

AABA American Association of Biological Anthropologists

- **2026 Invited Symposia**
- **AABA Membership and Renewals**
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Dear Members of AABA,

This summer we reflect on the great community that we have and the challenges that we face, particularly related to the support of science here in the US. If you live in the US, I urge you to contact your congressional delegation and ask them to support scientists within the government and science funding. If you have been affected by the impact of changing US policy on biological anthropology, please [report incidents through this form](#).

Planning for the 2026 AABA Meeting in Denver

We are looking forward to our [95th meeting in Denver, Colorado, March 18-21, 2026](#). We will have an in-person meeting with some synchronous online opportunities, including invited symposia, contributed sessions, and even some workshops. Please mark these due dates in your calendar, and get your proposals ready!

Scientific deadlines:

- August 15, 2025: Deadline for Invited Symposium proposals
- September 15, 2025: Abstract submission portal opens
- October 15, 2025: Deadline for Abstract submissions and [Student Award Applications](#)

- January 30, 2026: Deadline for Undergraduate Research Symposium abstract submissions

Award deadlines:

- October 15, 2025: Nomination deadline for [Darwin](#), [Lasker](#), and [AABA and Leakey Foundation Communication & Outreach Award in Honor of Camilla Smith](#) Awards. This is also the nomination deadline for two new midcareer awards being introduced this year (see below).
- October 15, 2025: [Student Presentation Award](#) applications due
- December 5, 2025: [Pollitzer Student Travel Award](#) submissions due
- January 5, 2026: [Cobb Professional Development Award](#) submissions due

Invited Symposium Proposal Portal is Open

The 2026 Invited Symposium Proposal Portal is now open. You can reach the portal and submit your proposal by logging into your [AABA profile](#) or by visiting the [AABA website](#). You may need to update your membership status before the portal is visible to you.

We are accepting three types of Invited Symposium proposals for the 2026 meetings:

1. **In-person poster symposia** (up to 20 total presentation slots available)
2. **In-person podium symposia** (up to 15 total presentation slots available in the morning and 14 total slots in the afternoon. We are also looking for half-session symposia of 6 or 7 total presentation slots)
3. **Online synchronous podium symposia** (up to 15 total presentation slots available)

Online Invited Symposia may be scheduled shortly before or concurrent with the in-person meeting events in Denver; please be prepared to request a time zone that is appropriate for most of your proposed participants if you are submitting a proposal for an online symposium.

For more information about Invited Symposium Proposals, please visit the [AABA Invited Symposium page](#). All Invited Symposium Proposals are due on August 15 by midnight PDT.

achievements of midcareer Biological Anthropologists.

The [AABA Midcareer Research Award](#) was established to recognize significant research accomplishments advancing the field of Biological Anthropology by midcareer individuals. Nominations should highlight the innovative and/or transformative work of the nominee, with specific publications or findings referenced. Nominees should ideally have a commitment to inclusive and open data sharing practices.

The [AABA Midcareer Service Award](#) was established to recognize and honor midcareer individuals who have demonstrated a history of service to the field of biological anthropology. Key contributions may include exceptional mentoring, teaching, service to the discipline and/or AABA, or other service activities worthy of recognition.

Eligibility: Nominees do not have to be AABA members. Midcareer is considered equivalent to the rank of Associate Professor, typically 7-20 years of receipt of PhD or highest equivalent terminal degree. Individuals holding a Full Professor status (or equivalent position) would be considered beyond the midcareer stage.

Nominations are due to the History and Honors Chair (Ashley Hammond) on October 15. Detailed information on the nomination and evaluation processes is posted on [the AABA website](#).

IDEAS

The IDEAS (Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences) Program was funded by an NSF grant that was among the grants recently terminated. The IDEAS Program was an initiative aimed at recruiting, retaining, and supporting scholars from systematically marginalized groups (SMGs) within biological anthropology. Central to its activities at the AABA annual meetings was the IDEAS Workshop, which allows undergraduate and graduate students from SMGs to connect with faculty and postdoctoral mentors to build community, receive career guidance, and foster professional development. Evaluations consistently show that participants value the Program for enhancing their sense of belonging and reinforcing their interest in the discipline. Since 2016, the program has supported 114 undergraduate and graduate students.

The AABA executive committee feels strongly that continuing support of this program by AABA is important. We ask you to support this effort by giving to the AABA community fund. To do so, please go to <https://bioanth.org/donate/>.

AABA Membership and Renewals

Don't forget to check that your membership in AABA is up-to-date. Only up-to-date members can access content behind the AABA website paywall, vote in elections (regular members), receive the conference registration fee discount, be eligible for AABA offices, committee chairships, and committee memberships (providing you an opportunity to influence the shape of our discipline), and have full access to all issues of the *[American Journal of Biological Anthropology](#)* and the *[Yearbook of Biological Anthropology](#)*, and to monthly newsletters. Soon, there will be even more available exclusively to AABA members. Stay tuned!

If you know someone who may be interested in joining AABA, please encourage them to visit our membership page (<https://bioanth.org/membership/>), and go to the links at the bottom of this page for application. Or perhaps you have let your membership lapse; we want you back!

Sincerely,

Anne Stone

President, American Association of Biological Anthropologists