

COLUMBUS WEB VERSION PRE-REGISTRATION BROCHURE August 9-13, 2025

Note: This information will be updated periodically.

WELCOME TO COLUMBUS

Columbus is ready to roll out the red carpet for you in August! Located within a day's drive or hour's flight from more than half of the U.S., our smart, open, and welcoming community was built on bold ideas and is fueled by relentless optimism. We dream big in Columbus and let nothing stop us from turning today's ideas into innovative and inspired tomorrows.

From our state-of-the-art convention center to our award-winning food scene, from active adventures to the diverse cultural experiences, find your vibe in Columbus and see why we say #yesColumbus.

CONVENTION LOCATION

Convention activities will take place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center located at 400 N High St, in Columbus OH 43215.

Please note for your convenience and safety Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) is a cashless facility. All food and beverage purchases are completed using a credit or debit card, cash is not accepted.

LOCATION

Did you know Columbus is a top 10 best big city in the U.S. and one of the best food cities in the country according to *Condé Nast Traveler*, one of the top places to go in 2025 according to *AFAR* and one of the best solo trips for women in the U.S. and around the world by *Glamour*? [yes, Columbus](#). Columbus is bold, welcoming and forward-thinking. Home to world-class museums and attractions, historic and unique neighborhoods like the Short North Arts District, historic German Village and the Arena District — where four professional sports teams live on one street — Columbus has so much to offer. Visitors can learn what awaits in the 14th largest city in the country and Ohio's capital by visiting www.ExperienceColumbus.com

WHAT TO WEAR

A general guideline for attire for the convention is business casual for meetings. For VFW members, it is always appropriate to have your cap on hand for meetings. Jackets are not required unless you are, All American Commanders) and may be on stage to receive your award as photographs are taken during those functions.

AIRPORT

[John Glenn Columbus International Airport](#) (CMH) has been named one of the best airports for passenger experience, earning the 2020 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for Best Airport by Size and Region. John Glenn International is dedicated to making the airport experience as easy and enjoyable as possible. Currently, more than 150+ daily flights depart CMH to 50+ destinations nonstop and 100% of CMH's energy supply is from renewable resources.

GETTING AROUND COLUMBUS

Getting around is a breeze! The Convention Center and Short North are very walkable. For easy transportation, hop on a bike with COGo or take a ride with E.C.T Pedicab. Scooters from Lime, Bird, and Spin are also available. Public transit is convenient with COTA buses, or choose from ride services like Lyft, Uber, Yellow Cab, and Zipcar. See more information here: [Travel and Transportation in Columbus](#).

PARKING

Parking at the Greater Columbus Convention Center is convenient, with several garages and surface lots available nearby. The Ohio Center Garage offers direct access to the convention center, while the Goodale Garage and Vine Street Garage provide additional options within walking distance. Parking rates vary based on location and duration. Visitors can prepay for parking online to guarantee a spot. For real-time availability and directions, check the Convention Center Parking website or use mobile parking apps. For more information please visit: <https://parking.columbusconventions.com/Onlinetickets/index.aspx>

REGISTRATION PACKET PICK-UP

See mobile APP for times and locations of registration/packet pick-up. Registration for both VFW and for Auxiliary,

Want to miss the crowds/lines and pick-up your badge and packets early? Try remote registration. Both the VFW and the Auxiliary will have **remote registration** set-up at the Kentucky International convention center. VFW only accepts credit cards on this day.

VFW & Auxiliary Remote "Pre-Registration":

Friday, August 8, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Location: Central Entrance of the Convention Center (to the right as you walk in)

PACKET PICK-UP

VFW - if you are not pre-registered, you will need to go to registration at the convention center on Saturday, August 9th, starting at 8:00 AM to register and pick-up your convention packet.

MOBILE APP

We will NOT be publishing a convention schedule of events in hard copy. All events and convention information will be contained in the Mobile APP. Go to www.vfw.org/convention for instructions on how to download the mobile APP which will be available closer to the dates of the convention. The mobile APP provides immediate updates on any changes that may occur during the convention.

SHUTTLES

The hotels in Columbus are in the downtown area and **all connected to the convention center**.

Therefore, the decision has been made that there will **NOT** be shuttle service provided for the 2025 Columbus convention.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Housing opens **3/18/25 and closes 7/1/25**. Go to www.vfw.org/convention. The official convention hotels for the 125th National convention will be listed on the convention web site. A list of convention department housing assignments will be located at that website.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

If you wish to store your luggage at the hotel before you check in, or after checking out before departure, please make arrangements with guest services.

GRATUITIES

You are responsible for all gratuities during your stay. Tipping is personal, as a guideline, we recommend gratuities of \$1 per day for your housekeeper and \$1 per bag for taxicab drivers and hotel bell-staff.

SAFETY TIPS (See hotel information located in room)

SPECIAL SERVICES

First Aid Room Greater Columbus Convention Center Saturday, 8/9 – Wednesday, 8/13 – Along back wall of Exhibit Hall B

Emergency after hour's numbers provided before convention or call 911.

Scooter rental –Scooter rental information is listed on the convention web page.

RV Park Information - https://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=rvparks&find_loc=Louisville%2C+ky

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Baptist

Shiloh Baptist Church

720 Mount Vernon Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 253-7946

Episcopal

Trinity Episcopal

125 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-5351

<https://www.trinitycolumbus.org/>

St. John's Episcopal

1003 W. Town St
Columbus, OH 43222-1438
614-221-9328

<https://st-johns-columbus.org/>

Greek Orthodox

Greek Orthodox Cathedral

555 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 224-9020

<https://www.greekcathedral.com/>

Islamic Mosque

Masjid As-Sahaba

2535 Cleveland Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211
(614) 262-8511

Islamic Center of Greater Columbus Masjid1428 E. Broad St.

Columbus OH 43205
614-253-3251

Jewish Synagogue/ Temple Congregation

Tifereth Israel

1354 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43205

QUIET ROOM

A QUIET ROOM for reflection will be open 24 hours at the Columbus Convention Center – *Check Mobile APP for location.*

MOTHERS ROOM

A mother's room will be located on-site at the convention center - *Check Mobile APP for location.*

AGENDA

See tentative web agenda at www.vfw.org 126th VFW National Convention information. A final agenda will be provided within the mobile APP and can be found by downloading the VFW Mobile APP approximately 2 weeks before the convention. Please note a Schedule of Events will **NOT** be printed. If you are unable to download the *Mobile App*. Please pick up a printed copy of the agenda at registration.

VISITOR INFORMATION COLUMBUS

Save: Attendee Savings Pass

With a walkable convention package, exceptional food and an abundance of activities, we hope you get the opportunity to truly experience the city. Download the Attendee Savings Pass on your mobile device and present it at participating businesses to enjoy deals and discounts exclusively for you. Whether you're on a short break or have more time to explore, there are plenty of opportunities to explore the city with the Attendee Savings Pass. Get your pass today at <https://www.experiencecolumbus.com/meetings/promote/attendeesavings/>. Simply present the pass on your phone when visiting a participating business to enjoy special savings.

Explore: Columbus' vibrant districts offer endless entertainment options. Collectively, the neighborhoods surrounding the convention center on High St. are referred to as the "[Five on High](#)."

Shop: Columbus is a fashion capital. Thanks to our central location — being within a day's drive of more than half the U.S. population — it's the perfect place for major fashion brands to set up their national headquarters. We're proud that Express, Abercrombie & Fitch, Eloquii, Designer Brands (DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse), Victoria's Secret & Co., Bath & Body Works, Inc. and more call our city home. See more information on shopping in Columbus [here](#).

Dine: Columbus is a rising culinary city named one of the best destinations for culinary travel in 2024 by [Essence](#) and one of the best food cities in the U.S. by [Condé Nast Traveler's 2024 Readers' Choice Awards](#). Our chefs and restaurants are making headlines in publications like *Food & Wine*, *Forbes* and *Bon Appétit*, and three Columbus chefs/restaurants were recently named [2025 James Beard Awards semifinalists](#). Columbus is home to restaurateur Cameron Mitchell and Jeni Britton, the mind behind [Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams](#), both with locations throughout the city. Whether you want to check out one of the top food halls in the country with your family, enjoy a date night downtown or toast to the weekend with friends at one of our rooftop bars, we've got a spot for you. Learn more about dining in Columbus [here](#).

Dining in Greater Columbus Convention Center: The Convention Center has several options available in the main concourse, South Café, and Marketplace.

Visit Museums & Galleries: At the heart of Ohio, Columbus was named the state capital in 1812, following previously established capitals in Zanesville and Chillicothe (twice). The [Ohio Statehouse](#), completed in 1861, is one of the oldest working statehouses in the country and offers daily tours as well as an on-site museum. Explore more [here](#).

Things to Do with Kids in Columbus

No matter their interest, your kids will find something they love in Columbus. From the nationally ranked Columbus Zoo and Aquarium to one of the top-rated science centers in the country, COSI, and everything in between — there is truly something for every little one! Also be sure to check out upcoming [family-friendly events](#).

- [Bloc Garten](#)
- [COSI](#)
- [LEGOLAND](#)
- [Otherworld](#)
- [ZipZone Outdoor Adventures](#)
- [Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#)

Attractions

<https://www.experiencecolumbus.com/things-to-do/attractions/>

Purchase Attraction Ticket Bundles

<https://www.experiencecolumbus.com/marketplace/>

VISITOR CENTER

Visiting Columbus? Stop by one of our visitor centers to learn more about our city, get recommendations for places to visit and shop our exclusive merchandise. Visit our Arena District location at 277 W Nationwide Blvd #125. Open Mondays – Fridays: 9am – 5pm, and Saturdays: 10am – 3pm. Visitors can also call the Visitor Center at 614-221-6623.

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