

# 5 Tips for Staying Engaged Virtually

Welcome to the 2024 NALA Conference & Expo virtual experience! We want you to get the most out of your experience, so we would like to share five tips to help you stay engaged virtually.

1. Use the right equipment.
2. Choose the right location.
3. Get a group together.
4. Reduce distractions.
5. Take notes.

## **Use the right equipment**

When it comes to working virtually, different equipment works best for different people. While some people may prefer using multiple monitors, others may use a laptop or tablet. For a three-day virtual conference like the 2024 NALA Conference & Expo, it's important to use the equipment that will help you to stay the most engaged.

Smaller devices such as a phone or tablet may make it difficult to stay engaged since you are not able to see what is on the screen as well as you could with a larger device. They are also easier to toss aside if you get distracted.

Depending on your preferences, it is most likely best to use either a laptop or a desktop computer. The larger screens can help you stay engaged, and you can see what is on the screen better.

## **Choose the right location**

In the same vein as using the right equipment is choosing the right location. Some people may enjoy sitting on their couch with their laptop, while others may prefer sitting at their desk with their computer. While it is important to be comfortable, you also want to be in a location and position that encourages engagement. If sitting on your sofa may cause you to drift off, you should probably sit at a desk or table.

You do not even have to stay at home to attend the conference virtually. Maybe you plan on attending from your office, a public space, or a friend's house. Wherever you choose to attend from, make sure you are comfortable and using the right equipment.

## **Get a group together**

If you are attending virtually from the office or a friend's house, it can be a good idea to get a group of conference attendees together. Whether it is with coworkers, friends, or other professionals in your area, attending virtually from the same place can help you to stay engaged because you have people to keep you accountable if you get tired or distracted.

You can also have conversations with them about what you hear and learn at conference. You can ask each other questions, have a friendly debate, or talk about your jobs. A virtual conference can feel lonely, but it does not have to be if you have other people you can attend virtually with.

Even if you do not know anyone in your area, you can visit the 2024 NALA Conference & Expo Facebook Group to connect with other attendees, which is another great way to stay engaged virtually. You may even find someone nearby to attend with.

## **Reduce distractions**

While this may seem obvious, one of the best ways to stay engaged virtually is to reduce distractions. From your pet to your TV to your laundry, there are countless distractions surrounding you when you work virtually.

When you know your attention should be dedicated to your work or, in this case, the conference, it is important to eliminate as many of those distractions as possible. Can you get your pet(s) out of your house during the conference? Is there a room you can go in that does not have a TV? Can you have someone hide your detergent? Distractions can be relentless, so you need to be relentless in your pursuit of eliminating them.

We know it is impossible to eliminate every possible distraction, which is why your goal should be to reduce them. Use the previous tips to help you do this. Stay off your phone and your sofa. Go to a public place with other conference attendees. Do whatever you need to do to get those pesky distractions out of the way so you can focus on having a wonderful experience during conference.

## **Take notes**

Lastly, research has shown that you are more likely to be engaged if you are taking notes. One of the main reasons you are attending this conference is to learn. The things you will learn are important, so you will want to remember them.

A great way to boost recall and engagement is by taking notes. It will also keep your hands busy so you will be less likely to get distracted by other things your hands might want to fidget with.

Following these five tips can help you to stay engaged while attending the 2024 NALA Conference & Expo virtually. We hope you have an unforgettable conference experience.