
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION 2018 ADVENTIST TEACHERS' CONVENTION CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – August 6-9, 2018

Update: June 27, 2018

Dear Central California Conference Educators:

In just about six weeks Adventist educators from across the North American Division (NAD) will be joining together in a collaborative effort to support and challenge each other through their spiritual, professional, and social experiences during the Teachers' Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

- Educators will be able to enjoy a spiritually enriching atmosphere while attending worship services every morning and participating in breakout sessions from well-known speakers.
- Educators will also be able to enjoy rich opportunities for professional growth as they attend the many breakout sessions and daily meetings, as well as visit the exhibit hall.
- Educators will have ample opportunity for social networking as they attend planned events such as the NAD Buffet and the Central California Conference (CCC) Cruise on Lake Michigan.

This letter will outline some updated important information you need to know prior to attending the NAD 2018 Adventist Teachers' Convention in Chicago and hopefully give you a glimpse of what to expect. The convention starts on Monday, August 6, at 6:30 p.m. and concludes on Thursday, August 9, at 12:15 p.m. with a commitment service. A daily schedule is posted on the CCC Education website.

- **Where will the Convention be held?**
The venue for the convention is the McCormick Place Convention Center located at 2301 South King Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60616.
- **What is the theme for the Convention?**
“Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence” has been chosen as the theme for the convention.
- **How do I register for the Convention?**
The Central California Conference Department of Education has taken care of your Convention registration.
- **What are the accommodations and room reservation procedures?**
The hotel accommodating the Central California Conference educators will be the Palmer House Hilton Hotel. All CCC educators must stay at this hotel from Monday to Thursday. Everyone staying at the Palmer House will need to check in individually when you arrive at the hotel to get your room number and key. The Palmer House is located at 17 East Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60603. The website for the hotel is <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/illinois/palmer-house-a-hilton-hotel-CHIPHHH/index.html>.

➤ **Will I need a credit card?**

Yes. The hotel requires a major credit card to bill any incidental expenses such as room services, etc. **Please note: A debit card or cash will not be accepted at hotel check-in and check-out.**

➤ **How will I know who I will be rooming with?**

You will find out who your assigned roommate will be at some time prior to leaving for Chicago. For the most part your roommate will be from your school or another educator from a CCC school.

➤ **Where can I store my luggage on Thursday?**

You will need to check out of your hotel room before going to the Commitment Service on Thursday. There will be areas in the hotel lobby to store your luggage and at the convention center on Thursday morning.

➤ **Am I required to follow a certain dress code while attending the Convention?**

Yes. We are asking that you wear business casual to the meetings and the cruise.

➤ **How can I get to Chicago?**

Please work with your principal for all travel arrangements. Your administrator will have details on travel, whether by airline, or if you choose, driving independently.

➤ **How can I get to the Palmer House Hilton Hotel from the Chicago Midway or Chicago O'Hare International Airports?**

The Palmer House can be accessed by the Chicago Transit Authority trains -

http://www.transitchicago.com/riding_cta/how_to_guides/ridingthetrain.aspx.

The Orange Line connects from the Chicago Midway International Airport to the hotel. The Blue Line connects from Chicago O'Hare International Airport to the hotel. The cost is about \$3.00 for a single ride. Please check with your administrator concerning transportation to and from the airport. The following is a link for use in obtaining a discount for the airport shuttle service:

<http://airportexpress.hudsonltd.net/rwd?USERIDENTRY=NAD18&LOGON=GO>

➤ **Will there be a shuttle service from the hotel to the McCormick Place Convention Center?**

A complimentary shuttle service is provided between the Palmer House Hotel and the McCormick Place West Building. Boarding for the shuttle is on Wabash Street Entrance. Check the shuttle information in the hotel lobby and convention center for additional information and updates. The shuttle service departs every 20-30 minutes throughout the day at prescribed times.

➤ **What procedures do I follow if I am driving my own car?**

You must go directly to the Palmer House Hilton and check-in to a room. There is a daily parking fee of \$46.00 per day at the Palmer House and a fee of \$30.00 to \$36.00 per day to park at McCormick Place Convention Center. Please understand that parking fees will not be reimbursed.

➤ **Will there be an on-site registration booth for the Central California Conference?**

Yes. The CCC Education Department will have a booth at the McCormick Place Convention Center where you must check in and where you will receive a convention program, schedule, meal tickets, etc. The booth will be easily identified.

➤ **When is the first meeting?**

The first meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening, August 6, at the McCormick Place Convention Center. Please be on time so you will not miss Dr. Elizabeth Talbot as the keynote speaker and a concert by Steven Curtis Chapman.

➤ **Will I have to make my own meal arrangements?**

The CCC Education Department will provide meals and per diem as follows:

The NAD has made arrangements for breakfast and lunch to be purchased at the McCormick Place Convention Center. All meals are vegetarian and required meal tickets purchased in advance. The deadline has passed for meal tickets to be purchased for family members.

In lieu of per diem for Tuesday and Wednesday, we have purchased meal tickets for all convention attendees for three breakfasts (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) and two lunches (Tuesday, Wednesday). The Tuesday evening NAD Buffet and the Wednesday evening CCC Special Event are also paid for by the Conference for each employee.

A combined per diem for Monday and Thursday in the amount of \$66.00 plus \$6.00 for round trip train tickets to and from Midway International Airport or Chicago O'Hara International Airport, which will be included in your August 30, 2018 paycheck.

➤ **What do I need to know about the North American Division Buffet and Entertainment?**

The meal will be a delicious vegetarian buffet starting at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7, followed by an evening of special entertainment by the Oakwood University Aeolians. The dress for this special occasion will be business casual.

➤ **What do I need to know about the Central California Conference Education Department Special Event?**

Mystic Blue will be the perfect venue for the Central California Conference Education Department to host a special event during the NAD Educators' Convention in Chicago. The special event will take place for you on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The Mystic Blue is a yacht offering a laid-back atmosphere, panoramic breathtaking views of Chicago, lakefront fireworks show, interactive entertainment, all while cruising along Lake Michigan. You will be treated to a bountiful vegetarian/vegan buffet dinner on our own private enclosed deck. We have arranged for charter buses to take us to the Navy Pier where we will board the yacht. Please meet at the Palmer House Hilton – Wabash Street entrance to board the buses at 5:50 p.m. The cruise will be a great opportunity to connect with friends and develop new friendships within the Central California Conference family of educators. Please remember this is a required event for all our educators. Payment for families to attend this event is no longer available. Website: MysticBlueCruises.com.

➤ **Will I need to register for the breakout sessions?**

You will not have to register for any of the breakout sessions you choose to attend.

➤ **What else do I need to know about the breakout sessions?**

There will be about 375 scheduled breakout sessions throughout the convention. Some of the areas of interest include pre-school, elementary, secondary, administration, small schools, technology, and more. Most of the sessions will be held in rooms adequately large enough to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend. There will also be a few mega-sessions. You will be able to obtain a complete listing of the breakout sessions on the NAD website at www.nadeducation.org.

➤ **Will there be an exhibit hall?**

Yes, there will be an exhibit hall as part of the Convention with registered exhibitors, including education product vendors, technology, fund raising ideas, teaching materials, fun stuff and much more. Free gifts are also available.

Exhibit hall hours:

Monday, August 6 – 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 7 – 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 8 – 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

➤ **Can I get certification credit for attending the Convention?**

- Academic credit will be available through for a fee to the employee.
- La Sierra University:
 - Cost \$100.00 (for recording of credit)
 - Application process will be available soon.
- Pacific Union College:
 - Course number: EDUC 420 for 1 or 2 units
 - Cost \$75.00
 - Teachers should register through PUC: puc.edu/summer-teacher
- Two Continuing Education Units will be available for attendance at the convention.

For further questions and information regarding the NAD Convention please check the following:

- The North American Division website at www.2018teachersconvention.com
- The Central California Conference website at <https://cccedu.adventistfaith.org/nad-convention>

I trust this letter is helpful to you in preparing for the North American Division 2018 Adventist Teachers' Convention in Chicago!

Blessings,

Ken Bullington

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