



AADPRT Annual Meeting Location Selection FAQs

1. How does AADPRT choose the location for its Annual Meeting?

AADPRT uses a structured process to select annual meeting locations. Factors considered include geographic diversity, accessibility, venue capacity, cost, ability to host all programming and registrants at the same property, and overall attendee experience. We often aim to sign multi-year agreements with hotels/hotel brands to secure the best financial terms.

2. Who makes the final decision on the meeting location?

The AADPRT Steering Committee functions as the organization's financial authority, evaluating options and making the final decision.

3. How far in advance are locations selected?

Locations are selected **3–5 years in advance** to secure desirable venues, negotiate favorable contracts, ensure adequate space, and provide ample time for planning.

4. What are the main criteria used in evaluating potential host cities?

Key factors include:

- **Conference space:**
 - Ability to accommodate programming (including plenary and more than 20 simultaneous breakout sessions), exhibits, posters, and social events
 - Flow of the space – ability to quickly move between programming rooms, adequate space to move large groups of people at the same time
 - Natural light
 - Outdoor access
- **Hotel capacity:** the ability of the property to host all programming and guest rooms



- **Hotel hospitality and expertise:** staff friendliness, diversity, and knowledge of hotel, the surrounding area, and the unique needs of both guests and organization to ensure a positive experience
- **Ease of travel:** airlift (the number of flights that go in and out of an airport each day, particularly direct flights to a variety of cities), ample ground transportation options
- **Cost** for attendees and the organization, including guest room rate, accessibility to a variety of restaurants offering different price points, flight costs, ground transportation, etc.
- **City appeal** and safety
- **Rotation of geographic regions** to support equity and accessibility
- **Climate:** Historically, there has been a strong, underlying request for a warm weather destination

5. Does AADPRT rotate meeting locations geographically?

Yes. We strive to rotate meeting sites across different regions to ensure accessibility for members nationwide and to promote inclusivity.

6. Why are some cities selected more frequently than others?

Some cities consistently meet all logistical, financial, and space requirements and have a strong track record of successful meetings. However, AADPRT remains committed to evaluating new cities as well.

7. Why don't we meet in the same city each year? Wouldn't it save money to stay in the same city?

While hosting in the same city repeatedly could offer some cost savings, rotating locations enhances equity, increases access for members in different regions, and keeps the meeting fresh and engaging.

8. Why is the guest room night cost for the 2026 annual meeting higher than in past years?



Contracts for all properties through the 2025 meeting were negotiated before COVID. Beginning in late 2020, hotels and convention centers instituted a variety of new fees, tightened flexibilities, increased cancellation penalties, and increased minimum spend on food & beverage to recover lost dollars. Additionally, prices have increased in general since 2020, especially in the hotel industry.

9. We switched from Hilton to Gaylord Hotels (Marriott) for the coming years. Why did this happen, and is it a factor in the increased costs?

When it was time to negotiate new contracts, we cast a net inviting all major hotel brands to submit a proposal. After reviewing the package provided by Gaylord, it was clear that the hotel better met our organization's needs at this time, based on the factors identified above.

10. Why don't we use multiple hotels in the same city to accommodate our needs?

We have repeatedly heard from members that they prefer meeting spaces to be centralized rather than spread across a convention center or multiple hotels. Using several hotels would require additional travel time between sessions, even if they are just down the block. This would mean extending break times, which could increase the overall length of the conference or limit the number of workshops and plenaries we can offer. Additionally, using multiple properties means multiple contracts, exposing AADPRT to increased financial risk.

Our focus remains on fulfilling the request for a single meeting location.

11. I went to an excellent hotel for another meeting. Why can't we meet there?

We do not doubt that the hotel was great for THAT meeting. Each organization must evaluate locations based on member needs. Our administrative team is quite knowledgeable about the hotel conference industry and its offerings. Usually, the hotel in question does not meet our meeting space requirements. However, should you wish to share a suggestion, email Sara at exec@aadprt.org.

12. As a member of AADPRT, we should not go to states that do not align with our mission.

We understand your concerns. We have received feedback from a few members about this issue over the years. As mentioned earlier, hotel contracts are signed years in advance. Political climates and resulting policy can change during that period.



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Contractually, we are obligated to hold a meeting in a city regardless of the political or cultural environment. If we choose to cancel, AADPRT would incur a significant fee, thereby limiting the benefits we could provide to our members, increasing member costs, and potentially leading to the organization's bankruptcy. It is important to note that while a cancellation penalty might be significant to AADPRT, if/when we cancel, we have little to no influence on decision makers in the state because we are relatively quite small to other conferences.

We have AADPRT members, trainees, and patients in every state. They work hard, often in challenging conditions, to improve education and psychiatric care for everyone. We have contacted our members in these states, and they encouraged AADPRT to hold its annual meeting there. They believe our presence has a greater impact than our absence, and they feel supported when AADPRT stands with them. They feel left behind when AADPRT isn't there to support them in their home state.

All of our members need us. We must stand together. We will continue doing our best to advance our educational mission whenever we visit any state.

Many factors influence choosing a location for the annual meeting. No matter what we do, it won't be perfect for everyone. We will keep working to serve all our members as we gather each Spring.