

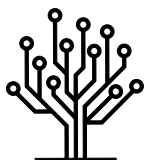
# rootstech

Call for Presentations 2015

Submissions accepted June 2—27, 2014

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# About RootsTech

RootsTech is a global family history event, where people of all ages learn to discover and share their family stories and connections through technology. RootsTech offers something for everyone, regardless of experience in family history or skill in technology, from the expert genealogy researcher to beginners just starting their own family trees.

In 2014, the fourth annual RootsTech conference continued to grow. It is now the largest family history conference in the world, with over 13,000 people coming together in 2014 to connect their family past, present, and future. Attendees represented 49 states and 32 countries from around the globe, with thousands more tuning in by live stream. RootsTech content continues to be delivered at more than 600 remote locations as well as online at RootsTech.org.

RootsTech 2015 will be held on February 11–14, 2015, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 2015 conference will be held at the same time as the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS).



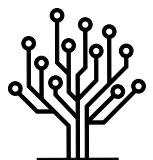
## Call for Presentations

We are calling for dynamic presentations for RootsTech 2015 that inform and educate both those seeking to begin and those continuing to discover their family stories through technology.

Presentation submissions will be accepted from **June 2—27, 2014**. Please see page 6 for the full submission process.

Presentations will be accepted for both RootsTech and Innovator Summit.

- **RootsTech** is a three-day family history conference offering over 200 classes for beginners, hobbyists, and experienced researchers.
- **Innovator Summit** starts with a pre-RootsTech event on Wednesday, February 11, and is a unique opportunity for software developers, entrepreneurs, and technology business leaders to explore and influence technology solutions in the family history industry. Classes continue throughout the RootsTech conference.



# Categories for Presentations

In each presentation category, we are seeking beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes. There will also be a **Getting Started** track for beginners, which will be expanded further in 2015.

New in 2015, we will also have select classes for Spanish-speaking attendees. Classes in this track should be presented in Spanish, but proposals should be submitted in English.

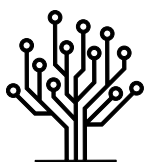
## RootsTech

- **Finding and Organizing:** Search Tactics, Resources, Specialized Tools, Methodologies, Solutions, Metadata, Apps and Software
- **Preserving Your Work and Legacy:** Family Trees, Digital Migration, Audio and Video Solutions
- **Sharing:** Social Media, Tools for Collaboration, Wikis, Crowd Sourcing, Community Building, Blogs
- **Stories and Photos:** Storytelling and Interviewing, Capturing Stories, Preserving Stories, Enhancing Stories with Photos, Photo Restoration, Movies and Presentations, Photo Editing, Oral Histories
- **Tools:** Technology Introductions, Gadgets, Genetic Research, DNA, Breaking Down Barriers
- **General:** Family History topics in general, including Geographic Research, Time-Period Research, Inspirations, Market Trends, Research Trends, Adjacent Industries, Record Types. (Please note that there is still an expectation in this category that technology is a part of the presented topic.)
- **Family Traditions and Lifestyle:** Cultural Arts, Handicrafts, Food, Influential Historical Events, Everyday Living Standards, Social Customs, Pastimes, Artifacts. (Please note that there is still an expectation in this category that this knowledge assists the learner in family history and that technology is part of the presented topic.)



## RootsTech Innovator Summit

- **Developer (Innovator Summit):** Standards and APIs, Mobile App development, Social Applications, Record Imaging and Visualizations, Apps for Youth, Software and Tools that Enable the Work of Family History.
- **Business (Innovator Summit):** Funding and Investment, Startup success stories and tips, Opportunities and Market Trends, Networking and Partnerships, Insights and Entertainment



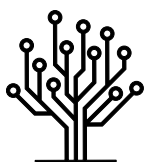
# Session Types

All sessions will be 60 minutes long, except at the Innovator Summit preconference event on February 11, where some sessions will be 30 minutes long. Presentations may be in one of the following formats:

- **Traditional class session:** Traditional class sessions focus on a single topic, with some time left at the end for questions and answers.
- **Computer lab:** A computer lab is a hands-on workshop, where subject matter or training can be accomplished on a computer and done simultaneously by each attendee. These sessions should provide an interactive experience from which attendees go home with a finished product or next steps.
- **Panel:** Presenters may come together for a collaborative presentation on a particular topic or answer questions from attendees. Presenters can be on-site, or presentations can include subject-matter experts in remote locations.
- **Workshop (Innovator Summit):** Workshops are hands-on interactive sessions, where attendees actively collaborate to create new solutions.

We encourage sessions to be innovative, include step-by-step instruction, and offer new solutions and ideas that incorporate technology. We caution presenters against text-based slides and becoming infomercials for a particular product or line of thinking.

If your session is sponsored by a particular company, you will be asked to indicate that status in the session profile you create. We ask that sponsored sessions still serve to educate the attendees without requiring them to purchase a particular product.





# Submission Process

To submit your presentation for consideration for RootsTech 2015, please visit [RootsTech.org/proposals](http://RootsTech.org/proposals), and click the submission link.

You will need to do the following:

- Complete a short submission profile.
- Submit your presentation title.
- Submit a 40–50 word abstract for your proposed presentation. Please include learning objectives for attendees, for example: “You will learn to add a name to your family tree.”
- Submit a 100–200 word description of your session (Please list any programs, software, or specific tools that you will in your session here.)
- Submit a photograph of yourself (300 dpi .jpg, .eps, or .png file).
- Submit a video of yourself presenting (optional).
- Summarize any previous speaking experience and topics.

After you have successfully completed the process, you will receive an email from the RootsTech Team confirming your submission.

**Submissions for the FGS conference should be submitted directly to [www.fgsconference.org/proposals](http://www.fgsconference.org/proposals)**

## Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

### Relevance:

- Does the proposed session help attendees to discover their family stories?
- Does technology play a role in the implementation of the topic discussed?
- Does the topic speak to a broad audience of family history enthusiasts?

### Innovation:

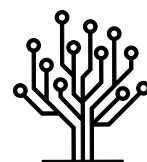
- Are the ideas, methods, or subjects timely and relevant to attendees?
- Is the subject matter fresh ?

### Clarity:

- Is the intent of the session clear and concise in the abstract and title?
- Are the learning objectives well-defined?

### Presenter:

- Is the presenter knowledgeable and experienced on the topic submitted?
- Is the presenter careful in the submission process to meet all requirements and willing to meet the expectations if selected?



# Timeline

## June

- 2 Presentation submission site opens.
- 27 Presentation submission site closes.

## July

- 25 Speakers notified.

## August

- 1 Speaker acceptance due to RootsTech.
- 15 Final speaker photo and bio are due.

## September

- 1 Speakers notified of selection to be recorded.

## November

- 1 Speakers must be registered to attend RootsTech.
- 4 Syllabi seminar.
- 18 Presentation seminar for recorded speakers.
- 18 Computer Lab facilitation seminar.

## December

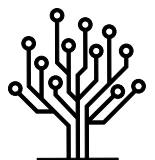
- 1 Class syllabi due.
- 15 Syllabi posted to RootsTech.org.

## January

- 6 Presentation seminar for nonrecorded speakers.

## February

- 3 RootsTech logistics seminar.
- 11–14 RootsTech held in Salt Lake City.



# What to Expect

Speakers selected to present at RootsTech 2015 will receive:

- One free full-conference pass.
- A lunch voucher for each day of the conference.
- Access to the speaker lounge.
- Hotel accommodations (for out-of-state speakers presenting two or more sessions).

Because RootsTech is a nonprofit event, we do not pay speakers. We hope you will consider this conference an investment since it is the largest live forum in the world to reach people with the insights and knowledge you have to share.

In each classroom, RootsTech will supply:

- A laptop computer.
- A wired Internet connection.
- A projector .
- A screen.
- A lavalier microphone.
- A handheld microphone.

In addition, computer labs will be equipped with a computer station and a wired Internet connection for each attendee in the class.



All other equipment required for your presentation must be supplied by you or the attendees in your session. Please indicate in your course abstract whether attendees will need to bring something with them to the session. Attendees will have access to wireless Internet in the classrooms at the Salt Palace; however, **connections are not always reliable or fast** because of the number of people on site at one time.

RootsTech reserves the right to edit session titles and abstracts. You will be notified and consulted if there is a need to make changes to your title or abstract.

In 2015, **we will require all speakers to provide a syllabus** for their class sessions in both a Microsoft Word format and a PDF format. Syllabi will be posted on RootsTech.org for attendees to preview and download. Having syllabi available allows attendees to make informed decisions about which classes to attend during the conference. Presenters who do not submit syllabi by December 1, 2014, may not be allowed to present at RootsTech.

We will record many class sessions for use on RootsTech.org and at remote RootsTech events around the world, in the year following RootsTech 2015. These recorded sessions will not be used for any purpose other than on the RootsTech website and for remote RootsTech events. We will notify speakers by September 1, if your class is selected for recording. You will be required to submit your presentation slides, syllabus, and class handouts in an editable format such as PowerPoint or Microsoft Word, for translation by December 1, 2014. Your session will be translated into as many as 10 languages for use at RootsTech family history fairs. You will be able to download the recording of your presentation for your own use as well.

If you have questions regarding the submission process or speaking at RootsTech 2015, please contact us at [info@rootstech.org](mailto:info@rootstech.org).

