following transportation options are available to help you access event activities and explore town.

Ideas Festival Shuttle: Our shuttle service runs on a continuous loop between downtown Aspen and the Aspen Institute's campus during event hours, making stops at several hotels around town. Details about the stops and schedule will be available on our event mobile app and in the printed program book.

Bike Sharing: [WE-Cycle bikes](#) are a fast, free and convenient way to get around. Stations are located throughout town and on the Aspen Institute campus near the Aspen Meadows reception and in near the Ideas Pavilion.

Bus Service: The City of Aspen has a free, city-wide bus system. The cross-town shuttle runs every 30 minutes to and from downtown Aspen to the Aspen Institute campus and the Klein Music Tent, between 7:54 am and 9:00 pm daily. For more details about public transportation, visit the [Roaring Fork Transportation Authority's website](#).

Parking: There is no parking on the Aspen Institute campus (this includes the Klein Music Tent parking lot) during the event. We encourage you to park at the [Rio Grande Parking Garage](#) and take the Parking Garage Shuttle.

If you have special transportation needs, our conference services team is available to assist you (see page 11) .

LOCATION & VENUES

The majority of programming for Aspen Ideas: Health and the Aspen Ideas Festival will take place on the Aspen Institute's campus located at 1000 N 3rd Street, Aspen, CO 81611. An event map will be available on our event mobile app and in the printed program book.

ONSITE REGISTRATION

You will check in at the Ideas Pavilion, which is located outside of the Paepcke building (1000 N. 3rd Street) to receive your pass, gift bag, printed program agenda, and additional event information. Please bring a photo ID with you. Registration hours:

****Please note these are DRAFT times and are subject to change.**

HEALTH: Monday, June 22 from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM MT
then daily from 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM MT

FESTIVAL 1: Thursday, June 25 from 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM MT
then daily from 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM MT

FESTIVAL 2: Sunday, June 28 from 12:30 - 6:00 PM MT
then daily from 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM MT

ACCESS

Your pass must be worn at all times when you are on the Aspen Institute campus and attending event programming. Health, Festival 1, and Festival 2 attendees will have access to all scheduled programming for their designated event segment, including sessions, workshops, roundtables, receptions, Evenings at Ideas, and more. Seating in the venues is on a first come, first served basis. Please plan to arrive early, as seats fill up quickly and latecomers can be disruptive to speakers.

Do you have a friend or family member who doesn't have a Festival pass, but wants to attend a session? Limited public tickets will be available for evening programming. Tickets go on sale in June through aspenshowtix.com or at the Wheeler Box Office.



PROGRAM TRACKS

The Aspen Ideas Festival and Aspen Ideas: Health are organized around compelling topics and extraordinary thinkers whose work speaks to this unique moment in history.

HEALTH

Aspen Ideas: Health celebrates the relentless pursuit of progress—the belief that through knowledge, innovation, and collaboration, we can create a healthier world for all. The [2026 program tracks](#) will guide our exploration of the big ideas shaping the future of health, medicine, and science with visionary leaders who illuminate what's possible when hope meets action:

- We the Patients
- NextGen Health
- Vitality Lab
- Creative Rx
- Medical Enterprise 2.0
- Grey Matters
- Future-Ready Leadership

FESTIVAL

The 2026 Aspen Ideas Festival will mark a defining moment in American history — 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Our [2026 program tracks](#) will use this milestone as a lens to explore the forces shaping our world today. Together, we'll examine independence on the global stage, in our communities, and within ourselves:

- The American Experiment
- Pledges of Allegiance
- The Next American Dream
- Acts of Imagination
- Inventing Tomorrow
- The Pursuit of Happiness
- This Land is Our Land

SPEAKERS

The Aspen Ideas Festival and Aspen Ideas: Health are known for bringing together an exceptional mix of visionary thinkers and innovative doers across a range of disciplines and viewpoints. Our 2026 speaker line-ups will be announced in the spring. Please keep an eye on your inbox for the latest speaker news.

AGENDA

The full agendas for Health, Festival 1, and Festival 2 will be released by mid-June. You will receive an email, as well as access to the agendas on our website, mobile app, and printed program book available at registration. You will be able to choose from dozens of sessions, including one-on-one interviews, panel discussions, workshops, live podcast recordings, and book talks, covering a range of compelling topics.

MOBILE APP

The 2026 Aspen Ideas mobile app will be released in mid-June. Available on iOS and Android, it will be your go-to guide for your on-the-ground Festival experience, including agenda updates, speaker information, maps, underwriter exhibits, and much more. We will send instructions via email when the app is ready to download and recommend doing so before arriving in Aspen. Please allow push notifications, as we will use these to give real-time schedule and programming updates.



WEBSITE

The Aspen Ideas website is the digital hub for the event, providing you with information on our program tracks, speakers, agenda, and sessions. Within 48 hours, all sessions recordings will be live on our website and YouTube channel. We encourage you to watch sessions you may have missed in-person and share links to your favorites via social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Help extend the reach of your favorite big ideas from the Aspen Ideas stages to social media! To join the virtual conversation around the events, we encourage you to follow our primary accounts for the Festival below and post your own reflections using the event hashtags.

 **Instagram:** [@aspenideas](https://www.instagram.com/aspenideas)

 **LinkedIn:** [Aspen Ideas Festival](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aspen-ideas-festival)

 **Facebook:** [Aspen Ideas](https://www.facebook.com/AspenIdeas)

 **X:** [@aspenideas](https://twitter.com/aspenideas)

 **Threads:** [@aspenideas](https://www.threads.net/@aspenideas)



Event Hashtags: In addition to tagging the account above in your social messages, please use the following hashtags:

HEALTH: [#AspenIdeasHealth](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AspenIdeasHealth)

FESTIVAL: [#AspenIdeas](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AspenIdeas)

PODCAST

While nothing beats the experience of being in the room, you can listen year round to more than 500 sessions from the Festival by subscribing to "[Aspen Ideas To Go](#)" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or your favorite podcast platform. New episodes featuring conversations from the 2026 Festival will be released weekly starting in July.

DINING

You will have access to a range of delicious and nutritious food and beverage options on the Aspen Institute's campus during the events, including breakfasts, lunches, snacks, coffee carts, and dinner and drinks during evening receptions. Designated times and locations for these dining options will be highlighted on the mobile app and in the printed program book.

For in-town dining options, please visit the [Aspen Chamber](#) website to learn about local restaurants in downtown Aspen.

ALTITUDE, WEATHER & ATTIRE

Aspen is a walking city situated nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. To help you acclimate, make sure to drink lots of water, monitor your alcohol intake, and wear sunscreen.

Weather can range from highs in the 80s to lows in the 50s during the summer. Cool evenings and afternoon thundershowers are common. Layers are key!

Dress comfortably, yet professionally (aka "Aspen Casual"). We highly recommend layering, bringing a light jacket, and wearing comfortable shoes to help you get around campus and town. If you plan to participate in morning yoga, trail runs, birdwatching, and guided nature walks, please pack accordingly.

ASPEN ACTIVITIES

In addition to on-stage programming, we honor the Aspen tradition of enriching the full mind-body-spirit experience, by offering a variety of activities. Follow local naturalists on a sunrise hike beneath the majestic Maroon Bells peaks. Get centered with an outdoor yoga practice in Anderson Park. Join a local expert for a bird-watching walk along the banks of the Roaring Fork River. Lace-up your sneakers for a guided run through a remarkable network of trails. Details will be provided on the mobile app and in the printed program agenda.

We encourage you to make the most of their time in the Rocky Mountains. In addition to our daily Aspen Ideas activities, check out the [Aspen Chamber](#) website for other entertainment and recreation recommendations.

JOIN THE ASPEN SOCIETY

The Aspen Society is a national community of Aspen Institute supporters who are committed to making a lasting impact on society. Members gain access to an exclusive network of thought leaders and change-makers through invitations to curated events in Aspen and nationwide. To find out more, [visit their website](#).

PLAN YOUR SCHEDULE

- Download the mobile app in June! It's easy to use and always the most up-to-date source of information. Star your favorite must-see speakers and sessions to create a personalized agenda.
- Step outside of your comfort zone and take full advantage of the event's multi-disciplinary programming. In addition to attending sessions related to your work, mix things up with sessions on topics that expand your thinking into new fields.
- Don't miss the interactive workshops and roundtables on the agenda. These offerings allow you to dive deeper on select topics and take part in hands-on learning in more intimate settings. Some may require advance sign-up, so keep an eye on your inbox for details.

MAKE CONNECTIONS

- The Festival is an unparalleled networking opportunity, so come eager and ready to meet fellow big thinkers and innovative doers working across disciplines. Introduce yourself and feel empowered to start a conversation with anyone, from attendees to speakers.
- Embrace the formal and informal opportunities to connect. Attend the opening reception. Strike up a conversation on the walking paths across campus. Sit with someone new during meals. Say hi to a fellow coffee drinker while the barista makes your espresso. Bond with others during guided nature hikes. The possibilities are endless!
- What happens in Aspen, shouldn't stay in Aspen. Commit to staying in touch with your new connections after you return home. Through collaboration, we can find new ways to turn ideas into action.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

- Lead with curiosity as you attend sessions. Come with an open mind and collaborative spirit. Don't be afraid to ask questions during Q&As and challenge your own thinking by exploring new topics and perspectives.



COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

The Aspen Institute is dedicated to advancing a free, just, and equitable society. Consistent with that mission, the Institute is committed to creating a safe and vibrant community that is respectful, inclusive, and welcoming to people from all different backgrounds and across the world. We recognize people will have different viewpoints and perspectives. However, only when we treat people with mutual respect and dignity can we truly come together to share a free and open exchange of ideas. So we offer [this Community Agreement](#) as a code of conduct to help stakeholders understand what we expect for them when they are engaging with the Institute community, as well as to guide them on what does not belong.

PRINCIPLES OF THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Our founding commitment to a humanistic outlook remains at our core and reflects our belief that the dignity of every person is paramount, that social progress is imperative and attainable, that we can achieve breakthroughs by engaging with humanity's accumulated wisdom, and that the inner life and values-based leadership require nurturing. As we have gained new insights and understanding over the years, our conception of these points has changed. But our commitment to this humanistic outlook endures.

Our programs today reflect our foundational belief that dialogue among diverse people and across diverse perspectives is essential both to improving our understanding and to finding solutions to modern challenges. This enduring commitment has enabled the Institute to make unique contributions in the search for understanding and solutions. We seek to engage people of integrity and outstanding character from an ever more diverse cross-section of society. Read more about the [Principles of the Aspen Institute](#).



CONTACT US

If you have additional questions about attending Aspen Ideas: Health or the Aspen Ideas Festival, our Conference Services team is available to help. Please contact us via email (events@aspeninstitute.org) and someone from our team will get back to you within one business day.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Should you not be able to attend, please contact Morgan Walsh (morgan.walsh@aspeninstitute.org) to request a refund, per our policy. Written requests are required and will be credited as follows:

- **Before June 1, 2026:** 80% refund
- **June 1-15, 2026:** 50% refund
- **There are no refunds after June 15, 2026**

