










# Guide for Presenters

Here's everything you need to know as a presenter before the summit kicks off:

-  **BoFA Guiding Principles**
-  **Site Familiarization**
-  **Tips and Tricks for Presenting**
  -  Reframe Presentations as Conversations
  -  Be Creative
  -  Use Printed Materials Creatively
  -  Add Movement & Playfulness
-  **Accessibility Considerations**
-  **Site Maps**

# Guiding Principles

## and Considerations for Attendees, Presenters, and Organizers

These four guiding principles were developed by the BoFA Organizing Committee as a framework for our vision of a welcoming, inclusive, thought-provoking and fun Summit. We encourage you to reflect on how they may guide you, as a committee or board member, presenter, or attendee, while we are together in this space. We hope these principles resonate with you.

### 1. **Embody Playfulness.**

Approaching the summit with a spirit of joy, creativity, and experimentation can provide a richer experience. Play is not just the topic, it's the practice!

Play is a powerful connector and fuels learning. It break down barriers, allow for vulnerability, and help us build meaningful relationships across generations, identities, and experiences.

#### *What this could look like for you:*

- Attendees

- **Say yes to spontaneity and new experiences.** Don't limit yourself, try, even (or especially) if it feels silly.
- **Let curiosity lead.** Follow your curiosity, imagination, and sense of adventure.
- **Take part in playful activities outdoors.** Experience all the summit has to offer, and take time to connect with the Land.

- Speakers & Presenters

- **Model play as pedagogy.** Use playful methods (movement, storytelling, games) to activate learning and create connection.
- **Create brave, playful spaces.** Encourage experimentation and laughter as valid forms of engagement and expression.

#### *What this looks like for us:*

- Board & Committee Members

- **Lead with joy.** We aim to show that leadership and playfulness can co-exist. Our goal is to spark fun, curiosity, and connection throughout the summit.
- **Make space for collective play.** Our goal is to host a summit that fosters cross-sectoral sharing, connection, and learning, while outdoors and in play!

## 2. Create Brave and Accountable Space.

We aim to foster an environment where people feel safe to speak, listen, take risks, and make mistakes, while holding ourselves and each other accountable to act with care and respect. Our aim is to create a space for everyone to thrive and truly belong.

A brave space allows for real dialogue about equity, decolonization, and inclusion - conversations that require more than safety; they require us to commit to act with care and respect. A brave space invites both discomfort and safety, making space for vulnerability, meaningful change, and repair.

### *What this could look like for you:*

- **Attendees**
  - **Show up with courage and compassion.** Be willing to engage in honest conversations, even when they're uncomfortable.
  - **Respect boundaries.** Check biases, listen actively, and honour lived experiences. Be mindful and seek consent before offering ideas and perspectives. (e.g. Is it okay if I ask a follow-up question about what you shared?)
  - **Speak from your own experience and honour privacy.** What is said in this space stays here; what is learned is shared widely.
- **Speakers & Presenters**
  - **Invite vulnerability.** Create space for diverse voices to share openly. Ensure your sessions are grounded in trust, not just expertise.
  - **Acknowledge complexity.** Be open about gaps, tensions, or ongoing learning in your work.
  - **Value differences.** Respond to questions and differing viewpoints with openness and care.

### *What this looks like for us:*

- **Board & Committee Members**
  - **Lead with accountability.** We are open to feedback, take responsibility when harm occurs, and will actively work to repair trust.
  - **Set and maintain a respectful environment.** We aim to create and protect spaces where honest and courageous conversations can unfold with care, clarity, and mutual respect - spaces where accountability and empathy hold equal weight.
  - **Model integrity and reflection.** We are dedicated to decision-making and governance that reflect our values and guiding principles.

### 3. Center Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

We commit to recognizing and honouring diverse knowledges, identities, and experiences that shape outdoor play and advance our shared commitment to equity, inclusion, wellbeing, and belonging. We commit to continuous learning, unlearning, and action rooted in dignity and belonging that fosters inclusive environments for all.

Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) are a core part of building inclusive, accessible, and joyful outdoor spaces for all. By centering JEDI principles, and grounding them in deep understanding, we move beyond representation toward transformation.

#### *What this could look like for you:*

- **Attendees**
  - **Listen deeply and reflect.** Be open to perspectives that challenge your assumptions and worldview.
  - **Welcome discomfort as part of growth.** Examine how traditional systems of power influence outdoor play and learning. Challenge the status quo.
  - **Uplift underrepresented voices.** Make room for those whose knowledge and experiences have historically been, and continue to be, excluded or undervalued. (Remember: Each person's story is unique; no one voice represents an entire community)
- **Speakers & Presenters**
  - **Spotlight diverse expertise.** Elevate lived experience, Indigenous knowledge, cultural ways of knowing, and community-rooted practices. Your expertise may not be rooted in these ways of knowing. What implications might that have?
  - **Engage without shame or blame.** Create spaces where challenging conversations can emerge with compassion, honesty, and accountability.
  - **Challenge the status quo.** Think about how traditional systems of power influence your work in outdoor play and learning. Think about how you can address these in your presentation (if you'd like to learn more, see the resources list on [page 32](#)).

#### *What this looks like for us:*

- **Board & Committee Members**
  - **Lead with courage and care.** We embed JEDI principles in decision-making, governance, partnerships, and organizational culture.
  - **Practice inclusively.** We encourage creative approaches that respond to community needs and reduce barriers to access, participation, and belonging.
  - **Uphold JEDI principles.** We promote, protect, and preserve access to play in nature and the outdoors for all people by championing an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable approach informed by anti-colonial and JEDI principles.

## 4. Embrace the Journey.

Committing to outdoor play and learning as a lifelong, evolving practice, one that grows through reflection, relationships, shared knowledge, and a willingness to keep showing up ensures individual and collective progress.

Outdoor play is not a destination, it is a lifelong journey of discovery, care, and renewal. By embracing this journey together, we commit to shaping a future where everyone has the right, access, and support to play and thrive outdoors. This summit is a shared learning space. Everyone is both a learner and a teacher. Mistakes, questions, and curiosity are welcome here.

### *What this could look like for you:*

- **Attendees**

- **Celebrate progress, not perfection.** Whether you're new or experienced in outdoor play, every step counts, stay open to growth and learning.
- **Stay Curious.** Let nature, play, and community guide you forward, even when the path is uncertain. Carry what you learn beyond the summit and apply it in your communities.
- **Be open to change and learning.** Let your ideas and assumptions shift through dialogue. Share your insights thoughtfully and generously. Ask questions that deepen understanding.
- **Take time.** Recognize when you are feeling overwhelmed, icky, guilty, or confused. Take time to sit with those emotions and understand how to recognize and work within feelings of discomfort together instead of avoiding them.

- **Speakers & Presenters**

- **Share the process, not just the outcomes.** Speak to your challenges, changes, and lessons learned, these stories can inspire growth in others.
- **Invite others into your inquiry.** Mistakes, questions, and curiosity are welcome here. Don't feel pressure to have all the answers. The best part about collaborative learning is hearing other informed insights and lived experiences and learning from others who can fill in gaps that may exist.
- **Plant seeds.** Frame your session as part of a bigger conversation, one that extends beyond the summit.

### *What this looks like for us:*

- **Board & Committee Members**

- **Sustain the commitment.** We recognize that meaningful change in outdoor play systems requires persistence, patience, and adaptability.
- **Invest in learning.** We support learning across the organization and summit. We encourage, facilitate, and fund ongoing learning opportunities rooted in decolonization and JEDI principles, belonging, community engagement, and play.
- **Remain open and adaptable.** When we know better, we do better. We commit to continue listening, reflecting, evolving, and course-correcting.
- **It isn't personal.** We understand that working diligently to provide inclusive, accessible spaces in an ongoing practice, and in spite of best efforts, impact outweighs intention.

## Resources

Click the titles or links to learn more! ➤

- **Government of Canada: Wheel of Power and Privilege**
  - [www.canada.ca/content/wheel-privilege-power.pdf](http://www.canada.ca/content/wheel-privilege-power.pdf)
- **Nova Scotia Barristers' Society: Equity Lens Toolkit**
  - [www.nsbs.org/Equity-Lens-Toolkit.pdf](http://www.nsbs.org/Equity-Lens-Toolkit.pdf)
- **Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario: Anti-Oppression Framework**
  - [www.etfo.ca/AntiOppressiveFramework.pdf](http://www.etfo.ca/AntiOppressiveFramework.pdf)
- **START Network: Anti-Racist and Decolonial Framework**
  - [www.startnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2025-04.pdf](http://www.startnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2025-04.pdf)
- **Multnomah County: Equity and Empowerment Lens: 5 Ps Worksheet**
  - [www.countyhealthrankings.org/resources/equity](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/resources/equity)
- **The Proud Trust: Making Spaces Inclusive: Inclusive Language**
  - [www.theproudtrust.org/making-spaces-inclusive/](http://www.theproudtrust.org/making-spaces-inclusive/)
- **The University of Chicago: Tips for Facilitating Inclusive Discussions**
  - [www.teaching.uchicago.edu/resources/inclusive-discussions](http://www.teaching.uchicago.edu/resources/inclusive-discussions)



# Information for Presenters

We are so excited to have you join and present at this year's BoFA Summit! As you know, the summit will take place outdoors and with very limited technology. Presenting outdoors is a great opportunity to rethink conventional ways of sharing knowledge but can also be tricky for those used to conventional slide deck presentations and the use of screens. This guide will give you all the information you need to be ready, with plenty of tips and tricks for presenting "off-grid".

## Site Familiarization

Below are some images and descriptions of the six main presentation areas. Please contact us if you have any special needs or concerns about the presentation spaces.



### The Big Tent

The AOP10 Launch and keynote, along with most symposia, will be held in the Big Tent. This space has a capacity of 300 people and has a stage with AV technology.



### The OFNS Cabin

The OFNS Cabin is easily accessible from the main Summit area and just off the campground road. Outside the Cabin there is a green space to gather under the tree with a picnic table and chairs available. The cabin will be available in the event of inclement weather.



### The Yurt

The Yurt is just a few short steps from the OFNS Cabin down the path (accessible by vehicle if needed). This space offers plenty of room to move and a variety of seating. The cozy yurt will be available in the event of inclement weather.





### **The Wolves' Den**

A little further down the path you will find the Wolves' Den set around a fire pit with movable logs, a small stage, and lots of space to move. A nearby cabin provides an indoor option for inclement weather.



### **The Playground**

Down the campground road, you will find the playground. A lovely little park area with a play structure and open green space to gather, and plenty of room for active movement. The Forest Explorers board room (near the entrance to the campground) is available in the event of inclement weather.



### **Shady Tree Row (Outdoor Exhibit Area)**

Shady Tree Row is located along the north edge of the field next to the Big Tent. There will be tables set up in this area for those presenting a poster or hosting a booth. Tables will be moved inside the Big Tent in the event of inclement weather.

***The BoFA conference unfolds across lawns, groves, and gathering spots—each sparking curiosity, movement, and reflection!***



# Tips & Tricks for Presenting Outdoors

## Reframe Presentations as Conversations

Presenting without electronic and/or screen-based visual support might be difficult for both the presenter and the audience. Making your presentation more interactive and discussion-based can help keep the audience engaged and help foster knowledge sharing opportunities.



### A couple of ideas to consider...

- ✓ Start with a welcome circle to build connection.
- ✓ Ask open questions and prompts to invite participation from the start and engage your audience.
- ✓ Use storytelling rather than formal lecturing.



## Be Creative

Use what is in your space! A picnic table could become a podium if you have a lot of participants!

Moving away from slide decks is a great opportunity to become creative! You could bring low-tech visual solutions with you (or even find them in the space!).



### A couple of ideas to consider...

- ✓ Printed photos, posters or writeable objects (e.g., portable chalkboards, whiteboards, stones...).
- ✓ String and pegs for visual engagement.
- ✓ A small basket of “mystery objects” to pull and connect to your theme.
- ✓ Low-Tech and Natural Props, Visuals and Tools

## Use Printed Materials Creatively

Printed materials can help guide the presentation and offer lasting takeaways.

### A couple of ideas to consider...

- ✓ Create a simple handout or zine with key points, quotes, or spaces for notes.
- ✓ Offer postcards with reflection prompts or challenges for the audience to take home.



## Add Movement & Playfulness...

### We are in an outdoor play summit after all!

Interactive activities and games can help engage your audience and promote fun!

### A couple of ideas to consider...

- ✓ Ask participants to position themselves based on experience ("line up from beginner to expert").
- ✓ Try quick "This or That" games linked to your topic.
- ✓ Invite "walk and talk" discussions or journaling moments outdoors.



***Outdoor presenting is an opportunity to spark curiosity, movement, and reflection. Keep it flexible, simple, and playful!***

# Accessibility Considerations

## Poster Presenters and Booth Hosts

- ✓ Use large, high-contrast fonts and avoid cluttered text.

**Resource: [FPR Clear Print Accessibility Guidelines](#)**

- ✓ Incorporate descriptive captions for all images, figures, and charts.
- ✓ Have a digital version available (QR code/link) so attendees can access on their mobile device.



## Workshop and Oral Presentation Speakers



- ✓ Use the microphone provided, even if the group is small and even if you have a loud voice, to reduce strain and ensure audibility.
- ✓ Position yourself where you can be seen from the entire audience.
- ✓ Repeat audience questions so everyone can hear.
  - Provide large-print handouts or digital copies of key points, since there are no slides.

## Symposium Speakers

- ✓ Use high-contrast slides with minimal text per slide.

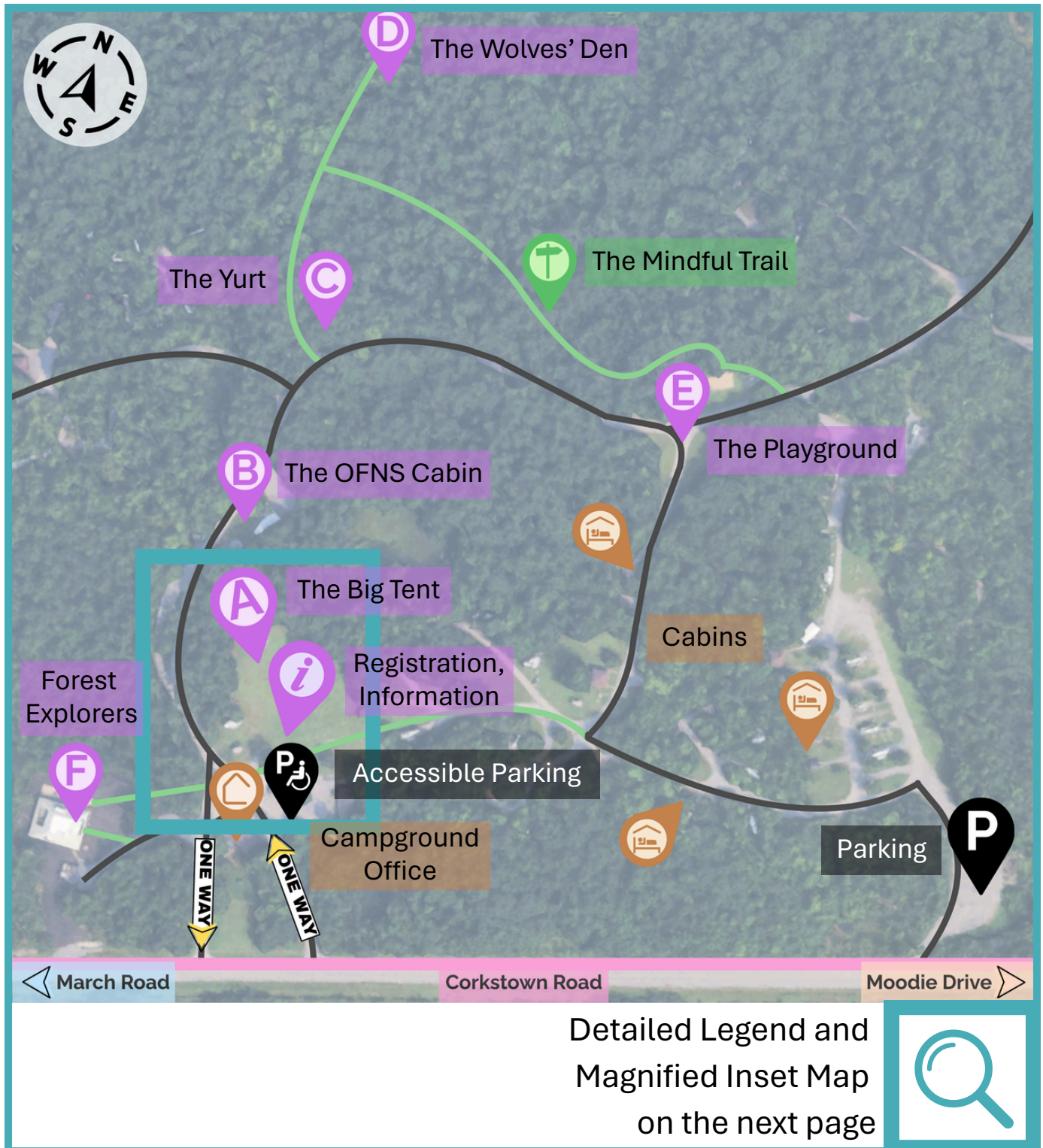
**Resource: [Creating Accessible PowerPoint](#)**

- ✓ Verbally describe all visuals, figures, and graphs.
- ✓ Provide an accessible digital version of the slides (with alt text for images).

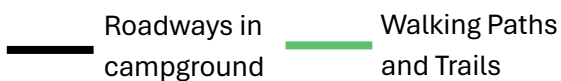
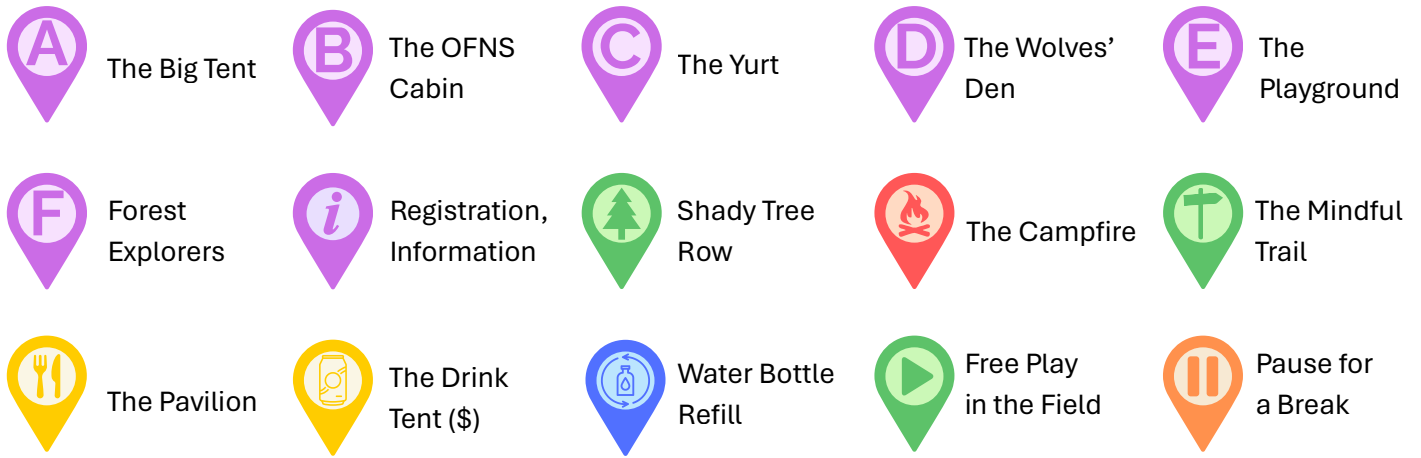




# Map of the BoFA Summit at Wesley Clover Parks Campground



# Map Legend



## Magnified Insert Map

