

CIRES Science Summit

October 1, 2026

Get started with
our first poll!



The Planning committee welcomes you!

Nathan Campbell, Becca Edwards, Lexie Swenson, Audrey Gaudel, Sudheer Bhimireddy, Pedro de Melo, Amanda Sheffield & Linda Pendergrass



University of Colorado **Boulder**



What are you hoping to take away from the summit today? Rank the options below.

Connecting with fellow CIRES employees



1st

Learning about science done at CIRES



2nd

Talking about scientific research



3rd

Developing new research collaborations



4th

Goals for the summit

The goal of this full-day in-person science-focused event is to **strengthen** our internal networks, **foster** collaborations, and **amplify** existing research, outreach, and engagement efforts.

Additionally, it supports the goals identified in the 2026 CIESRDS Review:

1. Sustain and strengthen the NOAA-CIRES-CU co-location and collaboration model.
2. Increase strategic integration and awareness across projects and scientific themes.

Remember: This is not a seminar! It is a brainstorming session. You don't have to be an expert in the topic area to throw out ideas. The focus is innovation, so we value all ideas! You can contribute ideas as a public citizen who is going to benefit from this research.

Innovative Research Program

The Innovative Research Program (IRP) is designed to stimulate a creative research environment within CIRES and to encourage synergy between disciplines and research colleagues. The intent is to support small research efforts that can quickly provide concept viability or rule out further consideration.

The program encourages novel, unconventional, or fundamental research that might otherwise be difficult to fund. Funded projects are inventive, sometimes opportunistic, and do not necessarily have an immediate practical application or guarantee of success. This program supports pilot or exploratory studies, which may provide rapid results.

**Come to our 2026
IRP/VFP poster session!**

Thursday, November 19
4:30-6:00pm
CIRES Atrium



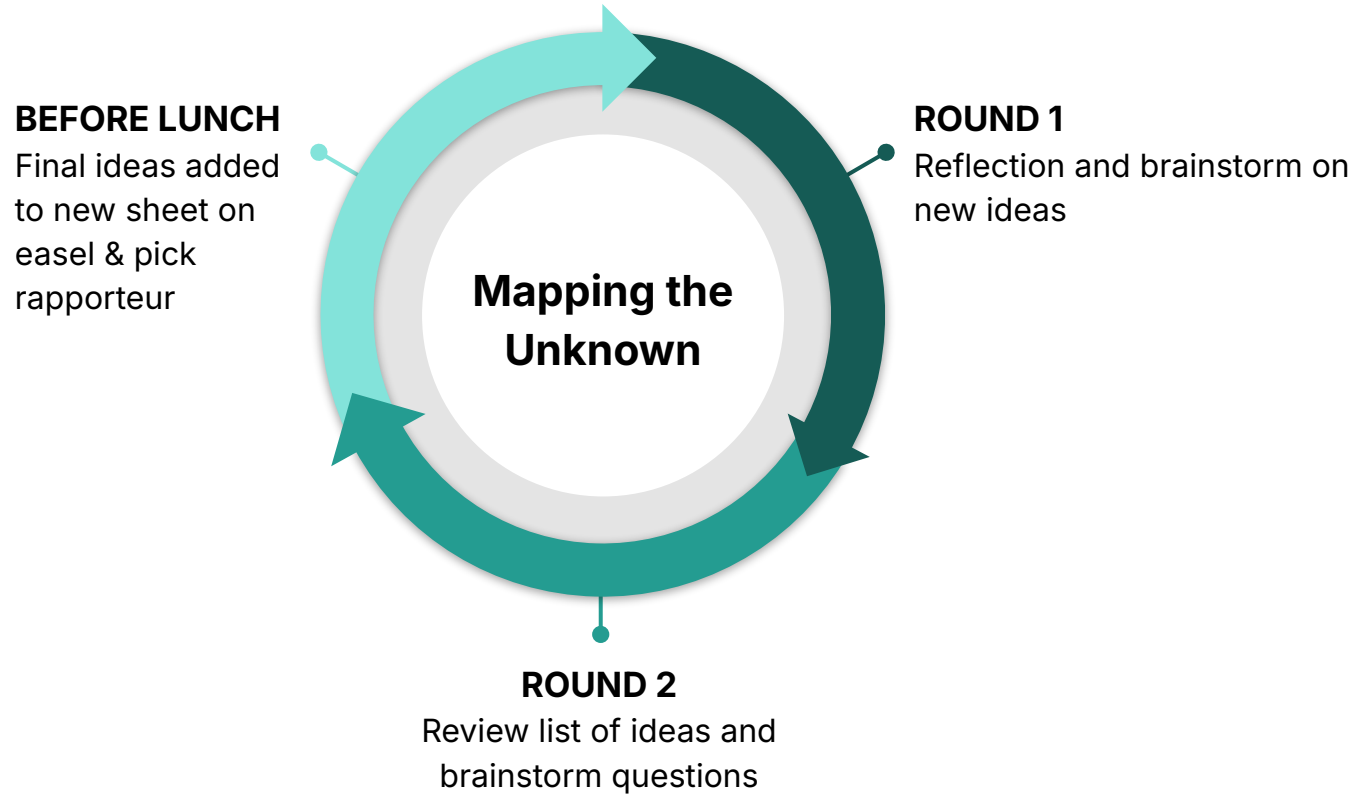
Morning agenda ~ Mapping the unknown

8:45 AM	9:15 AM	Check-in with Coffee and Bagels & Muffins
9:15 AM	9:30 AM	Welcoming Remarks - <i>Nate Campbell & Waleed Abdalati</i>
9:30 AM	9:40 AM	Explanation of morning logistics – <i>Sudheer Bhimireddy</i>
9:40 AM	10:30 AM	“Mapping the Unknown” Round One
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM	11:45 AM	“Mapping the Unknown” Round Two
11:45 PM	12:00 PM	Reflection on morning discussions
12:00 PM	12:05 PM	Group Photo
12:05 PM	1:00 PM	Networking Lunch (Provided)

Afternoon agenda ~ Igniting the Way Forward

1:00 PM	1:05 PM	Explanation of afternoon logistics – <i>Audrey Gaudel</i>
1:05 PM	1:55 PM	First World Cafe discussion
1:55 PM	2:10 PM	Break
2:10 PM	3:00 PM	Second World Cafe discussion
3:00 PM	3:10 PM	Survey
3:10 PM	3:55 PM	Rapporteurs Shareout
3:55 PM	4:25 PM	Networking
4:25 PM	4:30 PM	Closing - <i>Becca Edwards</i>

Morning Road map



Salsa music brings us back together!



If you hear the music, please wrap up your conversations and start the next activity.

This!



Not this!

Introductions

Let's start by meeting your group for the morning!

Please share:

- **Name**
- **Role:** what you do for CIRES
- **Location:** lab/department/center/program/team...
- **Your birthday!**

Group roles ~ Mapping the unknown

Put yourselves in order by birthday: (*write down your number!*)

1 = closest to today's date, forward or backward

Assign roles for the first discussion:

1 = Recorder - puts ideas on the easel

2 = Manager - makes sure that everyone is getting time to share ideas

3 = Timekeeper - gives warnings if time is almost up

4 = Technician - uses phone or computer for needed searches

If you have less than four people, combine roles 3 & 4

If you have five or six people, then 1-2 people will not have roles on this round!

Community agreements

- **Focused time:** We will limit any activities un-related to this workshop during this time (emails, external work, etc.)
- **Full participation:** Take note of who is speaking and who is not. If you tend to speak often, consider "moving back" and vice versa. If you notice some people have not shared their views, pause and allow time for people to "move up". Allow people to ask questions for clarification and be generous with your explanations.
- **Relationship building:** We will be respectful of our colleagues and their views. If anyone experiences discrimination or has a concern/issue, they can email or talk to the CIRES Access and Cultural Innovation Director (Becca Edwards) or excuse themselves to the check-in table to let the summit organizers know.
- **Self care:** Feel free to take care of yourself during this summit. You can get up, move around, and take breaks whenever you need to.

Round one

50 minutes

1 = Recorder

2 = Manager

3 = Timekeeper

4 = Technician

Individual reflection (quiet, 10 min)

Gaps in data, skills, tools, people, mindset for your table topic.
You can write on paper or your computer.

Discussion #1 (10 min)

Each person has up to **2 min** to share their ideas without interruption.

Discussion #2 (15 min)

Discuss as a group the ideas, themes that were presented

Summary (15 min)

Determine what themes are important to tackle!

Round one

50 minutes

"Write drunk, edit sober!"

1 = Recorder

2 = Manager

3 = Timekeeper

4 = Technician

Individual reflection (quiet, 10 min)

Gaps in data, skills, tools, people, mindset for your table topic.
You can write on paper or your computer.

Discussion #1 (10 min)

Each person has up to **2 min** to share their ideas without interruption.

Discussion #2 (15 min)

Discuss as a group the ideas, themes that were presented

Summary (15 min)

Determine what themes are important to tackle!

Morning group roles

Reverse roles for the second discussion:

1 = Technician - uses phone or computer for needed searches

2 = Timekeeper - Gives warnings if time is almost up

3 = Manager - makes sure that everyone is getting time to share ideas

4 = Recorder - puts ideas on the easel

If you have five people:

2 = Technician

3 = Timekeeper

4 = Manager

5 = Recorder

If you have six people:

3 = Technician

4 = Timekeeper

5 = Manager

6 = Recorder

Round two

50 minutes

- 1 = Technician
- 2 = Timekeeper
- 3 = Manager
- 4 = Reporter



Individual reflection (quiet time, 10 min)

Draft research questions for the themes that your group proposed.

Discussion #1 (10 min)

Each person has up to **2 min** to share their questions without interruption.

Discussion #2 (15 min)

Discuss as a group the questions that were presented for each theme.

Summary (15 min)

Determine which theme along with the questions to focus on for the afternoon.

Round two

50 minutes

Individual reflection (quiet time, 10 min)

Draft research questions

One.

Create a new easel page(s) with your theme and research questions

And confirm the Rapporteur for the afternoon!
(see Nate for a computer if needed)

Remember Rapporteurs get sweet swag!

Sum

which topic along with the questions that are important.

Reflection

15 minutes

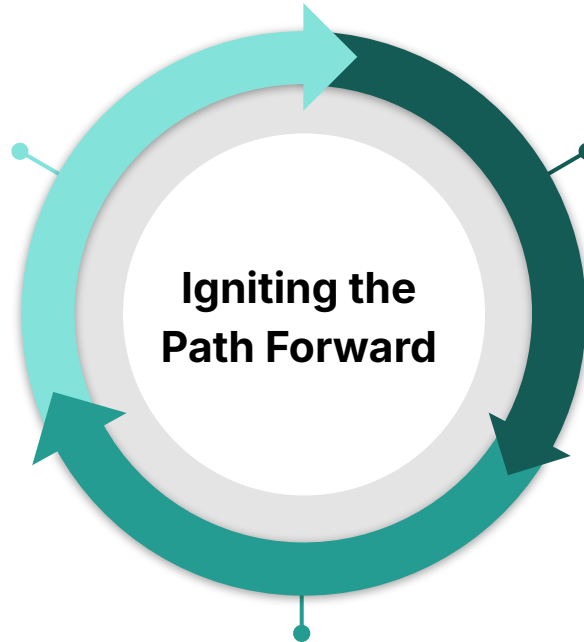
How did your discussions go this morning? We would like to hear about your process.

- Is it your first time at the Science Summit? What are your impressions?
- What surprised you in the conversations this morning?
- What are you enjoying about the Science Summit so far?

Road map

REPORT OUT

Each rapporteur
will have 1.5
minutes to share!



WORLD CAFE round 1

Start creating a draft proposal:
The What, Why and How

WORLD CAFE round 2

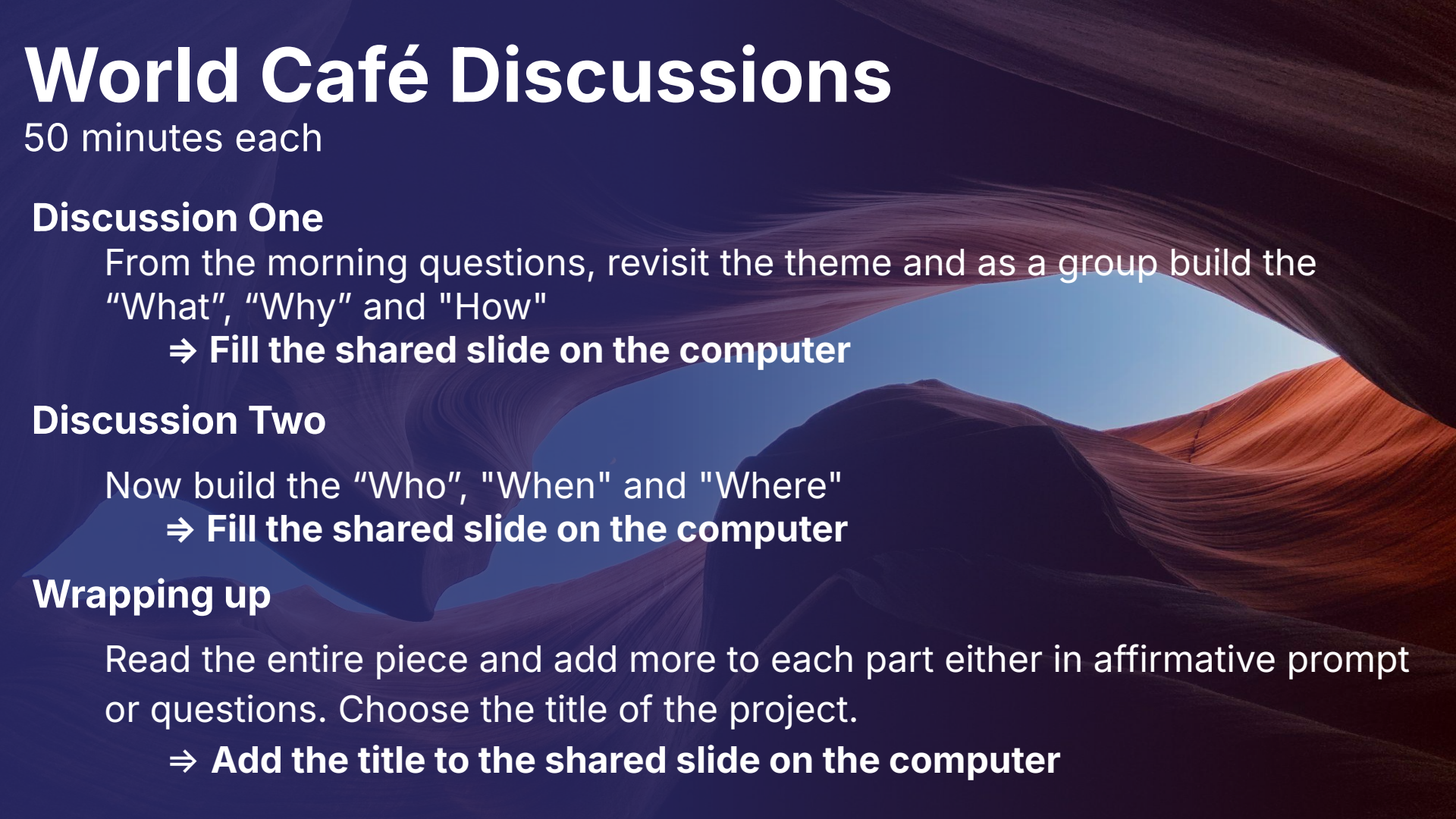
Continue the draft proposal:
The Who, When and Where

Rapporteur's role

One for each table

- Stay at the same table for the two sessions of discussion
- Facilitate the discussions
- Take notes
- Fill the shared slide for the shareout – template provided for each table
- Present the slide
- Enjoy the CIRES swag!

World Café Discussions



50 minutes each

Discussion One

From the morning questions, revisit the theme and as a group build the "What", "Why" and "How"

⇒ **Fill the shared slide on the computer**

Discussion Two

Now build the "Who", "When" and "Where"

⇒ **Fill the shared slide on the computer**

Wrapping up

Read the entire piece and add more to each part either in affirmative prompt or questions. Choose the title of the project.

⇒ **Add the title to the shared slide on the computer**

Example Rapporteur Shareout ~ Igniting the way forward

Table # - Topic Area

Title:

What	Why	How	Who	When	Where

The Science Summit slide deck is available to all: tinyurl.com/ScienceSummit26

If you are a rapporteur, **please request edit access!** Then, find the right slide for your table.

World Café Round #1

1:05-1:55

Discussion One

From the morning questions, revisit the theme on the easel and as a group build the "**What**", "**Why**" and "**How**"

⇒ **Fill the shared slide on the computer**

World Café Round #2

2:10-3:00



Discussion Two

Now build the “**Who**”, “**When**” and “**Where**”

⇒ **Fill the shared slide on the computer**

tinyurl.com/SCIENCESUMMITSURVEY

Survey



Please fill out this anonymous survey to help us gather feedback on this event!

We do use this feedback to make adjustments to the structure and activities of this event.

Shareout Instructions

45 minutes

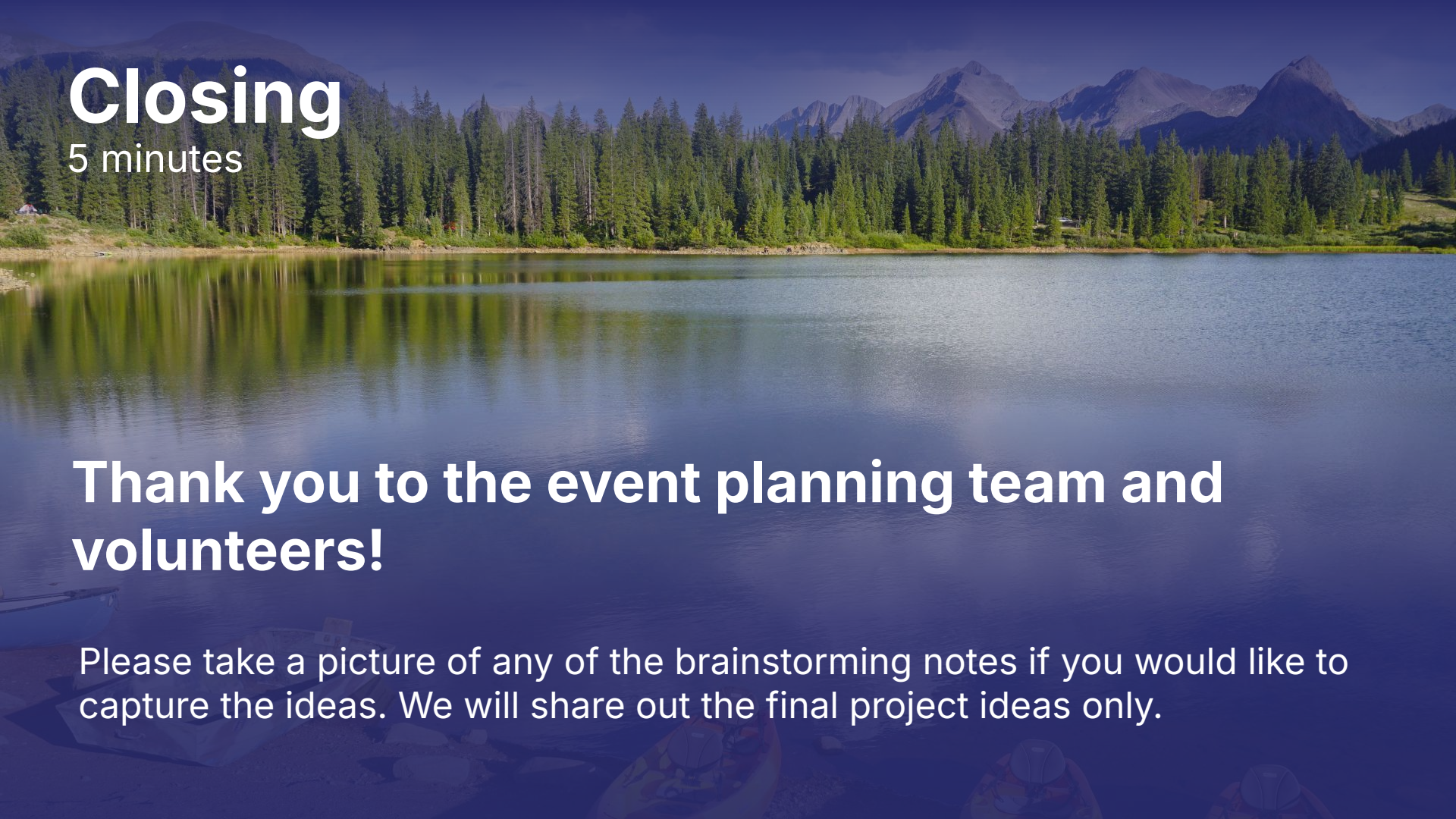
- Each rapporteur will have **1 ½ minutes** to share their slide.
- Nate will show a **yellow card** when there are 30 seconds left.
- Nate will show an **orange card** when time is up!
- Please be succinct! We have 17 projects to hear about.

Group Reflection

10 minutes

How did your discussions go this afternoon? We would like to hear about your process.

How did the day go? What did you enjoy? What was most impactful for you?



Closing

5 minutes

Thank you to the event planning team and volunteers!

Please take a picture of any of the brainstorming notes if you would like to capture the ideas. We will share out the final project ideas only.

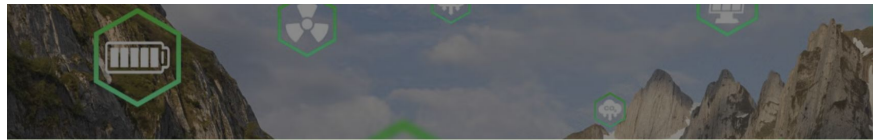
Salsa music ends our day!



Thank you for coming!

We will update the website and send out:

- Projects slide deck
- Event slide deck
- a participant contact list
- Photos (website only)
- information about the IRP application process



Sustainability Research Summit

October 8–9, 2026 • University Memorial Center

[Summit Information](#) [Register Now](#) [Add to Google Calendar](#) [Add to Outlook or iCal](#)

The **Sustainability Research Summit** is a two-day event designed to connect CU Boulder researchers and expand their collaborations, as well as reach external parties who are interested in partnering with the university, investing in CU Boulder start-ups, or drawing upon our research expertise.

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