Case Study NCA & Feathr

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NCA drives registrations and delights exhibitors by partnering with Feathr.







NCA: Portrait of an Association

The National Confectioners Association is a trade organization whose mission is to advance, protect, and promote the companies that make the candy treats we all love. Established in 1884, NCA boasts 600 members and provides education and advocacy for a 36 billion dollar industry.



Modern Challenges

Despite being a small association, NCA puts on a huge annual event. The event, Sweets & Snacks Expo, boasts 17,000+ attendees and more than 800 exhibitors while delivering access to the most candy and snacks networking, products, and trends. The expo has sold out the last five years running, and expanded into two exhibition halls in the last two years. With numbers like these, Sweets & Snacks Expo was already a success.

The real challenge, according to NCA's attendee marketer Jenn Ellek, is to stay progressive and continually seek better quality attendee/exhibitor matches. As the recipient of IAEE's 2016 Outstanding Achievement in Marketing & Sales award, Jenn knows the importance of continuous improvement, and she is always on the search for new ways to garner qualified registrations, especially for exhibitors to invite their customers. "They are the lifeblood of attendee growth," says Jenn. She continues, "there has been an ongoing technology gap in effective, turnkey invitation tools in the events space."

Digital Solutions

For 2017's Sweets & Snacks Expo, NCA turned to Feathr. Jenn and her colleagues were introduced to Feathr through industry word of mouth, and after seeing a demo of Feathr's platform, they were convinced of its capabilities to replace and improve upon their current tools. With the help of Feathr's customer success team, NCA integrated Feathr into its strategy for Sweets & Snacks Expo.



Jenn and her colleagues were especially interested in Feathr's custom co-branded referral landing page feature. More personalized, more eye-catching, and more shareable than traditional email invites, Feathr's landing pages are designed to leverage individual exhibitors' networks to drive conversions, awareness, and engagement, all to the mutual benefit of both exhibitor and association.





Feathr's landing pages cleverly reconcile the branding for both the show and the individual exhibitor, enabling viral sharing without compromising brand integrity. Extremely customizable, the landing pages can highlight individual speakers, sessions, and sponsors in addition to exhibitors. Any event partner can be highlighted in a custom landing page, enabling both organizer and partner to utilize their social networks to maximize conversion. It's a novel solution to an old problem, and NCA recognized its potential.

Armed with an innovative, data-driven incentive for Sweets & Snack's exhibitors, Jenn and her team went to work.





One of Feathr's referral landing pages from the Sweets & Snacks Expo exhibitor campaign that drove hundreds of clicks and 18 new registrations.

Effectively Engaging Exhibitors

"The exhibitors loved the landing pages," said Jenn. "They loved that it was one click. They loved that it looked like our website but they were branded in it too. We got a lot of feedback on the slickness of it and the ease of use."



Jenn Ellek Attendee marketer

Exhibitor enthusiasm was clear. The landing pages were a popular and effective solution to an old problem, but the real test would be how Feathr's custom landing pages performed. And they did.

Data Delivers



While the customizable landing pages were the crispy cookie center of NCA's campaign, some of Feathr's other features were the chocolate coating on top. "Feathr did a great job on the retargeting campaigns that we didn't think we were interested in at first, and then we realized we needed to be doing this," said Jenn about Feathr's display ad retargeting, which drove over 300 additional registrations.

Feathr's scalable personalization capabilities were another big draw for NCA. "It was very helpful for us to upload emails and then run a campaign that includes a custom message, and then see the results. I don't know anyone else who's doing it like that." NCA was also able to create over 800 customized landing pages using Feathr's simple page builder. For more information about Feathr's personalization features, please visit feathr.co/platform.





NCA's first experience using Feathr accomplished the association's goal of upgrading to a data-driven platform for show growth. The resulting returns, of course, cemented the decision as a smart one. About Feathr, Jenn says, "This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to get the most from their data. It's something we saw success with in year one, and definitely something we want to enhance in year two. We think it will help us with our overall campaign awareness and with registration conversions."

If you'd like to learn more about data-driven personalization and best practices for your association, please visit us at feathr.co/associations.



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