



2026 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C.
City Guide





Washington, D.C. City Guide

To further assist with your travel plans, we've created this guide, which provides helpful information on the following topics:

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Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

Welcome to FCCLA's 2026 National Leadership Conference (NLC)! We are thrilled to have you join us in Washington, D.C. Our nation's history is rooted in the spirit of service, innovation, and unity; values that FCCLA has shared since our founding in 1945. With this year's theme, being **ConneCTEd**, it is especially heartwarming to come together here, in the heart of our country.



Inside this City Guide, you will find helpful information about airport transportation, public transit, parking, dining, medical facilities, places of interest, safety, and so much more designed to support your experience. Think of this guide not simply as a reference, but as a roadmap to making memories, exploring new opportunities, and ensuring your time at NLC is truly unforgettable.

Welcome to the 2026 National Leadership Conference!



Airport Transportation

Airports:

Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA)

2401 S Smith Blvd

Arlington, VA 22202

Approximately 8 miles/15 minutes from the various hotels.

This airport is the closest airport to downtown D.C.

Dulles International Airport (IAD)

1 Saarinen Cir

Sterling, VA 20166

Approximately 30 miles/40 minutes to the various hotels.

During heavy traffic times, driving times can range up to one hour.

Baltimore Washington Airport (BWI)

7050 Friendship Rd

Baltimore, MD 21240

Approximately 40 miles/45 minutes to the various hotels.

During heavy traffic times, driving times can range up to one hour or more.

Don't forget to check out the FCCLA-specific airline discount codes for **Delta Airlines** and **United Airlines** when booking your conference flights. Click [here](#) to be directed to these travel discounts on the NLC website.

Real ID Reminder:

As you prepare to attend our National Conference, ensure your identification meets federal travel standards. Adult passengers 18 and older must show valid identification at airport check points and federal office buildings. Acceptable IDs are listed [here](#).

Starting, February 1, 2026, if you are unable to provide the required acceptable form of ID at a TSA checkpoint, you will have the option to pay a \$45 fee to use TSA ConfirmID. TSA will then attempt to verify your identity so you can begin the airport screening process. Visit the [TSA ConfirmID](#) page and pay the fee ahead of time if you do not have an acceptable ID listed.

TSA does not require children under 18 to provide identification within the U.S. Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under 18.

However, **if you're 18 or older, you will need a Real ID, a valid passport, or another TSA-approved form of documentation.** A star in the top-right corner identifies a Real ID and meets federal security standards.

For more information on obtaining a Real ID, visit the TSA website [here](#).



Ground Transportation:

Once you arrive at the airport, you must arrange ground transportation to your hotel. The Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) airport is approximately 8 miles from the various hotels, Dulles International Airport (IAD) is approximately 30 miles, and Baltimore–Washington International Airport (BWI) is approximately 40 miles. Plan ahead by reviewing the options below for transportation between the airport and the hotels. Be mindful of the heavy D.C. traffic especially around rush hour times which can affect your travel costs.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) to Downtown D.C.

- Metrorail: Approximately \$2.25 - \$6.75
 - Metrorail station connected to the concourse level of Terminal 2 at Reagan National Airport provides easy and affordable access to locations throughout D.C. and surrounding area. [Here](#) is information on getting to/from the Metrorail station/Terminals and the Metro system map.
- Taxi: Approximately \$20 - \$25
 - A [DCA Taxi Dispatcher](#) is available at designated taxi stands to ensure you are placed with a taxi.
 - From Terminal 1, proceed out the exit doors at baggage claim and turn right. The taxis are located on the curb closest to the Terminal.
 - From Terminal 2, proceed to the baggage claim lower level. Walk indoors to Doors 5 or 6 then proceed outside to the terminal curbside where a taxi dispatch location is clearly marked.
- Ride Apps: Approximately \$30 - \$45
 - [Ride App pickup](#): Uber, Lyft, and ALTO offer transportation services to passengers arriving to and departing from Reagan National Airport. For rides departing Reagan National, customers should use their smartphone to select the appropriate pick-up zone, and coordinate directly with their driver. Green flags located outside on the outer terminal curb designate the appropriate pick-up loading zones.
 - Terminal 1: Customers can meet their ride on the third (outer) curb.
 - Terminal 2: Customers can meet their ride on the Baggage Claim (Arrivals) Level -1st Floor on the outer curb. Please select Zone 1 through 4.



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Dulles International Airport (IAD) to Downtown D.C.

- Metrorail: Approximately \$2.25 - \$6.75
 - The [Metrorail station](#) at Dulles International Airport is connected to the main terminal by an indoor pedestrian tunnel with moving sidewalks.
- Taxi: Approximately \$75 - \$100
 - [Washington Flyer Taxicabs](#) serve Dulles International Airport exclusively with 24-hour service to/from the airport. No reservations are necessary. Simply follow the signs for Ground Transportation or Taxi to the lower level of the Terminal, DOWN the ramp to Door 1 or Door 7. A customer service representative is available 24 hours a day.
- Ride apps: Approximately \$60 - \$75
 - [Ride App pickup](#): 3rd curb located on the ground level outside of Baggage Claim, accessible via Doors 2, 4 or 6. Numbered and lettered zones (3A-3H) make finding your ride easy. Customers will be notified of their pick-up zone through in-app messaging.

Baltimore–Washington International Airport (BWI) to Downtown D.C.

- Public transportation options: Click [here](#) for step-by-step directions for below options.
 - MTA Commuter Bus #201 to Shady Grove Metro Station
 - Board free airport Amtrak/MARC Rail Shuttle to Union Station to catch Metrorail
- Taxi: Approximately \$80 - \$150
 - [Taxi stands](#) are located just outside of the baggage claim area on the Arrivals/Lower Level of the BWI Airport terminal near Doors 5 and 13.
- Ride apps: Approximately \$65 - \$100
 - [Rideshare pickup](#): Along the outer curb of the Departures/Upper Level between Doors 5–12. Crosswalks leading to the outer curb are located near Doors 5, 8, and 12.



Public Transportation

Washington, D.C. is a highly accessible city with a variety of convenient transportation options to help you navigate your visit with ease. Two popular options include the Metrorail and Metrobus systems, operated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which connect all major areas of D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. **Standard fares are \$2.25 per ride (\$4.80 for express routes) and can be paid using a SmarTrip card or mobile payment.** Find additional information [here](#).

Metrorail Information:

The Metrorail system consists of six color-coded lines (**Red, Orange, Silver, Blue, Yellow, and Green**). Trains typically run every 6–12 minutes during peak hours and every 12–15 minutes during off-peak times.

Access major destinations including the National Mall, Smithsonian museums, the U.S. Capitol, Reagan National Airport (via the Yellow and Blue Lines), and the Walter E. Washington Convention Center (served by Mt. Vernon Sq/7th St–Convention Center station on the Green/Yellow lines).

Metrobus Information:

The Metrobus provides service throughout Washington, D.C., and into surrounding Maryland and Virginia. Buses generally run from **early morning (around 5:00 AM) until midnight**, with some routes operating later.

Buses typically run every 10–20 minutes

Bus lines near Walter E. Washington Convention Center:

- 70 & 79 (Georgia Ave–7th St Line)
- 33 (Wisconsin Ave line)
- G8 (Rhode Island Ave line)
- D90 (Massachusetts Ave–Tenleytown)
- 74 (Convention Center–Southwest Waterfront)

Metrorail Hours of Operation:

- Monday-Thursday from 5:00 AM to midnight
- Friday from 5:00 AM to 2:00 AM
- Saturday from 6:00 AM to 2:00 AM
- Sunday from 6:00 AM to midnight



Bus stops near Walter E. Washington Convention Center:

- New York Ave NW & 9th St NW, 3 min walk
- 7 St NW + L St NW, 4 min walk
- 11 St NW + K St NW, 5 min walk
- 6 St NW + Massachusetts Ave NW, 6 min walk





Parking Options

Hotel Parking:

Most hotels provide self-parking and/or valet parking on their premises. Click [here](#) to view specific negotiated parking rates at each hotel on the Hotels-at-a-Glance spreadsheet under Resources.

Walter E. Washington Convention Center Parking:

There is no on-site parking available. Within a three-block radius, there are over 3,000 public parking spaces in commercial garages and lots. See some specific nearby garages and parking lots listed below. Review the convention center parking map [here](#).

CityCenter Garage Pricing:

- 0 -1 Hour \$12.00
- 1 -2 hours \$16.00
- All-Day \$22.00
- Overnight \$30.00
- Early Bird \$15.00 (Flat Rate - M-F in between 5:00 AM-9:00 AM & exit before 6:00 PM)
- Evening \$12.00 (M-F enter after 6:00 PM & exit before 2:00 AM)
- Weekends \$12.00 (Daily Flat Rate -must exit before 2:00 AM)

[CityCenter parking](#) is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Overhead doors are closed by Security every morning at 12:00 AM and reopened at 5:00 AM. Attendees are able to exit but not enter the garage at this time. **Payment Accepted: Cash, American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Google and Apple Pay***

Colonial Parking daily parking locator [here](#).

- Colonial Park (440 L St NW) -\$20/day
- Colonial Park (1100 L St NW) -\$21/day

PMI Parking daily parking locator [here](#).

- PMI Parking (900 New York Ave NW) - \$37/day
- PMI Parking (600 Massachusetts Ave NW) - \$24/day
- PMI Parking (1212 New York Ave NW) - \$18/day
- PMI Parking (300 Massachusetts Ave NW) -- \$22/day

Booking via Apps

Utilize [SpotHero](#), [BestParking](#), and [SpotAngels](#). These allow pre-booking spots, often at discounted rates compared to drive-up pricing.



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Bus Parking:

For groups arriving to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center or hotels by charter bus or motorcoach, please review the following information to ensure a smooth experience:

- **Designated Parking Areas**
 - RFK Stadium NE, Lot 3; \$30/day; 5:30 AM – 10:00 PM with in/out privileges
 - Union Station Parking Garage NW; \$20/day; 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Closest to Convention Center)
 - Hains Point/East Potomac Park SW; Free; 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
 - Limited curbside options exist around the National Mall for sightseeing stops
- **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Zones**
 - Clearly marked curbside locations are available near major attractions
 - Drivers must only use authorized bus zones; standard curb lanes and residential streets are off-limits
- **Permits and Registration**
 - Buses without apportioned commercial plates must obtain a [DC DMV trip permit](#)
 - Proof of proper permits should be kept in the vehicle and available for inspection

Washington, D.C. has strict guidelines to manage motor coach traffic. Drivers are expected to follow all posted signage closely, as restrictions vary by street and time of day. The city also enforces anti-idling laws, which means bus engines must be turned off when parked or waiting at a stop.

Where to Find More Information

- DDOT Tour Bus Parking Guide: ddot.dc.gov
- goDCgo Motor coach Resources: godcgo.com/motorcoach
- Motor coach Hotline: **Call 1-855-67-BUSES (28737)** for most current updates on parking and routing

Union Station Motor Coach/Charter/Bus Parking:

The Union Station Bus Terminal is designed to accommodate a number of tour and charter buses and offers convenient drop-off locations for tour groups. There are 32 bus spaces available daily and parking permits are issued on a first come, first serve basis. Only reservations are guaranteed a parking space. Rates vary depending on the time blocks through which the vehicle will be parked. If the vehicle will be parked during multiple time blocks, then the combined rates of those time blocks will be applied. Only parking reservations are sold at a flat rate and allow in and out privileges. All other parking permits expire upon exiting the building (even if there is time left on the permit) and a new permit must be purchased for re-entry. Bus parking may be reserved by sending an email including the requested dates and times to management@uspgllc.com.

Off-Peak and Non-Special Event Rates are in effect when it is not tourism season (July-February) or when there isn't a special event happening at the station. Peak & Special Event Rates are in effect from July-February and whenever there is a special event taking place at the station. See the Bus Parking Rates [here](#).



Dining Options

There are a multitude of restaurant options in the immediate convention center area, check them out below and [click here](#) for more options.

Hotel Restaurants located within the FCCLA hotels:

- [AC Hotel](#)
- [Hyatt House](#)
- [Embassy Suites by Hilton](#)
- [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#)
- [Grand Hyatt Washington](#)
- [Hampton Inn](#)
- [JW Marriott](#)
- [Marriott Marquis](#)
- [The Henley Park Hotel](#)
- [Washington Marriott at Metro Center](#)

Recharge with sweet treats and coffee:

- [Baker's Daughter](#): Fresh pastries, coffee and breakfast
- [Bluestone Lane](#): Australian café, light bites
- [Compass Coffee](#): Popular local roaster
- [Dolcezza Gelato & Coffee](#): Gelato, coffee
- [Fresh Baguette](#): Authentic French breads baked daily
- [La Colombe Coffee](#): Espresso, crafted brews
- [Maman](#): Cozy French café offering beautiful baked goods
- [Seylou Bakery](#): Whole-grain, stone-milled breads and pastries
- [Tatte](#): Chic, modern, Mediterranean-inspired café
- [Union Kitchen Grocery](#): Local snacks and quick bites
- [Union Market Vendors](#): Eclectic eats, desserts

Restaurants located near Convention Center that are good for groups:

- [Carmine's](#): Family-style Italian classics
- [Clyde's of Gallery Place](#): American favorites in a classic setting
- [Founding Farmers & Distillers](#): Farm-inspired American dishes
- [Hard Rock Café](#): Rock 'n' roll themed chain with high-energy vibe serving burgers and American classics
- [Matchbox](#): upscale American bistro renowned for its wood-fired pizzas and mini burgers
- [Succotash Prime](#): Progressive perspective of Southern favorites
- [Unconventional Diner](#): Comfort food with creative twists
- [Yard House](#): American hearty bites

Don't miss out on special savings during your trip! FCCLA attendees have access to [Exclusive Discounts](#) for some of Washington, D.C.'s top attractions and experiences.



D.C. Bucket List

Take time to experience the nation's capital with these D.C. Bucket List locations! From world-class museums and historic monuments and attractions, there are countless ways to explore. Check out these options to make the most of your visit and truly get ConnectEd while in Washington, D.C.!

National Landmarks & Monuments

- [Jefferson Memorial](#)
- [Lincoln Memorial](#)
- [Washington Monument](#)
- [Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial](#)
- [Korean War Veterans Memorial](#)
- [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#)
- [World War II Memorial](#)
- [Supreme Court of the United States](#)
- [U.S. Capitol Building](#) (tours available)
- [The White House](#) (exterior view)

Smithsonian Museums (Free Admission)

- [National Museum of American History](#)
- [National Museum of Natural History](#)
- [National Air & Space Museum](#)
- [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#)
- [National Museum of the American Indian](#)
- [Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden](#)
- [National Portrait Gallery](#)
- [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#)
- [National Museum of Asian Art](#)
- [National Zoological Park](#)

Parks & Outdoor Spaces

- [National Mall](#) (central green space connecting monuments and museums)
- [Tidal Basin](#)
- [Georgetown Waterfront Park](#)
- [Rock Creek Park](#)
- [Theodore Roosevelt Island](#)
- [U.S. National Arboretum](#)

Additional Museums & Experiences

- [International Spy Museum](#)
- [Library of Congress](#) (Jefferson Building's Main Reading Room and exhibits)
- [Museum of Illusions](#)
- [National Archives Museum](#) (see the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights)
- [Planet Word Museum](#) (interactive museum of language and words)
- [State Fairs: Growing American Craft](#) at the [Renwick Gallery](#); Free Admission
First major exhibition to survey American state fairs' extraordinary and unconventional crafts from the nineteenth century to the present.
- [George Washington University Museum & Textile Museum](#)
Museum celebrates the creative achievements of people here in the capital city and around the world.
- [National Building Museum House & Home Exhibit](#)
Kaleidoscopic array of photos, models, and films that take us on a tour of houses through past and present, challenging our ideas about what it means to be at home in America.



America's 250th Anniversary



On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

At NLC, you'll be part of that living legacy. Through service, storytelling, and leadership, each of you has the power to shape America's next chapter. Join us, united in states, cultures, and communities to celebrate freedom, embrace responsibility, and ignite hope. America's story is our story, and together, we'll write the next 250 years.

Join the celebration and explore opportunities [here](#) to get engaged and find ways to commemorate this historic moment in our nation's history whether in D.C. or back in your communities.

D.C. 250th EVENTS & FESTIVALS

The 250th anniversary will be filled with moments that bring people together. Enjoy parades, concerts, cultural showcases, and special commemorations that highlight the diversity and spirit of our nation. Explore it [here](#).

D.C.'S HISTORY = AMERICA'S HISTORY

Washington, D.C. has been at the heart of our nation's story. From the signing of historic legislation to the voices of movements that shaped democracy, D.C.'s past reflects the milestones, struggles, and triumphs of America itself. Explore it [here](#).

D.C.'s ICONIC ATTRACTIONS

Step into history [here](#) with immersive exhibits, tours of iconic landmarks, and hands-on activities designed for all ages. Whether exploring museums, enjoying live performances, or participating in community events, these experiences bring America's 250th to life in unforgettable ways.



Medical Care Facilities

Closest Hospital

- [GW University Hospital and Emergency Room](#)

900 23rd St NW
Washington, DC 20037
Main Line: 202-715-4000

Closest Pharmacies

- [CVS Pharmacy](#)

675 K St NW Washington, DC 20001
202-682-0170
Hours: 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
1 block from the Convention Center

- [Walgreens Pharmacy](#)

801 7th St NW, Washington, DC 20001
202-789-5345
Hours: 7:00 AM - 12 AM
4 blocks from the Convention Center

Closest Urgent Cares

- [GW Primary Care - McPherson Square](#)

1101 15th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Main Line: 833-694-9362
Hours: M – TH 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM,
Fri 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

- [AllCare Primary & Immediate Care](#)

1710 Rhode Island Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20036
202-787-1979
Hours: M-F 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM;
Weekends 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

EMT Services:

FCCLA provides EMT services during all hours of the conference. Exact EMT hours and location can be found in the conference app.

In addition, all security services staff at the convention center are trained and certified by the Red Cross in basic first aid and CPR practices and are trained to use automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). AEDs are located throughout the convention center, and one is issued to all contracted medical providers on duty.



Safety Tips

As a highly traveled destination in the U.S., D.C. takes safety extremely seriously. Visitors are advised to observe basic safety procedures, adhere to local laws, and report crime to appropriate officials. Click [here](#) to view D.C.'s extensive list of safety tips.

- Remove your conference badge when leaving the conference venues; don't draw attention to yourself while going through the city that you're a tourist.
- Keep the address and phone number of where you're staying in your phone in case you find yourself turned around.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash. Use debit/credit cards.
- Do not leave bags, laptops, or personal items unattended, even for a short time.
- Drink plenty of water and maintain a healthy, regular diet to avoid fatigue.
- Practice good hygiene, such as frequent handwashing.
- Walk in well-lit busy areas, especially at night; Use designated walkways and crosswalks.
- Walk with confidence; even if lost, walk confidently and avoid looking lost or panicked.
- Safety in numbers: stay in groups when exploring the city.
- Be street smart: do not engage with strangers approaching you on the street.
- Situational awareness: avoid walking while texting and using headphones so you can remain aware of your surroundings.
- Do not sleep on the train or bus, and avoid using electronic devices near doors.
- When using rideshare apps, verify the car and driver before entering, especially at night.
- Pay attention to your instincts; if something doesn't feel right, you can always ask for help at a business or hotel.
- Keep hotel room numbers private. Keep track of room keys. If a key is lost, ask for a different room, or ask for the locks to be changed.
- Use the room safe for important documents and valuables.
- Use all locks on the hotel door. Always lock the door when leaving.
- When returning to your room, ensure you have your room key out and ready.
- Never automatically open your hotel door when a knock is heard. Know your visitor's identity prior to admittance. Use your peephole, if available, or talk through the locked door. If someone claims they are from maintenance, security, or a hotel employee, phone the front desk to make sure the visitor is legitimate.



D.C. Safety Information:

The Walter E. Washington Convention Center area is very safe and walkable. The convention center’s public safety staff is in regular communication with the Washington Metro Police Department, the D.C. Fire Department, the D.C. Emergency Management Agency, the FBI Terrorism Taskforce, the Secret Service, and other local and federal law enforcement agencies. Washington, DC has done a great job cleaning up the city but as with any big city, homelessness is prevalent in some areas. For the 250th, there is a large presence of police and the National Guard to support public safety. They will be stationed at federal buildings and patrolling the city including around the convention center. In addition, FCCLA hires an additional security team to be present during all sessions/events happening in the convention center.

D.C. Police Department Precincts:

The Convention Center is located within the Metropolitan Police Department’s First District (1D), which covers much of the downtown area including Capitol Hill, the National Mall, Chinatown, and parts of Southwest Waterfront. Officers work to provide a safe environment through community policing and high visibility patrols on foot, bike, and in marked vehicles. Please expect to see a noticeable law enforcement presence around the Convention Center and surrounding hotels, with officers conducting routine patrols and available to assist with directions or concerns.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS	DIAL
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency (Metropolitan Police)	311
Metropolitan Police Command & Anonymous Tip Line	202-727-9099
First District (1D) Police Department	202-698-0555
Metro (WMATA) Police	202-962-2121
Metropolitan Police Text Non-Emergency	50411
U.S. Park Police	202-619-7910
Capitol Hill Police (24-hour non-emergency)	202-224-5151
D.C. Fire Services	202-462-1762
GW University Hospital (Main Line)	202-715-4000

Additional questions? Please contact National FCCLA: Email meetings@fclclainc.org or by calling 703-476-4900 (Staff is available Mon-Fri 8:00 AM -4:00 PM ET).



DID YOU KNOW?!

1. The Washington Monument is Two Colors

The Washington Monument changes color partway up. Construction stopped during the Civil War, and when it resumed years later, builders used stone from a different quarry, which gave it a slightly different shade.

2. The Library of Congress is the World's Largest Library

With more than 170 million items, the Library of Congress holds books, maps, music, and even Abraham Lincoln's handwritten draft of the Gettysburg Address.

3. The Smithsonian is FREE!

The Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo are all free to visit. There are 21 museums and galleries, and the collection is so big that if you spent one minute at each item, it would take more than 10 years to see everything.