

Top 10 Ways for New Attendees to Get Involved at SEM

10) Attend your speaker's breakfast. If you're presenting a paper, this is a great way to meet your session chair and the other presenters and to learn how sessions are run. Breakfast is each morning before the sessions begin and the tables are clearly marked with each session number.

9) Watch the Student Paper Competition (Monday). Students have already competed for a limited number of timeslots and continue to compete for first, second, and third place, making these some of the most-vetted and most-rehearsed sessions of the conference. The presentations are all day on Monday, and winners are announced at the awards lunch on Wednesday.

8) Check out the Exhibition Hall. See the latest and greatest in new experimental test equipment, and maybe put a face to the voice you've heard on some of your tech support calls.

7) Sit in on a Technical Division and Committee meeting. Unless marked otherwise in the program, Technical Division and Committee meetings are open to everyone. The Committees are Research, Education, and Applications and Technical Division meetings are a great way to understand what the Society is doing (and an easy way to learn how to get involved). Next year's technical sessions are planned during the Technical Division meetings on Tuesdays. These meetings begin with a free pizza lunch!

6) Come to a Career Panel or Workshop. Each year we have two rotating panel discussions for early and mid-career attendees. This year's panels are Monday night at 6:30, covering early and mid-career industry participants and early career national laboratory attendees.

5) Join our new coffee break discussions. Have questions that weren't covered at the career panels? The Education Committee has organized two informal discussion sessions during the Monday coffee break: Let's talk Post Doc and Pursuing the Tenure Track. (Have an idea for another discussion topic? Come to the Education Committee meeting and let us know!)

4) Ask questions in (or after) technical sessions. Most presenters are happy to discuss details with anyone interested in their work, and it's a great way to meet other researchers in the field.

3) Join us at one of the receptions. These are a great chance to enjoy food and drinks and mingle with other attendees. This year SEM has three receptions:

- Sunday Night: Welcome Reception
- Monday Night: Reception hosted by Correlated Solutions Inc.
- Tuesday Night: President's Reception

2) Come to the awards banquet (Wednesday). Enjoy a catered lunch and hear a few speeches by award-winning leaders in experimental mechanics. Plus find out the results of the student paper competition!

1) Make a new friend. All first-time attendees have a green ribbon on their name tag, and if you're looking for someone to talk to, odds are they are too. See why SEM is known as the friendly society!