



Top 30 Tips for Making the Most of an IWF Conference

1. **Pop-up shops offer unique items...make time for them.**
2. Don't forget business cards...lots of networking going on.
3. **Download IWF Conference app and provide your profile and identify some women that you would like to connect with personally or professionally based on their own profile. Reach out ahead of time or once you get to the conference to ensure that you connect.**
4. The days can feel long but participate in the bar gatherings at the end of the night; great way to meet people and share experiences.
5. **Bring a hostess gift for the dine around (sometimes there are two hostesses).**
6. If you purchased an IWF scarf...don't forget it. Or buy one there! Exclusive new scarf design offered each year.
7. **Make dinner reservations ahead of time.**
8. Branch out ...make new friends...don't just hang with those you know!
9. **Make sure you get in on the IWF Chicago group photo (Marilyn Lissner is coordinating).**
10. Take lots of candid photos and submit to *The Bridges* Magazine.
11. **Offer to write an article about your experience for *The Bridges*.**
12. Bring walking shoes!
13. **Dress code is all over the place...for the most part 'business smart' though for the Friday Gala some gowns do come out!**
14. Check out the attendance list released in advance and reach out to old friends and ask others to meet to network.
15. **When meeting IWF members ask about their local 'best practices'...bring home new ideas for IWF Chicago.**
16. Never sit in the same spot. Don't sit with a table of all Chicago peeps.
17. **Come with questions you want answered and/or people you want to meet.**
18. Connect with as many folks from our chapter who are first time attendees.
19. **Sit with new people.**
20. Go to breakfast and lunch to leverage the networking opportunities.
21. **Sign up for the dine around. Great place for photos but be sure YOU are in them!**
22. Seek out women from other countries...*international* is what distinguishes us from other networking groups.
23. **Take advantage of 'Behind the Scenes' to learn about a totally new topic.**
24. Bring flat shoes and casual pants for a quick change before 'Behind the Scenes'.

25. **Don't make dinner reservations on Wednesday after the opening reception. TAKE ADVANTAGE of one of the only open networking opportunities.**
26. Tell Laurel Bellows or Mary Lee Montague who you want to meet no later than Friday, October 19, and we will do our best to help facilitate an intro.
27. **Put your picture on your vCard, so when you share it with women at the conference, they will more easily remember you.**
28. Make notes about the women you meet, including those at the Dine-Around, to remember them at another conference.
29. **Attend the breakfasts and breaks for mingling; it's easier to spot people and chat than in the dark meeting room where everyone is trying to find a seat.**
30. Thank the IWF staff...they are pros at delivering the best for IWF members!

Many thanks to the following IWF members for sharing your conference experiences: ***Lynne Nellesmann, Bets Lillo, Mary Lee Montague, Amy Dordek Dolinsky, Laurel Bellows, Sarah Bader, LeeAnn Hoover, Marilyn Lissner, Pamela Forbes Lieberman, Sylvia Pozarnsky, Sidney Dillard, Ginger Gorden.***