**2022-2023 Speaker Application**

Founded in 2010, TEDxPSU is an independent, annual conference that celebrates unique ideas and elevates them to a global stage. Hosted within University Park in State College, PA, TEDxPSU is a unique community gathering that inspires, informs, and unveils new people and ideas that might just change the world. TEDxPSU 2023 is scheduled to take place at Penn State's Schwab Auditorium (or virtually if necessary) in February 2023.

Each year, TEDxPSU has been ranked as one of the leading TEDx events in the nation. Our talks have reached millions of people via YouTube, and our last conference (Endeavor) had over 200 in-person attendees. TEDxPSU offers speakers a chance to share their ideas in the form of a short, impactful *TEDx Talk*. A *TEDx Talk* is an opportunity for speakers to present novel, well-formed ideas in under 18 minutes. Our applicants and speakers come from a wide variety of fields, locations, and backgrounds. We have showcased international speakers, students in both high school and college, and professionals at the top of their field. There is no “formula” or ideal subject for a TEDx talk; all you need is a story or an idea that you think is worth sharing.

The following application requires short answer responses, a summary of your talk, and a video submission that will help us get to know you. **We strongly suggest you answer every question and submit both the video and a talk outline or summary as a part of your application**. Applicants will be notified when their application is received, with the final decisions coming out in mid-September. If you have any questions or if you wish to submit your application, please email this document as a pdf or word doc to [contentteam@tedxpsu.com](mailto:contentteam@tedxpsu.com).

Applications for the yearly conference are **due by September 1s**t, with no exceptions.

**Disclosure**

While TEDxPSU is driven by the free and open sharing of ideas, all TEDx speakers must follow some basic rules which are listed below. After reviewing the following guidelines, please **sign on the line below** (electronic signatures are acceptable):

* **No Selling from the Stage** - It's essential for all speakers to discuss their background, which may include the businesses they're involved in. However, this should not be used as an opportunity for advertisement.
* **No Political Agendas** - Politics and policy are key parts of the global conversation. Speakers are encouraged to discuss concrete problems and solutions, not advocate for political parties or their platforms.
* **No Religious Proselytizing** - Speakers can be honest about their beliefs, but they are asked not to promote them.
* **Only Good Science** - Science is a big part of the TED universe, and it’s important that TEDxPSU can sustain our reputation as a credible forum for sharing ideas that matter. Any claims using scientific language should be testable experimentally and show clear respect for the scientific method.
* **Talks Must Be Under The Time Constraint**– We restrict talk durations to be less than 18 minutes, no exceptions. If the conference is virtual, talks will be limited to 15 minutes in length in order to prevent/combat ZOOM fatigue (if you wish to have a longer talk, please consider applying to be a TEDxPSU Salon speaker {[see website for details](http://www.tedxpsu.com/)}).

If selected to be a speaker you will be paired with a content team liaison who has been trained to help you develop your talk. You will be expected to **maintain open lines of communication** and work with them throughout the time leading up to the conference. If you are not selected to speak at the main conference, you may be offered a speaking position at one of the TEDxPSUSalons or any of our other events we are hosting.

By signing this document, you are acknowledging and agreeing to each guideline above.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact [contentteam@tedxpsu.com](mailto:contentteam@tedxpsu.com).

**Speaker Information**

*Please fill out the following questions so the TED*x*PSU team can gain the most appropriate information about you and your proposed talk. Questions marked with the following symbol (\*) must be filled out. If you are uncomfortable filling any question without this symbol, indicate next to the question. Declining to answer these questions will have no effect on the review of your application.*

1. List your first and last name, the name you wish the TEDxPSU team to refer to you by, and the correct pronunciation of your name.
   1. \*First Name:
   2. \*Last Name:
   3. Preferred Name/Nickname:
   4. \*Pronunciation:
2. List your title and your pronouns
   1. \*Title:
   2. \*Pronouns:
3. Provide proper contact information in the places below.
   1. \*Phone Number:
   2. \*Email:
   3. \*Address:
4. State your current occupation with a brief description of your responsibilities. If you are a student, indicate both your year and area(s) of study.
5. Briefly describe any past experiences with public speaking.
6. \* How did you hear about TEDxPSU?

**Talk Information**

*This is the most important part of the TED*x *application. Fill out each section carefully and with as much detail as necessary so that the speaker selection committee may best gather information about your proposed idea. In addition, please provide a video of three-to-five-minute length in which you describe your idea worth sharing, why you are qualified to speak in this area, and why you feel you talk is worth sharing.*

1. \*In 4-6 sentences, what is your idea worth sharing (or provide a short outline)?
2. What are 3-5 topics for your talk/discussion (i.e. leadership, biology, education)?
3. What is a potential title for your talk?
4. Why are you qualified to give a talk on this topic? What experiences have you had that allows you to share this idea at a level of expertise?
5. Why do you want to give this talk?
6. What makes this talk relevant right now? Why is your talk appropriate to give to a TEDxPSU 2023 audience?
7. What sets your talk apart from other talks of similar topics?
8. What will make audiences specifically interested in listening to your idea? How will your talk be applicable to audience members that may not be familiar with your topic?
9. In your opinion, what is the most important aspect or value of a TED talk? (ie. authenticity, expertise)
10. In one sentence, why should you be chosen as a 2023 TEDxPSU conference speaker?
11. \*Please provide a link to a short video pitching your idea to the speaker selection committee. (this can be an unlisted video via YouTube, a Zoom recording, or any other type of online video format.)