

Our Path Home is a series of self-guided activities to help campus delegations transfer what they learned during the NGLA conference into practice back on campus.

Follow the instructions below for each of four activities:

- **Sharing Insights, (p. 2)**
- **Our Big Answers, (p. 4)**
- **My Next Steps, (p. 6)**
- **Team Planning Session, (p. 7)**

These activities can be completed during the **Delegation Plan of Action** session, during your trip back to campus, or after you return home. They can be used à la carte in any order, but they will work best as a whole in the order listed.

Delegates can use the worksheet as a guide and to take notes about the discussion.

Before beginning, make sure you have the following materials:

- Writing utensils for each delegate
- Our Path Home Worksheet for each delegate

Sharing Insights

Description

Delegates reflect on what they learned from the conference by sharing it with a partner during a structured interview process.

Duration

20-50 minutes

Materials

- Writing utensil for each delegate
- Our Path Home Worksheet

Instructions

Pair Share (15-40 minutes)

- Distribute a copy of Our Path Home worksheet to each delegate.
- Have delegates pair up with either:
 - Their counterpart on another council,
 - Someone they work closely with on their own council, or
 - The person they spent the least amount of time with during the conference.
- Provide the following instructions:

Choose a question from the list on your worksheet and ask your partner to respond. Listen carefully to their response. When they are finished, switch roles and choose a new question. Repeat this process until time is up or you have each answered all the questions.

 - What did you learn that you find most difficult to believe?
 - What is the greatest “a-ha” moment you had during the conference?
 - It’s common to leave NGLA with more questions than answers. What questions do you still need to resolve?
 - What did you learn that you think I should use in my position?
 - What lesson do you wish everyone here learned?
 - What lesson do you want to share with everyone else on campus?
 - Based on what you learned, how do you plan to lead differently than you have in the past?
 - How do you think we should transfer what we learned to others?
- Delegates may want to temporarily switch worksheets so their partners can take notes for them.

- ❑ Continue after about 12 minutes; don't wait for everyone to answer every question.
- ❑ Optional: Repeat the process 2-3 times, meeting with a new partner each round.

Debriefing Learning (5-10 minutes)

- ❑ Lead a large group discussion using the following questions:
 - What did you hear consistently across you and your partner(s)?
 - How the things you learned change the way you lead your organization?
 - Our community invested in NGLA. How do we make sure they get a valuable return on that investment?

Our Big Answers

Description

Delegates capture their answers to the #OneBigNGLAQuestion they asked before the conference and share it with others. They work in groups to capture lessons learned in each priority area they identified before the conference.

Duration

35-40 minutes

Materials

- Writing utensil for each delegate
- The Path Home worksheet for each participant

Instructions

Answering #OneBigNGLAQuestion (15 minutes)

- Ask participants to take out their worksheet from the Road to NGLA activities or their cell phones, and look up the #OneBigNGLAQuestion they posted before the conference.
- Provide the following instructions:

Take a few moments to think about everything you experienced during the conference. Using what you learned, write your answer to that #OneBigNGLAQuestion in 10 words or less. Write your answer on the worksheet.

You may also want to post the answers you found to twitter. Be sure to tag NGLA and use the #OneBigNGLAQuestion hashtag.

- Give delegates about 2 minutes to work.
- After 2 minutes, provide the following instructions:

Now that you've learned something new, it's time to teach it to everyone else. We're going to share all the answers we found with one another.

Take out your worksheets and be ready to take notes.

- Ask delegates to share their question and their 10-word answer with one another.
- Continue until everyone has answered, then move into group work.

Our Priorities (20-25 minutes)

- Break participants into their priority groups determined before the conference.
- Provide the following instructions:

We are going to spend some time capturing what we learned in each of our delegation's top 3 priority areas. In your group, work through the three steps listed on your worksheet:

Step 1: Review the results of the priorities discussion from before the conference: what are the priorities? What are the questions? Who are our local experts?

Step 2: Give each person up to one minute to share what they learned related to this priority area. Everyone should take notes.

Step 3: As a group, summarize all the knowledge we are bringing back about this area into 5 bullet points that you can present to everyone else in less 2 minutes

- Give groups about 15 minutes to work.
- After 15 minutes, ask each group to share their presentations.
- Provide delegates with the chance to ask questions of each group.
- When complete, transition into the next steps activity.

My Next Steps

Description

Delegates spend time breaking down their plans into specific detail, including projects, milestones, and action items.

Duration

20-30 minutes

Materials

- Writing utensil for each delegate
- Our Path Home worksheet for each participant

Instructions

- Ask participants to turn to the planning page guide in the worksheet.
- Provide the following instructions:

Work through the prompts provided in the worksheet to develop your personal plan of action. Place particular emphasis on the smallest, most immediate next steps you need to take.

- Give delegates about 20 minutes to work.
- After about 20 minutes, invite each delegate to share one of their projects with the rest of the group, including their next action step and a major milestone.
- When appropriate, transition into the team planning activity.

Team Planning

Description

Delegates combine their action plans into a set of guiding ideas while discussing goals, potential challenges, and how to coordinate their work.

Duration

20-40 minutes

Materials

- Writing utensil for each delegate
- Our Path Home worksheet for each participant

Instructions

- ❑ Use the following questions to lead a group discussion about collective planning:
 - Based on what you've heard of others' plans, what is our primary focus for the year?
 - What areas are we overlooking? How do we focus on priorities without overlooking anything?
 - What motto, mantra, or idea should guide our work over the next year?
 - Conflict typically arises due to differing ideologies about our roles, our purpose, or how things work. Where do you anticipate ideological conflict among this group, and how do we work through it effectively?
 - Based on the plans we have for our community, where are we likely to experience the most push back? How do we address it?
 - In addition to the milestones you identified for your position, what are the early wins we need to work towards as a group?
- ❑ Take multiple answers to each question until delegates arrive at consensus about each topic: focus, guiding ideas, ideological conflict, push back, and milestones.
- ❑ Optional: Invite participants to organize themselves into groups by topic, by council, or by project to continue working on more specific plans of action together.