



HOMEBREW CON 2026

SPEAKER TIPS AND TRICKS GUIDE

Welcome, and thank you for being part of Homebrew Con 2026, brought to you by the American Homebrewers Association.

What makes a great Homebrew Con session? Here are four top tips!

- 1) Attendees love ideas they can immediately apply at home.
- 2) Know the Audience

Homebrew Con attendees include:

- First-year brewers
- Longtime hobbyists
- Award-winning competitors
- Club leaders
- Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) judges
- Industry professionals attending as hobbyists

The best sessions:

- Avoid talking down to beginners
- Avoid overly academic jargon without explanation
- Balance technical depth with accessibility
- Include examples for different experience levels

Keep Slides Visual

- Use photos, charts, recipes, process visuals, and examples
- Limit dense text
- Large fonts are appreciated
- Avoid reading slides word-for-word

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3) Build Interaction Into the Session. Engagement keeps energy high!

- Ask questions
- Use quick polls/show of hands
- Encourage audience participation
- Leave time for Q&A

4) Timing Matters. Please rehearse and stay within your allotted time.

Ideal pacing:

- ~80–85% presentation
- ~15–20% audience Q&A

Ending on time helps attendees transition between sessions and respects fellow speakers.

Other helpful tips:

- Most sessions will be recorded and published on Homebrewersassociation.org after the conference for AHA member access.
 - Ensure any questions you receive are restated into your microphone so the recording captures it.
- Ensure you follow the HBC [Code of Conduct](#) and [Speaker Policies](#).
- For the latest information on the AHA, please scan [AHA's latest news](#) since July 2025 (when we went independent). For more on the AHA's history [see here](#).

Thank YOU. Your expertise and willingness to share with the homebrewing community help make Homebrew Con special. We appreciate the time, preparation, and passion you bring to the event.

See [here](#) for all HBC Speaker Resources

The American Homebrewers Association (AHA)—The AHA, founded in 1978, is built and directed by members. We deliver unmatched membership benefits, including (Zymurgy® Magazine), recipes (NHC validated), resources (HomebrewersAssociation.org), and rewards (AHA Member Deals, Annual Recognition Awards, and National Homebrew

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Competition Awards). The association serves as a community hub for thousands of members and connects and celebrates homebrewers worldwide. Our vision is simple yet powerful: A homebrewer in every neighborhood and a homebrew club in every community.

Homebrew Con (HBC) is the AHA's annual conference. It unites our members and celebrates both the art and science of brewing and fermentation. It is the world's largest and longest-running gathering of homebrewers. Visit HomebrewCon.org.

The **National Homebrew Competition (NHC)** recognizes the most outstanding world-class homebrewed beer, mead, and cider. Started in 1979, to this day, it remains the largest homebrew competition in the world. Visit HomebrewersAssociation.org/NHC.

For more about the AHA, [see here](#).

For more about the new A-Ha Foundation, [see here](#).

For more about Zymurgy Magazine, [see here](#).

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