

Information About the Mid States Cactus & Succulent Conference Educational Display Showcase

Dear Board of Directors:

The 19th Biennial Mid States Conference is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 26, 27 and 28, 2026 at the San Antonio Garden Center in San Antonio, TX. The conference will feature five speakers, a live plant auction, and plant vendors. We are also planning to have a 'Mid States Educational Display Showcase'. We are extending an invitation to your Society to participate in this Educational endeavor. The following information provides an overview of the Showcase.

The first Mid States Conference took place in 1986 with the purpose of bringing together cactus and succulent enthusiasts for education and networking. This began a long-standing tradition with subsequent conferences featuring many speakers as well as other types of educational activities. In keeping with that tradition, we are including an Educational Display Showcase at this year's conference.

The intent of the Showcase is to give Cactus and Succulent Societies and their individual members the opportunity to submit an educational display in the form of a poster or table top exhibit. A Society sponsored display may include information about that individual club. It may also focus on specific programs or activities coordinated or sponsored by the Club as a whole. This may include presenting information about their respective societies, for membership recruitment, or to spotlight club projects. Individual participant displays focused on a genus or species, a research project, or other pertinent topic will also be considered. We believe this is a wonderful way for you to network with the conference attendees.

Keep in mind that this year's conference theme is 'The Deserts of North America'. However, the scope of the educational displays may certainly extend well beyond our continent. A common mission statement theme of The Mid States Societies focuses on education, propagation, and conservation. That being said, there is a potential 'world of topics' to choose from.

Please let your members know about the conference and the Showcase. Also, this may be a way for you to be involved in the didactic part of the

conference. The cost of poster creation will reside with your society or poster creator. Some clubs have gone so far as to cover the cost of production through a grant or other sponsorship.

Showcase exhibitor space is limited. While the intent is to accept submissions on a first-come first-served basis, the primary objective of the Showcase is to offer high quality exhibits. Thus, submissions for the Showcase will be refereed in order to assure content quality. We are asking for you to notify us if you want to display by April 1. Keep in mind that space is limited. It is possible that a given submission may not be approved for inclusion in the Showcase.

Attached is a timeline and guidelines for the Showcase. We will be sending out a brochure and registration information to the societies. As soon as you know that you want to have a poster at the event, you can contact us with your topic. Once we have the showcase details in place, we will be publishing that as part of the conference schedule.

Although the Texas societies have not been part of the Mid States conference, we feel that we share the ideals and interests of your member societies, as well as many desert xerophyte species. The Conference date is approaching rapidly. We look forward to your participation and to seeing you in June.

Sincerely,

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Mid States 2026 Conference Chairman
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Poster and Educational Display Guidelines

The Mid States Conference Showcase invites Member Organizations and Individual Members to share information in poster format or educational displays about their endeavors in the world of Xerophytes. This may include scientific investigations, academic treatises, photo essays, projects such as plant rescues, journal articles, blogs and social media, etc. We're looking for innovative and impactful poster presentations that support the mission statements of your societies including conservation, education, outreach and networking. Your poster or display will be located in the main meeting room.

Educational Display Showcase Timeline

- Complete the Attached Registration Form and return to: annblack96@yahoo.com.
- Deadline for Submissions: April 1, 2026.
- Set-up at the Conference: Friday, June 26, 2026 Time: 12 noon to 4pm
- Poster Sessions (Formal or Informal): Friday– Saturday– Sunday– during conference hours
- Poster take-down by Sunday 11am

Educational Display Specifications

An Educational Display may consist of a graphic display such as graphs, photos, and text on poster boards. The posters may be set up on poster stands or on a table top. Each poster will be available for viewing throughout the Conference. Presenters are encouraged to share and discuss their research with attendees one-on-one in between the formal presentations planned for this event.

Poster Design and Development:

The objective of a poster presentation is to display information clearly and simply in a visually appealing way. Be careful not to overload the poster. The content of an effective poster presentation should be focused and concise.

- The recommended poster board size is 24-48" tall and no more than 36" (3 feet) wide for content visible from 3-4 feet away. Your poster should not exceed the amount of useable space. Your poster may be created in Portrait or Landscape formats. Prepare a heading, using large-size type, to appear across the top of the board listing the title and authors. The lettering for this section should be at least 1 inch high.
 - Information on the poster must be readable from distances of 3 feet or more. You are strongly encouraged to use type at least 1/4 inches high to ensure legibility. Make all print dark (preferably block style) on a light (preferably white) background. Do not use a dark-colored background.
 - Write your presentation as concisely as possible, keeping the number of pieces to a minimum. Charts, drawings, and illustrations should be similar to those you would otherwise use in making slides. Try to avoid using very fine lines or rules; these are more difficult to see from a distance. Keep everything as simple as possible and avoid "artsy" or overly ornate presentations. Block lettering can be useful to add emphasis and clarity.
 - It is recommended that you provide the viewer a preferred sequence that should be followed in studying your poster. Your poster should be self-explanatory so that you are free to supplement the information and discuss particular points of inquiry during the poster session. The poster session provides an intimate forum for informal discussion, but this becomes difficult if you are required to devote most of your time explaining your poster to visitors.
 - Include on your poster a name and email address (or distribute business cards) in case someone wants additional information. • Poster presenters may create and add their own QR Codes to posters. • The use of adhesive posters is prohibited.
 - ePosters and QR Codes: Gain greater long-term exposure and visibility for your poster by making it available online as an ePoster. This does not replace the physical poster at the in-person meeting.
 - Hang your poster on the first day of the meeting, Friday, June 26, between the hours of 12 noon to 4pm. The Poster Hall will be available to attendees during the Friday evening Networking Reception. Your poster will be displayed for all three days (Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday) in the Meeting Hall.
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Mid States Cactus & Succulent Poster & Educational Display Showcase Registration Form

Date:

Name of Exhibitor:

Name of Organization:

Title of Poster or Display:

Type of Display
: Poster or Table Top:

Size of Display:

General Description: If your display depicts a study or an ongoing investigation, summarize the purpose or hypothesis, study parameters, endpoint, and if applicable, results.

Please copy and paste the registration form with your answers in an email to Ann Black:

annblack96@yahoo.com