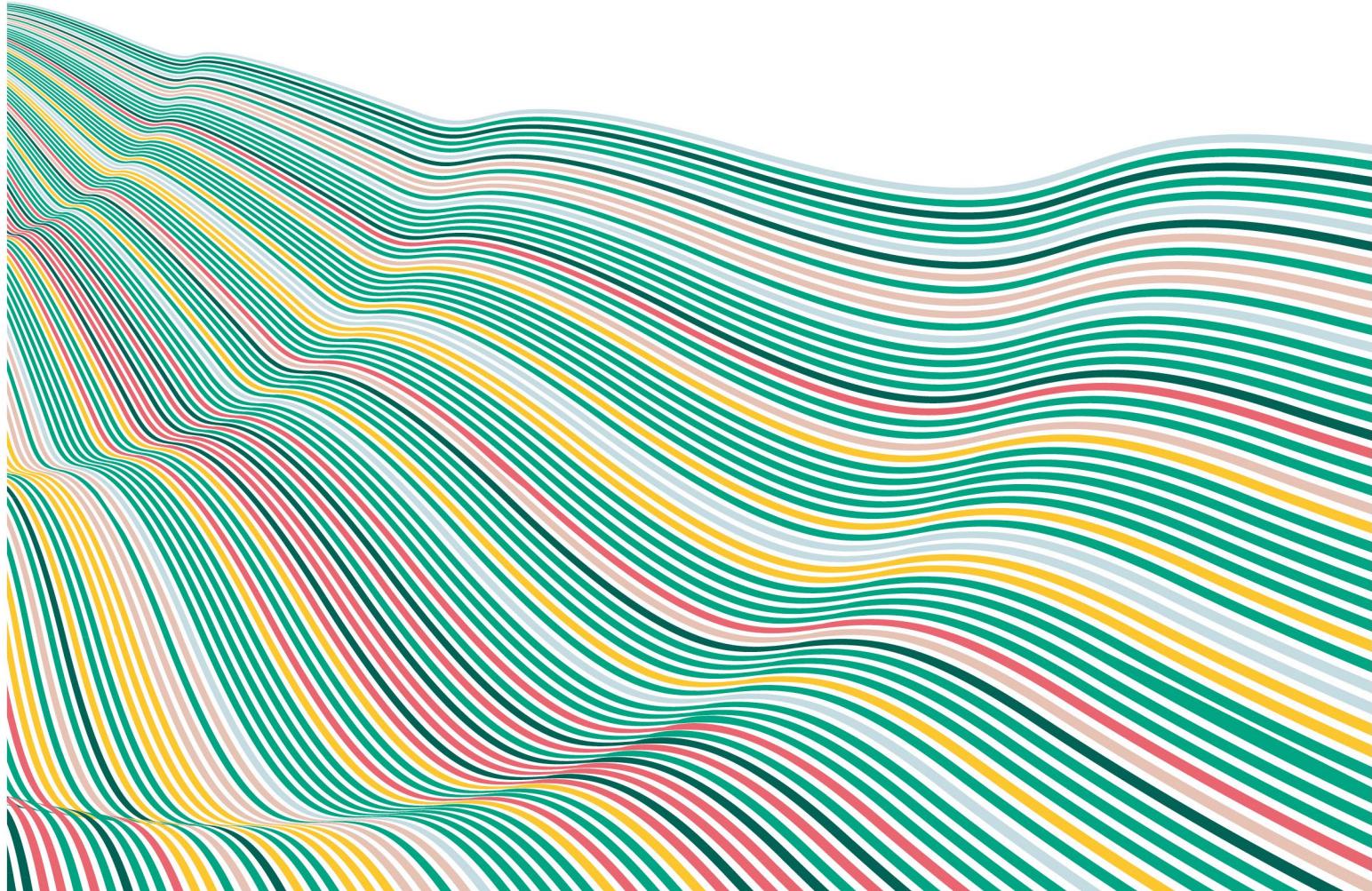




MARCH 25 – 29, 2026 | WASHINGTON D.C.

# CHAPERONE GUIDE



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## Program Overview

Join us from across the U.S. in Washington, D.C. for Ignite by 4-H! The four-day interactive summit helps teens find their spark through inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, off-site experiences, career exploration and connecting with peers.

Ignite is a step forward in the journey of becoming beyond ready. At Ignite, teens collaborate, create and cultivate a passion for expanding their minds and their world—becoming resilient and READY for everything life has to offer. The possibilities are endless at Ignite by 4-H.

**Thanks to our Supporters covering some event expenses, we are able to provide a discounted rate across all ticket types.**

We realize that each delegation goes through different processes to plan and carry out their Ignite trip. In order to promote and maintain a smooth program, we ask that a copy of this coordinator handbook be distributed to both the Lead chaperone(s) and all other adult chaperones. We will also be holding several webinars prior to Ignite to offer opportunities to ask questions and receive more information about the program. We hope that this will help you prepare for a wonderful trip to Washington, DC!

We have combined all of our required forms into one form for adult chaperones to complete and one form for teens to complete with their parent/guardian. The forms will be digital, but a paper copy can be printed out and uploaded to our portal if needed. These forms include the National 4-H Council Code of Conduct and the National 4-H Council Release of Liability, Waiver, Indemnification, Consent to Medical Attention, and Media Release. All forms are due by **Friday, December 5 at 12 p.m. ET** and will not be accepted onsite.

**Please make sure to read the entire handbook as details have changed this year. If you have any questions, please contact [events@4-h.org](mailto:events@4-h.org). Thank you for your interest in Ignite by 4-H!**

For information on all of the traditional and newly added Ignite activities, see the details inside this handbook. We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!

## Program Objectives

1. Exchange ideas, practice respect, and connect with other 4-H youth from across the country.
2. Strengthen leadership, communication and other skills in their preferred areas of interest.
3. Find their spark and become beyond ready through inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, off-site experiences, career exploration and connecting with peers.
4. Explore and learn about career paths, passions and interests to find the right path forward for them.
5. Collaborate, create and cultivate a passion for expanding their minds and their world!
6. Using skills learned, become change agents in your local community with Lead to Change (L2C) action planning.

**Key Dates & Deadlines can be found [here](#).**

## Program Participants

High-school-aged youth may participate in Ignite by 4-H. Council recommends that delegations include one adult for every 10 to 15 teen participants.

Each delegation MUST identify one Lead Chaperone. **CHAPERONES MUST BE AT LEAST 19 YEARS OF AGE BY MARCH 25, 2026.** Adults may not bring their own children, unless the children are Ignite ticketholders.

## Code of Conduct

National 4-H Council is committed to providing a safe environment for all youth participating in events offered by and through National 4-H Council. Attending National 4-H Council events is a privilege. All youth are expected to read and sign National 4-H Council's Code of Conduct before attending a National 4-H Council event. Continued participation is based on individuals meeting the requirements of the event and following National 4-H Council's Code of Conduct.

Adults attending, participating in, or chaperoning 4-H events are expected to conduct themselves according to the Code of Conduct, the Adult Behavior Standards guide and to support youth adherence to the Code of Conduct.

This National 4-H Council Code of Conduct will be in effect at all times while participating in or attending a National 4-H Council sponsored event, including during travel.

### Youth attendees commit to the following:

- Trustworthiness: Youth participants are worthy of trust, honor and confidence, modeling integrity under all circumstances. Youth participants are honest in all activities and keep commitments by attending and being punctual for sessions of events.
- Respectfulness: Youth participants treat all people (including themselves, their peers, adults, and authorities) with respect, courtesy, and consideration, and demonstrate appreciation for individuals of all backgrounds, interests, and abilities. Youth participants accept differences, peacefully resolve conflicts, and treat all property with respect. Youth participants speak respectfully about all people and all 4-H organizations in written and verbal communication, including social media. Because 4-H is a non-partisan, non-political organization, youth participants will refrain from wearing or displaying items or apparel of a political nature while participating in a 4-H event.
- Responsibility: Youth participants are responsible, accountable, and self-disciplined. Youth are on time for program events. Youth are held to high expectations to fulfill responsibilities assigned and accept responsibility for personal choices and actions. Youth participants are responsible for any consequences of damage or misconduct that occurs during their participation.
- Fairness: Youth participants treat all people with fairness and approach others with an open mind. Youth participants follow all rules, do not take advantage of others, nor ask for special favors. Youth participants accurately depict their personal stories, roles, and projects and avoid misrepresenting their work or experiences.
- Caring: Youth participants are kind, caring and compassionate toward others, treating others as they want to be treated. Youth show appreciation to others and aim to provide a safe experience for all. Youth participants show empathy and behave charitably.
- Citizenship: Youth participants are law-abiding citizens, contributing to the greater good.

### Youth participants commit to the following practices for using social media & electronic communications:

- Include or copy at least two adults on all electronic communications (if under 18). Two adults may include, for example, a National 4-H Council employee and a parent or 4-H leader.
- Use social media in a manner that is respectful, courteous and considerate of all people and all 4-H organizations.
- Refrain from the inappropriate or disparaging use of photography, video, audio, and/or digital devices.
- Shall not record images, video or audio in areas where privacy is expected or where otherwise prohibited by law.
- Youth participants are expected to use social media platforms responsibly and respectfully. Misuse of any social media platform, including but not limited to posting inappropriate content, engaging in cyberbullying, sharing confidential information, or spreading harmful rumors, will not be tolerated.
- Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary actions.

### The following are not permitted at National 4-H Council Events:

- Possession and/or consumption of alcohol or tobacco products.
- Distribution of alcohol or tobacco products.
- Possession, consumption or distribution of illegal drugs.
- Violence, including sexual abuse; sexual harassment; physical, verbal, emotional or mental abuse of another person
- Sexual misconduct

- Being in someone else's lodging room or lodging area (if underage) during 4-H travel/events without an approved adult being present.
- Cheating, plagiarizing or misrepresenting work
- Theft, destruction or abuse of property
- Violation of an established curfew at a 4-H event
- Unauthorized absence from 4-H program site
- Bullying of any kind including verbal, physical and cyber bullying (social media, texting, snapchat, etc.)
- Unethical or inhumane treatment of animals
- Possession or use of a firearm during 4-H travel/events (Does not refer to use in authorized shooting sports.)
- Possession or use of a harmful object with the intent to hurt or intimidate others
- Reckless behavior
- Other conduct deemed inappropriate for the youth development program by a program coordinator, event chair, or other National 4-H Council associate, adult, or 4-H volunteer
- The 4-H name and emblem should always be used appropriately to promote 4-H and is not permitted for use for personal gain.

**Consequences for Infractions:**

Infractions to the National 4-H Council Code of Conduct will be addressed and may result in consequences based on National 4-H Council's discretion. Because 4-H is a safe place for youth and adults to learn, minor disruptive or inappropriate behavior will first be addressed through redirection and coaching. When the nature of the offense is more severe or there is a pattern of disruptive or inappropriate behavior, violations of the Code of Conduct will result in more serious consequences. Consequences may range from but are not limited to the loss of privileges (e.g., participation at the event or future events, forfeiture of awards or other forms of recognition, forfeiture of positions of leadership, limitation on responsibilities) to full removal from the event and ineligibility to participate in future activities of this sort at the local, state, or national levels.

National 4-H Council has sole and absolute discretion to determine the appropriate consequences for any youth participant's misconduct and may choose to impose more serious consequences at any time. Youth participants will assume financial responsibility for any damages caused by their conduct. Youth participants removed from the event may be sent home early and will be responsible for paying any costs incurred for this transportation and may also be asked to return all funds expended on their behalf for their involvement in this event.

If youth are found in violation of local or federal laws, appropriate law enforcement or other legal authorities may be notified and may lead the review and consequences related to the incident.

Breaches of the National 4-H Code of Conduct will be communicated with the 4-H'er's state & local 4-H leadership as well as the parent/guardian (if youth is a minor).

**Hotel Requirements:**

Consistent with the terms of this Code of Conduct, while staying in a hotel or similar facility in connection with a 4-H sponsored event, youth participants and attendee's parent/guardians shall be personally financially responsible for reimbursing 4-H for: (i) any damage done to hotel property that is caused by the actions or inactions of the attendee; (ii) any incidentals (e.g., room service or mini bar items) charged to the attendee's room by the attendee; and (iii) any fees or damages assessed by the hotel related to smoking, or similar behaviors. To the extent that 4-H is unable to determine which attendee incurred the damage or expenses, 4-H may seek reimbursement equally from all youth participants and attendee's parent/guardians who shared a hotel room.

**Indemnification:**

Youth participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless National 4-H Council and all its respective officers, members, employees, contractors, attorneys and directors from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, losses, costs or expenses, including attorneys' fees arising out of or resulting from any violation of this Code of Conduct by the attendee (or the attendee's parents).

## Dress Code

Throughout Ignite, participants will meet many people. Each teen represents not only him or herself, but their family, county, state, peers, and 4-H. Clothing and grooming reflect upon the participants and what they represent. National 4-H Council defers to the dress code in place for each state or territory from which the delegate is attending.

**It is the responsibility of each delegation to determine what is and is not appropriate for your specific delegation. Please remember we do not have an overall dress code and your dress code and policies may differ from others. If you have concerns with teens from other states, please address concerns with their chaperone and not with the teen directly.**

All activities and sessions put on by National 4-H Council at Ignite are casual. Teens sometimes like to dress up for the dance and celebration, but this is completely optional.

### Important Dress Code Information

- T-shirts with offensive slogans or messages that are in bad taste, clothing with political slogans are not allowed.
- Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.

## Before You Arrive

### Payment Policy

To lock in Early Bird Pricing, all payments must be paid in full by **Monday, September 15, 2025 at 12 p.m. EST**. Proof of payment or payment in full must be received or your quote will be canceled and you will need to request a new quote at the General Admission rate. Your group's bill must be paid in full by **Friday, October 31, 2025 at 12 p.m. EST**. Proof of payment or payment in full must be received by 12 p.m. EST. If neither of these are received, your order will be canceled and tickets will be opened up to the wait list (if applicable). Unpaid quotes will be canceled if unpaid by Friday, October 31, 2025.

### Refund Policy

All refund requests must be made by providing written notice to Council by Friday, October 31, 2025 at 12 p.m. ET. Your refund request must include the order number and reason for requesting a refund. If your request is received by **Friday, October 31, 2025 at 12 p.m. ET** with the required information, you will receive a refund in full.

After **Friday, October 31, 2025 at 12 p.m. ET**, Council will not refund any amounts paid by you to Council. You may have the option to transfer your registration to another attendee. Council will have the option to either accept or deny the transfer. Council will not be liable for any transfer of fees or payments from one attendee to another attendee.

### Registration Fee

- High-impact programming and speakers featuring national experts and leaders
- Opportunities for career exploration
- Skills for teens to learn the power of using their voice
- Network and build connections with teens from across the country
- 4 nights room and board (double occupancy for teens, single-occupancy for adult chaperones) checking in on Wednesday, March 25 and checking out on Sunday, March 29
  - If CWF @ Ignite ticket or Soccer participants, then room and board for 5 nights from March 24 - March 29, 2026.
  - Teens with CWF @ Ignite tickets or Soccer tickets will be unable to room with teens with general Ignite tickets due to different check in dates. Please plan accordingly when purchasing tickets or teens will be roomed with teen attendees from other states.
- All meals and breaks as described below.
- DC-area site visits and program materials
- Admission to sites on Ignite agenda
- Workshop materials

### Ignite Portal

We highly recommend all attendees, Lead Chaperones and a parent/guardian for each teen attendee utilize the Ignite portal to submit all registration information, complete the required forms and register for teen workshops.

An email address is NOT required for teens or parents/guardians, but we highly recommend including them to help ensure timely communication. Please ensure each contact has a unique email address. Do not use a parent's email for a teen or vice versa—each email can only be linked to one contact in the system. The system will not allow you to save a contact if the email address is already associated with another person.

To log in to the portal, [click here](#).

- If you have attended an event hosted by National 4-H Council since June 2024, you will use your previous login information.
- If not, you will need an invitation code to log in which will be emailed from **DoNotReply@igniteevents.4-h.org**

If you have any trouble with the Ignite Portal, [click here](#) and provide your feedback so we can assist.

## Event App

- The Ignite by 4-H event app is available on both [iOS](#) and [Android](#). We highly encourage you and your attendees to download it as soon as possible to receive push notifications for event updates, deadline reminders and stay up to date on all things Ignite 2026!
- As the event gets closer, the app will become your go-to resource featuring personalized schedules, venue maps, daily menus, bus and table assignments, and more. And don't worry – it's all seamless. Once Ignite tickets are purchased and you have logged into the portal you'll use the same username and password, so if you haven't logged in to the Ignite Portal yet, now's the time! Reach out to us at [events@4-h.org](mailto:events@4-h.org) if you need assistance.

## Chaperones & Staffing

### Staffing & Roles

National 4-H Council (Council) staff will facilitate Ignite by 4-H. Your Lead Chaperone is responsible for reserving your tickets and payments, planning all travel, assigning roommates and ensuring your group is completely registered for workshops and Offsite Educational Activities prior to traveling to Washington D.C.

During Ignite, groups will interact with numerous members of National 4-H Council staff. The Youth Experiences team coordinates and executes Ignite by 4-H in partnership with the Ignite Design Team to ensure that each attendee has the best experience possible.

#### What is the difference between a Ticket Purchaser, Lead Chaperone and Registration Liaison?

All roles listed below will have access to the Ignite Portal to add contacts, assign them to tickets, and view or export attendee information such as hotel rooming assignments, workshop selections and assignments, and more.

- **Ticket Purchaser (TP)**
  - The person who purchased the ticket(s) for Ignite
  - NOT required to have a ticket or attend Ignite
  - Must designate at least one Lead Chaperone for the tickets they purchase (and may optionally assign a Registration Liaison)
  - Can also serve as Lead Chaperone if they are attending
- **Lead Chaperone (LC)**
  - Must have an Adult Ticket for Ignite
  - Responsible for ensuring all required information is submitted for the tickets assigned to them
  - All attendees assigned to the same LC must travel and arrive onsite together
  - Will be copied on communications to assigned attendees
  - Acts as the main liaison between National 4-H Council and their assigned attendees onsite, including check-in and in the event of any issues involving attendees in their group.
- **Registration Liaison (RL)**
  - Optional administrative support role
  - NOT required to have a ticket to Ignite
  - Should only be added if someone other than the TP or LC needs access to manage or view information in the portal

### What is a Lead Chaperone?

At Ignite, the term Lead Chaperone indicates the following:

- All ticket holders listed under your name will be traveling and arriving onsite together.
- All ticket holders listed under your name will be roomed in the same hotel, in close proximity (as much as possible!)
- If there are any issues with teens or chaperones in your group, you will be our main point of contact.

### Lead Chaperone's Roles and Responsibilities

Lead Chaperones are the primary contact with Council staff prior to and during Ignite by 4-H. Lead Chaperones are responsible for the conduct and discipline of attendees, group behavior, logistical arrangements, delegating responsibility to adult chaperones, and coordinating arrangements with National 4-H Council (Council) Staff.

#### Prior to Ignite by 4-H:

- Read the Chaperone Guide thoroughly!
- Enter all guest information into the portal and ensure ALL of your attendees have completed their required forms.
- Coordinate Pin Trade items for your delegation.
- Review Lead to Change Planning Guide to ensure best use of time onsite.
- Ensure your TEEN attendees have registered for workshops.
- Review your TEEN attendee roommate assignments and confirm for accuracy.
- Review the Offsite Educational Experiences Guide and submit the request for your group.

- Ensure your group has all required IDs for the Offsite Educational Experience your group is signed up for.
- We do not recommend planning activities during Ignite programming. If your group is not participating in any meals or activities, it is at your own risk and you need to let event organizers know. Your absence could affect bus dismissal, delay programming or result in calls to first responders if we cannot locate your group.
- Plan and conduct Teen Orientation.
- Plan and conduct Chaperone Orientation.

**Suggested Agenda to Use for Your Chaperone Orientation:**

- Review program objectives
- Review Ignite schedule
- Review Chaperone Roles & Responsibilities
- Clarify and reinforce all code of conduct policies.
- Review [the National 4-H Council Ignite 2025 Emergency Action Plan](#)
- Plan and conduct Parent/Guardian Orientation.

**Suggested Agenda to Use for Parent/Guardian Orientation:**

- Review the Ignite Schedule.
- Review [upcoming deadlines](#) and refund policy (page 7)
- Review the required forms.
- Review the importance of choosing a track and registering for workshops early.
- Review your state's dress code.
- Be certain that parents understand the size of the event (up to 2,000 attendees) and that some meals and activities will take place in a large ballroom with ALL attendees. Parents should realistically evaluate their teen's comfort level and ability to handle being in a crowd of this size.
- Parents must give written permission for emergency medical treatment to the Lead Chaperone. HOSPITALS WILL NOT TREAT MINORS WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT.
- Review refund policy:
- Packing List:
  - With the unpredictability of the weather in Washington, D.C. at this time of year, it helps to be ready for anything. March temperatures typically range from highs in the mid to high 40's with lows in the 30's. But there are always exceptions! Here are a few tips to help you prepare:
    - Clothes that mix and match well to create multiple outfits so you will have what you need without overpacking. Your state will tell you if there is a limit to the number of bags that you can bring.
    - Bring an all-weather coat, medium-weight coat and/or raincoat and umbrella. A scarf and gloves are also a good idea.
    - Comfortable walking shoes
    - Pen and paper for workshops
    - A camera and plenty of batteries and/or memory
    - A lightweight jacket, sweater or cardigan you can easily throw on if the hotel conference rooms get too cold.
    - An umbrella or raingear
  - Items to trade with other teen attendees (if not provided by delegation) during Pin Trade
  - Personal spending money for Shop 4-H, personal items, souvenirs or snacks. Attendees sometimes want to supplement meals/snacks with delivered food from local eating establishments and items from vending machines. There may be a significant cost difference when comparing other areas to the DC metropolitan area. Meals can easily cost more than \$12 for lunch and \$20 - \$30 for dinner—don't forget tips! There are several opportunities for delegates to purchase items, including essential toiletry items, souvenirs, and clothing sold at the hotel; local vendors and gift shops during off-site activities; and grocery stores, restaurants, and drugstores.
  - Always keep your valuables with you; do not pack them in your suitcase.
  - Check with your airline (if applicable) for luggage fee, size, and weight limitations for your luggage as airlines differ. If your luggage is oversized, you will have an additional charge for checking it. Ask your state coordinator if luggage fees are to be paid by individual delegates or state.

- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) provides a comprehensive list of items that can and can't be packed in your carry-on and checked baggage [here](#).
- Review Lead to Change Planning Guide to ensure best use of time onsite

**It is essential that the Lead Chaperone be aware of any existing health challenges, such as allergies, asthma, diabetes or any conditions that might require special arrangements. Lead Chaperone must inform chaperones of these challenges.**

## Chaperone Roles and Responsibilities

Adult Chaperones are to work with the Lead Chaperone to carry out the duties necessary for a successful group experience at Ignite by 4-H. These duties include monitoring conduct and enforcing the discipline of attendees as well as working in cooperation with Council Staff.

### Roles & Responsibilities

- Safety and security of the teens should be your priority! Their safety is your responsibility.
- Play a primary role in enforcing teen attendees' compliance with Code of Conduct rules.
- Ensure teens and chaperones stay onsite at the hotel unless they are accompanied by a chaperone and have permission from the Lead Chaperone.
- Discuss the standards of behavior you expect from your group. How will they dress? How will they act? How will you communicate expectations to the teen attendees? What are the consequences of misconduct? How will you, the adult team, lay the ground rules?
- Serve as a role model for Ignite teen attendees. Your attitude affects everyone around you! This includes maintaining a good sense of humor, staying positive and keeping any negative opinions from the teens.
- In large group settings, be present and keep track of teen attendees.
- Be punctual and remind your teens to do the same.
- Know where your teens are supposed to be and ensure they are where they need to be!
- Be respectful and QUIET when presenters are speaking. Remind your teens to do the same.
- Attend and participate in onsite Welcome Meeting and Adult Meeting.
- Help the Lead Chaperone carry out group responsibilities.
- Work with teen attendees to ensure an enjoyable learning experience.
- Encourage teen attendees to continue thinking about ways to use the Ignite experience and information to strengthen 4-H programs back home.
- Keep teen attendees quiet and in their room after 11 p.m. (curfew)
- Monitor the health of teen attendees and carry basic first aid supplies and emergency medical consent forms.
- If we have any issues, we will bring them directly to the Lead Chaperone for your group.

**An adult must stay with any teen attendee who is sick and must remain at the Hotel if the group is off-campus. National 4-H Council (Council) cannot assume any responsibility for attendees left unaccompanied when they are ill.**

National 4-H Council (Council) must also be notified, prior to the group's arrival, of any special dietary needs your attendees may have (e.g., food allergies, dietary restrictions, etc.) If you have allergies, we do our best to work with the hotel to accommodate. If your attendees have food preferences or are picky eaters, please plan snacks accordingly.

## Onsite Chaperone Volunteer Opportunities

Due to ongoing requests, we've created an opportunity for adult chaperones to support the National 4-H Council team with onsite needs throughout the program. This may include helping with workshop check-in, bus logistics, curfew enforcement or activity setup. To sign up, login to the Ignite portal and click My Ticket (Adult) then the green button that says **Onsite Chaperone Volunteer Opportunities**. You will then be able to select **Yes** and click **Submit**. While we appreciate all who are willing to help, indicating interest does not guarantee an assignment. Volunteers will be contacted with more information if selected, and roles will be assigned based on program needs.

## Travel & Transportation

### Preparing for Air Travel

As of **May 7, 2025**, anyone 18 years or older is required to have a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, ID card, or another federally accepted form of ID such as a U.S. passport to fly domestically. Be sure to check with your attendees to ensure they are prepared to fly.

TSA does not require children under 18 to provide identification when traveling within the United States. Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under 18.

[Click here for REAL ID FAQs](#) from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

### Local Airports

There are three major airports in the Washington, DC region: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (airport code: DCA), Washington Dulles International Airport (airport code: IAD) and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (airport code: BWI).

#### Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport – 4 miles

- By Metro: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport is conveniently connected to Metro's Yellow and Blue Lines. Simply follow the signs to the covered walkways leading into the station. Take the Blue Line to Metro Center. At Metro Center, transfer to the Red Line to Dupont Circle and use the north exit (Q Street/Connecticut Avenue). Once outside, walk north on Connecticut Avenue for about 4 blocks. The walk takes approximately 10–15 minutes, slightly uphill. Total travel time from the airport would be approximately 40–50 minutes, depending on wait times and walking pace.
- By Uber, Lyft, or Taxi: Uber is readily available at the airport as are D.C./DMV area taxis. If using a taxi, there will be a taxi line with staff to guide you. Uber pick-up varies by terminal. The Uber app will provide you with exact pick-up locations and door numbers.

#### Washington Dulles Airport – 27 miles

- By Metro: Washington Dulles Airport is now served by the Silver Line. However, please visit [wmata.com](#) for times and train information as the trip can take over 1.5 hours.
- By Uber, Lyft, or Taxi: Uber is readily available at the airport as are D.C./DMV area taxis. If using a taxi, there will be a taxi line with staff to guide you. Uber pick-up varies by terminal. The Uber app will provide you with exact pick-up location.

#### Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport – 31 miles

- By Train and Metro: BWI Marshall Airport offers free, frequent, and convenient shuttle service between the MARC/Amtrak station and the BWI Marshall Airport Terminal. From the MARC/Amtrak Station, a train can be taken to Washington DC Union Station. Upon arriving to Union Station, the red line can be taken to Gallery Place stop with a 6-minute walk to the Westin
- By Uber, Lyft or Taxi: Uber is readily available at the airport as are D.C./DMV area taxis. If using a taxi, there will be a taxi line with staff to guide you. Uber pick-up varies by terminal. The Uber app will provide you with exact pick-up location.

### Local Transportation

Transportation to and from your home state including air, rail, van or private car is not included as part of the Ignite ticket.

- **NEW THIS YEAR!** [BLS Limo Group, Inc.](#), conveniently located within the Washington Hilton, offers transportation to and from the airport for an additional fee. If requesting transportation through BLS Limo Group, Inc., all requests must be scheduled by February 1, 2026.
- You may also choose to travel via the following forms of transportation from the airport to the hotel:
  - **Metro System (WMATA):** Washington, D.C.'s Metro system is a convenient, cost-effective, and easy way to navigate the city. Operated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), it offers extensive service throughout the area. Visit [wmata.com](#) for real-time schedules, fare estimates, and route planning tools. Fares can be paid using SmarTrip cards, which are available for purchase at all Metro stations. You can also use your phone for contactless payment through SmarTrip mobile options.
    - If you'd like to purchase a SmarTrip card in advance, you can do so [here](#).

- **By Uber or Lyft:** Uber is easy to use and convenient. Wait times and rates vary depending on time of day. Uber XL fits up to 6 people. All other Ubers fit 3 – 4 people.
- **By Scooter or Bike:** Scooter and bike share are available in most parts of the city. Both must be ridden in bike lanes in most instances.
  - Scooter companies include: Lime, Uber, Lyft
  - Bike companies include Capital Bike Share

## Bus Parking

- Groups traveling to Washington, D.C. by chartered motor coach should make their own arrangements for bus parking.
- All parking fees for your bus will be the responsibility of you and/or the bus company.

## Early Arrivals

If you'd like to arrive prior to the start of Ignite you will need to purchase those additional room nights directly through local area hotels. Unfortunately additional room nights are unavailable on Monday, March 23 or Tuesday, March 24 at the Washington Hilton. Please see hotels below that may be able to accommodate you to book directly. We also recommend hotels by IAD or DCA Airports, depending on which one you are arriving at. If you still need help, please contact us at [events@4-H.org](mailto:events@4-H.org).

### The Churchill Hotel DC

1914 Connecticut Ave NW  
202.797.2000

### The LINE Hotel DC

1770 Euclid St NW  
202.588.0525

### Courtyard Washington, DC Dupont Circle

1733 N St NW  
202.968.7300

### Lyle Hotel

1731 New Hampshire Ave. NW  
202.964.6750

### The Normandy Hotel

2118 Wyoming Ave NW  
202.483.1350

### The Generator Washington DC

1900 Connecticut Avenue  
202.332.9300

## Late Departures

Hotel check-out is at 11 a.m. on **Sunday, March 29**. If you'd like to check out after Sunday, March 29, you will need to purchase those additional room nights directly through local area hotels.

We have reserved a limited number of hotel rooms with the Washington Hilton on Sunday, March 29 which you can book and pay for directly. To book rooms for Sunday, March 29 at the Ignite rate, [click here](#). Space is limited and you will be required to put a credit card down upon arrival for incidentals for these rooms.

## Lodging & Hotel Incidentals

### Teen Lodging

- All teen rooms are double-occupancy.
- Youth delegates will have the opportunity to request a specific roommate by **Friday, October 31, 2025**. If no roommate is listed, the desired roommate requests to be roomed with someone else or your state has an odd number, we will work with the lead chaperone to determine a suitable roommate from another delegation. Attendees under the age of 18 will not be paired with attendees over the age of 18.
- Council is committed to providing a welcoming experience for all attendees participating in Ignite. To help ensure accessibility, please let us know by **Friday, October 31, 2025**, if any accommodations are needed as part of your registration.
  - Examples may include accessible hotel rooms or support for visual or hearing impairments. Requests received after this date will be considered, and we will make every reasonable effort to accommodate them; however, our ability to do so may be limited by factors such as interpreter availability or hotel room inventory. Providing advance notice helps us plan effectively and coordinate with hotel and venue staff to support your needs.
- Teens with CWF @ Ignite tickets will be unable to room with teens with general Ignite tickets due to different check in dates. Please plan accordingly when purchasing tickets or teens will be roomed with teen attendees from other states.

### Chaperone Lodging

- All adult chaperones will have single-occupancy rooms. Adult attendees will **not** be assigned a roommate unless **both individuals specifically request to room together**. If both adults indicate a desire to share a room, they will be paired. **No discount will be provided** for sharing a room.
- Council's policy prohibits adults (educators, volunteer chaperones that are age 18 and older) from sharing lodging rooms with youth (teens less than 19 years old), except when the adult and youth are immediate family members) or when the youth's parent or legal guardian approves staying with the adult. Council must be provided with a letter signed by the youth's parent or legal guardian granting permission for a designated adult to stay in the youth's room.
- If an adult chooses to share a room with their child, there will be no refund or adjustment to their ticket price.

### Hotel Incidentals

All participants have signed the required code of conduct form which specifies youth participants and attendee's parent/guardians shall be personally and financially responsible for reimbursing 4-H for:

- any damage done to hotel property that is caused by the actions or inactions of the attendee
- any incidentals (e.g., room service or minibar items) charged to the attendee's room by the attendee
- any fees or damages assessed by the hotel related to smoking, or similar behaviors.

**To the extent that 4-H is unable to determine which attendee incurred the damage or expenses, 4-H may seek reimbursement equally from all youth participants and attendee's parent/guardians who shared a hotel room.**

## Schedule & Logistics

### Ignite General Schedule Information

All schedules for the Ignite program are TENTATIVE, meaning they may change, up to the date of the event. Every effort will be made not to make drastic changes to the schedule, especially last minute. Whenever a significant alteration is made, you will be notified.

**For schedule information for CWF@Ignite participants, please refer to the [CWF@Ignite Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**For schedule information for Soccer participants, please refer to the [Soccer Chaperone Guide here](#).**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026	
Time	Activity
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Luggage Hold
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Hotel Check-In
	Registration Open
	Program Showcase Set Up
	Adult Meeting
6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Welcome Meeting
8 p.m. – 9 p.m.	L2C Kick Off & Finals
9 p.m. – 10 p.m.	Pin Trade
	Program Showcase
	State Spirit Night
10 p.m. – 11 p.m.	Delegation Huddle
	L2C Planning Time
11 p.m.	Curfew

Thursday, March 26, 2026	
Time	Activity
8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	General Session
10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Career Segments: Pathways & Possibilities
11 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	A Lunch
	Career Connections Workshop 1
12 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	B Lunch
	Career Connections Workshop 2
1 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Career Connections Workshop 3
2 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Career Connections Workshop 4
3 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Track Workshop 1
4 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.	Track Workshop 2
5 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.	Keynote Speaker
6:05 p.m. – 10 p.m.	Bus Dismissal
	Dinner
	Self-Guided National Monument Exploration
10 p.m. – 11 p.m.	Delegation Huddle
	L2C Planning Time
11 p.m.	Curfew

Key
Speaker or Panel
Workshop
Lead to Change
Meal

**Schedule continued on next page**

Friday, March 27, 2026	
Time	Activity
6 a.m. – 7 a.m.	A Breakfast
7 a.m.	A Bus Dismissal
6:30 a.m. – 7:30	B Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	B Bus Dismissal
7 a.m. – 8 a.m.	C Breakfast
8 a.m.	C Bus Dismissal
7:30 a.m. – 8:30	D Breakfast
8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Offsite Educational Experience
1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.	L2C Planning Time
2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.	General Session/Keynote
3:15 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Challenge Activities and Track Keynote Speakers
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Dinner
7:10 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Track Workshop 3
8:10 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Track Workshop 4
9 p.m. – 11 p.m.	L2C Planning Time
	Delegation Huddle
11 p.m.	Curfew

Saturday, March 28, 2026	
Time	Activity
8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Breakfast
	Teen Workshop Presenter Breakfast
9 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Explore Workshop 1
10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Explore Workshop 2
11 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Explore Workshop 3
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Explore Workshop 4
2 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Explore Workshop 5
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Final L2C Planning Time
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	L2C Gallery Viewing
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.	The Ultimate Signing Season
7 p.m. – 11 p.m.	Dinner & Celebration
11 p.m.	Curfew

Sunday, March 29, 2026	
Time	Activity
8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Breakfast
8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Lunch To Go (optional based on pre-sign-up)
11 a.m.	Hotel Check Out

## Onsite Registration Information

Registration will take place from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25. Groups may not register before this time. If you arrive prior to this time, you will need to wait until registration begins to check in to your hotel room and receive your Ignite registration materials.

**For onsite registration information for CWF @ Ignite participants, please refer to the [CWF @ Ignite Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**For onsite registration information for Soccer participants, please refer to the [Soccer Chaperone Guide here](#).**

If you are delayed en route past this registration time, please contact [events@4-h.org](mailto:events@4-h.org) or 301-961-2901. Arrangements will be made to orient your group to the program as quickly and smoothly as possible upon your arrival.

**All Lead Chaperones are required to provide an approximate arrival time for your delegation.**

## Meals

The following meals are included in your Ignite ticket price:

- **Wednesday, March 25:** Dinner
- **Thursday, March 26:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- **Friday, March 27:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- **Saturday, March 28:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- **Sunday, March 29:** Breakfast & Optional Boxed Lunch (sign-up required)

**For meal information for CWF @ Ignite participants, please refer to the [CWF @ Ignite Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**For meal information for Soccer participants, please refer to the [Soccer Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**Many meals have assigned rooms and tables. Please respect these assignments and make sure your teens do as well to ensure adequate seating.**

## **Luggage Storage**

We know many Ignite attendees take red-eye flights and/or arrive early based on flight availability. If you would like to store your luggage before registration, luggage storage will be available beginning at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25.

## **Swag Distribution**

All Ignite attendees will receive swag. Name badges will be required to pick up each swag item. Please note swag items are distributed based on the number of registered attendees. If your swag is lost or misplaced, we are unfortunately unable to provide a replacement, as we do not have extras available.

**The swag items, pick up location and designated days for pick up will be added to this guide at a later time.**

We will not have the shirts available for distribution prior to the Dinner & Celebration on Saturday. If you are leaving early and your group will not be attending, please email [events@4-h.org](mailto:events@4-h.org) with the names of those who will not be in attendance and we can ship shirts to you after Ignite.

## **Bus Dismissal & Loading**

There are 2 times when we will be loading ALL Ignite attendees on buses. Each bus will have a bus captain that will lead you from the hotel to the bus loading zone. DO NOT proceed to the bus loading zones without your bus captains.

### **Thursday, March 26 – Self-Guided National Monument Exploration**

- Buses Loading: 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. from location to be announced.
- You will be dropped off at the National Mall. Pay attention to your drop-off location and remember your bus number!

### **Friday, March 27 – Offsite Educational Experiences**

- New this year: There will be three separate breakfast and bus dismissal times. Your assigned breakfast and bus dismissal time will vary depending on the Offsite Educational Experience you sign up for.
- **A Breakfast & Bus Dismissal – Location will be added to this guide at a later time.**
  - Breakfast To-Go 6 a.m. – 7 a.m.
  - Bus Dismissal 7 a.m.
  - Your bus captain will give you instructions on the time you need to return to your bus.
- **B Breakfast & Bus Dismissal – Location will be added to this guide at a later time.**
  - Breakfast To-Go 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
  - Bus Dismissal 7:30 a.m.
  - Your bus captain will give you instructions on the time you need to return to your bus.
- **C Breakfast & Bus Dismissal – Location will be added to this guide at a later time.**
  - Breakfast To-Go 7 a.m. – 8 a.m.
  - Bus Dismissal 8 a.m.
  - Your bus captain will give you instructions on the time you need to return to your bus.

**Due to liability, staffing, and parking restrictions, groups will not, under ANY circumstances, be permitted to use their own bus, vans or private cars for Ignite activities.**

**For bus dismissal information for CWF @ Ignite participants, please refer to the [CWF @ Ignite Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**For bus dismissal information for Soccer participants, please refer to the [Soccer Chaperone Guide here](#).**

## **Info Desks**

Info desks will be available at various locations during all Ignite programming. If you have any questions onsite, please visit an info desk or text or call 301-961-2901.

## Programming & Activities

### Ignite Activities

- **Adult Meeting:** The Adult Meeting is for all adult Ignite attendees to learn more about their role at Ignite. The Ignite Design Team will lead this meeting and will be available to answer any questions you may have.
- **Curfew:** All attendees must be considerate of other attendees and hotel guests who may be trying to wind down and sleep after a long day. Quiet is especially important after 8 p.m. as we share the hotel with other guests not involved with Ignite. Noise in the halls and rooms must be kept to a minimum. Talking must be kept to quiet conversational levels. Quiet time must be completely observed in the whole facility from 11:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. Beginning at 11 p.m., all delegates must be in their sleeping room. Youth attendees out of their room after curfew must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Please do not leave the hotel property alone and always have permission or be with your adult chaperone.
- **Career Exploration Expo:** The Career Exploration Expo is an interactive experience designed to help youth explore a variety of career paths and industries. Featuring multiple booths organized by topic areas, the expo connects participants with professionals who share their knowledge, skills, and real-world experiences. Through one-on-one conversations, youth will learn about different career journeys including how they're not always linear—and discover the many ways to achieve success in fields that align with their interests and goals.
- **Career Segments - Pathways & Possibilities:** Curious about how people from different industries find their way to success? These session will feature professionals from National 4-H Council's Board of Trustees, each quickly sharing their unique career journey and how they navigated twists, turns, and unexpected opportunities to get where they are today. From tech to arts to healthcare, you'll hear about the challenges and rewards of working in different industries and the surprising ways that passions, hard work, and unexpected experiences shaped their careers. Whether you have already found your spark or are still deciding on your future, this session will get you to think outside the box and embrace your own journey!
- **Challenge Activities:** Each track includes a hands-on challenge activity designed around that track. Teens will collaborate with peers to solve a problem or complete a task related to their chosen track. Supplies are prepared based on registration, so it's important teens attend the challenge activity for the track they signed up for and sit at their assigned table. Teen name badges will match the color of the track they signed up for. Adults are welcome to observe, but seating is not provided for adults and they should be silent observers. Adults do not sign up for a track.
- **Dance & Celebration:** See below.
- **Delegation Huddle:** This is a dedicated time for Lead Chaperones to gather their group to recap and debrief the events of the day, plan and prep for the following day and/or work on their Lead to Change projects. There is not a set location for this to take place, groups can gather in any unoccupied space including any of the ballrooms, empty workshop rooms or the hotel lobby.
- **Lead to Change (L2C):** National 4-H Council's community action planning platform that empowers teens like you to become agents of Change. It's about empowering and tackling issues in your community head-on. When you create a Lead to Change project with a team, you're not just solving problems – you are sparking a movement that strengthens and revitalizes a community. It's your opportunity to step up, take action, and make a real difference.
- **L2C Finals:** The top 2025 L2C Finalists will take the stage to pitch their community action plans live for a chance to win a total of \$10,000 in grant funding to expand their impact. These teen-led teams have tackled real issues in their communities and developed meaningful solutions. All Ignite attendees get to be part of the action by voting to decide which team will receive additional funding to take their project even further and hopefully cheer on their peers, be inspired by their leadership, and maybe even spark an idea for their own community-changing project!
- **L2C Kick-Off:** Learn what will make your action plan stand out. You'll receive worksheets and planning guides to get you started.
- **L2C Change Gallery Viewing:** The Lead to Change Gallery Viewing is an opportunity for teams to present their project idea by showcasing their poster and making a short project pitch. They will receive meaningful feedback about their project. Teams can split their time to be able to talk about their project to youth and adult participants and look at other team's posters to get ideas and provide feedback to other teams.
- **L2C Planning Time:** This is dedicated time to work on your poster, brainstorm with your group, work on your Lead to Change grant application and practice your project pitch. You can also pair up with another group to practice!
- **Offsite Educational Experiences:** See below.
- **Pin Trade:** Each state should bring something that can be traded with other attendees that signifies their home community. Pin Trade items should be inexpensive and/or homemade to show pride in one's home state. Lead Chaperones may help obtain these items or teens can make them. Handmade items often are the most sought-after. Pins and stickers are also very popular. Encourage creativity! Teen attendees should bring their trading items to this activity and take advantage of this time to get to know their fellow Ignite attendees.
- **Program Showcase:** Lead Chaperones must register for Program Showcase by Friday, February 13 at 12 p.m. ET.

Program Showcase will take place on Wednesday, March 25 from 9 p.m. – 10 p.m. Each state will have the opportunity to “promote, share, and enlighten” other attendees about the terrific programs that are being conducted in your clubs and communities. Programs will set up exhibit booths to showcase the great work that 4-Hers are doing across the country and share their best practices with their peers, while making new friends!

- **Self-Guided National Monument Exploration:** All attendees will be dropped off at the National Mall and have access to a digital map to take a self-guided tour of Washington D.C. monuments and memorials. Attendees are encouraged to bring a camera and be prepared for the weather, rain or shine and bring a camera to get great pictures! If lightning is present, the tour will end early and all attendees will return to their buses early.
- **State Spirit Night:** Show off your 4-H pride and represent where you’re from! State Spirit Night is your chance to celebrate your home state or community and your personal style. We can’t wait to see your belt buckles, custom 4-H gear, state flags, county swag, and bring the energy! Whether it’s custom tees, fun accessories, or creative costumes, this is the night to stand out and represent! Please keep in mind all dress codes rules from your state.
- **Track Keynotes:** Each track will feature an exclusive keynote speaker tailored to that track’s focus. Teens are required to attend the keynote for the track they signed up for. Teen name badges will match the color of the track they signed up for. Adults are welcome to observe the keynote speakers, but seating priority will be given to teens. Adults do not sign up for a track.
- **Welcome Meeting:** Our Welcome Meeting is your opportunity to learn all about the important rules that keep everyone safe and keep everything running smoothly! You’ll also find out exactly what to do if you ever have questions, so you’re never left wondering. We’ll review the code of conduct, which is key for creating a respectful, friendly, and productive environment. And just in case of any surprises, we’ll go over emergency protocols, so you’ll always know how to stay safe. By the end of it, you’ll feel ready to make the most of Ignite with all the info you need to thrive!
- **Workshops:** See below.

## Teen Tracks

At Ignite, each teen ticketholder will select one of six dynamic programmatic tracks before registering for workshops. Adult participants do not choose a track.

A teen’s selected track will determine which Track Workshops they can register for, as well as other onsite experiences such as their Challenge Activity, Keynote Speaker, Dinner by Track and more!

These tracks allow teens to dive into their passions, build key skills, and explore meaningful career pathways related to their interests, helping them discover what it takes to succeed in life and work.

The tracks available to teens at Ignite 2026 are as follows **and indicated by the colors below:**

- **Agriscience**
  - Teens in the Agriscience track will explore the science and sustainability of modern agriculture and food systems. From environmental conservation and soil science to hydroponics, urban farming, renewable energy, and pollination, this hands-on track emphasizes plant-based systems and sustainable innovations. Participants will strengthen problem-solving, creative, and critical thinking skills while uncovering exciting career paths in agricultural science and environmental stewardship.
- **Animal Science (new for 2026!)**
  - The Animal Science track is for teens passionate about animals, biology, and their impact on food systems and communities. This immersive experience focuses on the science and care of animals through hands-on learning in fields such as veterinary science, meat science and production, ranching, livestock management, and equine science. Teens will gain practical knowledge in animal health, nutrition, and agricultural practices that support ethical, sustainable animal care.
- **Community Accelerators**
  - Community Accelerators is a dynamic track where teens learn to drive change at the local level through social entrepreneurship, service learning, and community-based problem solving. Teens come together to collaborate, share ideas, and develop innovative solutions for real-world challenges—creating transformative progress that benefits all communities. By harnessing their creativity and passion, participants become catalysts for meaningful, lasting change.
- **CWF @ Ignite (new for 2026!)**
  - This track remains our cornerstone leadership experience for teens passionate about civic engagement, public policy, and advocacy as pathways to community change. Participants will strengthen their understanding of the democratic process and cultivate leadership skills rooted in civic responsibility. With this foundation, they’ll discover how local action can spark impact on national and global levels.

**Note: This track is only available to those that purchased a CWF @ Ignite ticket. The CWF track will begin one day earlier, and registration costs will reflect the additional hotel night.**

- **Healthy Living**
  - Our Healthy Living programming empowers youth to be healthy in both body and mind by helping them develop the knowledge and skills to make informed choices, lead active lifestyles, and face life's challenges with confidence. Through interactive workshops, teens in this track will dive into topics like nutrition, food inequity, food waste reduction, and mental and emotional well-being—preparing them to take charge of their health and become leaders in their communities.
  - **Soccer Sub-Track**
    - The National 4-H Soccer Tournament offers a fun way to stay active while building teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship. The tournament brings youth together through the power of play, friendly competition, and shared goals on and off the field.

**Note: Teens that wish to participate in the Soccer sub-track of Healthy Living will need to sign up as part of a team. More information will be available soon regarding the Soccer sub-track at Ignite.**
- **STEM**
  - In the STEM track, teens will experience innovation in action through hands-on challenges in robotics, engineering, coding, and emerging technologies. They'll dive into fields like artificial intelligence (AI), computer science, physics, and chemistry—developing the technical and analytical skills to thrive in a technology-driven world. This track encourages experimentation, creative problem-solving, and future-focused thinking.

## Teen Workshops

**Workshops are required for all teens to attend.** This year there will be four Track Workshops, five Explore Workshops and 1-2 Career Connections Workshops for teens to pre-register to attend. We encourage early registration! Each workshop has limited capacity, and once capacity is reached, we cannot add additional seats for that workshop.

Teen workshop registration opens **January 16 at 5 p.m. EST** All required forms must be completed by that time to register for workshops. Workshop registration closes on **January 30 at midnight EST**. Teens that do not register for workshops by January 30 will be assigned to open workshops.

**Track Workshops** will be specific to the track teens signed up for.

**Explore Workshops** allow teens to explore other tracks and maybe even discover a new spark!

**Career Connections Workshops** help teens become career-ready by building essential life and professional skills, encouraging them to think bigger, explore pathways, and connect with real-world careers that lead to future success.

**Teens must go to the workshop they registered for!**

There may be space available for adults to observe Teen Workshops, but it is at the discretion of the presenter if you are able to attend teen workshops.

## Adult Workshops

Adult chaperones, workshop presenters and attendees can participate in curated workshops to stay current on the latest research and strategies to support youth in becoming Beyond Ready during many of the teen workshops. The adult workshop guide will be available in February.

Pre-registration is not required for most adult workshops, you can just show up at the designated time and location. We highly encourage adult attendees to attend the adult workshops. They're a great opportunity to learn, connect, and engage with fellow attendees!

## Offsite Educational Experiences

We have partnered with local farms, businesses and federal agencies to create private tours and experiences exclusive to our Ignite by 4-H teens and chaperones. **The Offsite Educational Experiences will take place on Friday, March 27 from approximately 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**, including travel time. Participants will eat lunch at the offsite location they sign up for. Dietary restrictions will be considered for lunch.

All CWF @ Ignite and Soccer Sub-Track participants will not sign up for an Offsite Educational Experience, as they have other scheduled activities during this time.

**For schedule information for CWF @ Ignite participants, please refer to the [CWF @ Ignite Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**For schedule information for Soccer participants, please refer to the [Soccer Chaperone Guide here](#).**

**Your group is not required to participate in an Offsite Educational Experience.** If you would like to use this time to explore DC on your own, you will need to opt out on the Lead Chaperone Form. **If you opt out of participating in an Ignite Offsite Educational Experience, lunch and transportation will NOT be provided.** Refer to Delegation Exploration and Ideas for Extended Stays in DC Section at the end of this document for ideas and information.

Lead Chaperones will be responsible for signing up their group for these activities. Due to each state having differing requirements regarding the ratio of adult chaperones per youth and different rules regarding chaperones from other states chaperoning teens from other states, it will be up to Lead Chaperones to determine the breakdown of who from your group will go to each location.

Each location will have limited space. Unfortunately, we cannot add additional seats to any of the buses or add additional slots at any locations as we have maxed out the capacity for each bus and location, so please keep this in mind when signing up. Please also make sure to read the restrictions and packing information for each experience. Some sites do require photo IDs, background checks or that the attendees are legal U.S. citizens (due to the limited time for background checks between February 13 and Ignite).

### Important Notes:

- After February 13, we cannot change assignments for any participants in your group.
- If you do not sign up for an Offsite Educational Experience by February 13, you will be opted out of participating and you will be responsible for coordinating your group's plans, lunch and transportation during this time.
- Attendees must go to the Offsite Educational Experience they were signed up for and cannot trade or swap!
- If for some reason someone decides not to go to the Offsite Educational Experience they were signed up for, they cannot swap to a different location and lunch will NOT be provided.

Please remind your group that these experiences and tours, in most cases, were custom-developed for Ignite by 4-H and we hope they will be respectful, engaged and participate!

Bus Captains will be checking in attendees getting on and off the bus, but we ask chaperones to verify that their full group is on the bus before departing the hotel or Offsite Educational Experience. Please know where your teens are at all times, remind them not to wander and respect the rules of the location!

## Dance & Celebration

Dance the night away with your new friends. We will have sensory rooms available, but we encourage teens that may be sensitive to loud noises to bring noise-cancelling headphones.

### Dance Rules

- Everyone must wear shoes
- Do not lift anyone off the ground, throw anyone, etc.
- No crowd surfing
- Recognize other's boundaries and be respectful of everyone's personal space
- Requests will not be accepted onsite, but can be submitted during Teen Workshop Registration and will be provided to the DJ

## **A copy of the full National 4-H Council Ignite 2025 Emergency Action Plan can be found here.**

### **Hotel Facility Address:**

**Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20009**

The purpose of this **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** is to provide clear guidelines and procedures for ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants, attendees, staff, and vendors involved in the **Ignite 2025 event**. This plan outlines the steps to take in case of various emergencies, including but not limited to medical incidents, fire, severe weather, active shooter situations, and other potential crises. It applies to the **main event facility** at **1919 Connecticut Ave**, Washington, DC, as well as any additional offsite locations related to the event.

This plan has been developed in collaboration with National 4-H Council and the **Washington Hilton**. The plan is based on local and national safety standards. All stakeholders involved in the planning, coordination, and execution of Ignite 2025 are expected to adhere to the safety protocols outlined in this plan.

### **Health & Wellness**

Teen and adult participants are expected to be responsible for their own health. Anyone not feeling well or displaying signs of illness within 72 hours of departure should not attend Ignite. Anyone not feeling well or displaying signs of illness during the event should alert an adult chaperone or Council staff and then consider segregating themselves from others in order to not spread any potential illness. For Youth not feeling well or displaying signs of illness during the Event, the particular Youth will need to alert an adult/guardian, and the adult/guardian shall make sure the Youth is safe while segregating themselves.

### **Key Safety Guidelines**

The personal safety of each attendee is of utmost importance. Every attendee and chaperone are entitled to be emotionally, physically, and socially safe. If you feel vulnerable in any of these ways, contact a chaperone or member of the Council staff. You will be listened to and assisted appropriately. Please don't be hesitant to bring concerning situations to our attention.

### **Name Badges**

All attendees will receive a name badge and a lanyard. These must be worn at all times, when outside their hotel rooms, with the participant's name clearly visible. This is an event requirement to identify you as an authorized participant and help staff assist you if needed.

Name badges function as a meal ticket and identification for security purposes while at the hotel. If you don't have your name badge, you will be asked by Council staff to go back to your room to get it. The name badge will also function as identification and allow chaperones to find attendees in crowded areas. Name badges not only help us to know who you are but also keep out those who do not belong. When entering Ignite and offsite venues, you may be asked to show your name tag or identification. Be prepared to comply with this request as part of our security protocol.

**Chaperones concerned about attendee safety and anonymity when offsite may instruct teens to put their name badge inside their shirt so the teen is still wearing the name badge, but it is not visible.**

### **Suspicious Activity or Individuals:**

- **Report Suspicious Behavior Immediately**  
If you see any suspicious individuals or situations, **report them immediately** to your **Lead Chaperone** and/or **Council staff**. Trust your instincts—if something doesn't feel right, it's important to bring it to the attention of the authorities.
- **What to Look For:**  
Suspicious activity may include, but is not limited to:
  - o People loitering in restricted areas.
  - o Bags or packages left unattended.
  - o Individuals acting unusually nervous or trying to avoid detection.

## Behavioral Expectations:

- **Stay Calm and Follow Instructions**

In the event of an emergency, it is vital to remain calm and follow the instructions of event staff, security officers, and local law enforcement. They are trained to manage and respond to situations quickly and effectively.

- **Keep A Positive Attitude Toward Security Personnel and Staff.**

Security personnel and staff are doing their best to ensure your safety. Be respectful, patient, and cooperative with them. A **positive attitude** is crucial in maintaining a smooth and safe environment.

## General Hotel and On-Site Safety:

Adult chaperones must know where youth attendees are at all times in case of an emergency. Youth attendees and adults are expected to attend all Ignite activities. Youth attendees must remain at the hotel or assigned event area throughout the event. In addition, adult chaperones who need to leave the hotel or events—for example, if an adult needs to accompany an injured youth to the hospital—must notify Council staff as well as identify another eligible adult chaperone who will serve as a chaperone for their youth attendees. An attendee should not leave the hotel without notifying Council staff.

### Know the Hotel Layout:

- Familiarize yourself with the exits: Upon check-in, note emergency exits, stairwells, and the location of fire alarms or extinguishers. Knowing the nearest exit can be critical in case of an emergency.
- Elevator security: Always be cautious when using elevators, especially late at night. If possible, avoid entering an elevator with someone who seems suspicious or out of place.

### Hotel Room:

- Lock all doors and windows: Ensure that your hotel room door is securely locked when you're inside. Use additional security features such as the deadbolt and security chain. Use the peep hole in the door to see who is there before opening it.
- If the room has windows that open, double-check that they are locked as well.
- Doors that are propped open make an easy target for thieves and other criminals. Even for short trips to adjoining rooms or to the closest ice machine, delegates must lock doors securely.
- Use the safe: Store valuables (e.g., passports, electronics, jewelry) in the in-room safe, which is usually provided. Avoid leaving items of value out in plain sight, even when you're in the room. You agreed that National 4-H Council cannot be responsible for the loss of personal property.
- Don't announce your room number: Keep your room number private. Avoid discussing it in public areas or on the phone.

### Be Aware of Your Surroundings:

- Stay aware of your environment: The Washington Hilton is in a busy area, so always be conscious of your surroundings when you enter or exit the hotel. Pay attention to the time of day, who is around you, and if anything feels off.
- Limit your phone use: Try to avoid distractions like texting or talking on the phone when walking through hotel corridors or when exiting the building.

### Hotel Amenities:

- Fitness center: When using hotel gyms, don't leave personal items unattended. Always lock up valuables in the locker room, and if you feel uncomfortable or notice any unusual behavior, leave immediately. Ordering hotel room service is not allowed.

### Delivery Food Services:

Use Trusted Delivery Platforms: Order from well-known and reputable delivery services or restaurants with positive reviews to ensure quality and safety.

- Track Your Order: Take advantage of tracking features provided by the delivery service to stay updated on the status of your order and expected delivery time.
- Contactless Delivery: Opt for contactless delivery options, if available, to minimize in-person interactions. Ensure the delivery person leaves the food in a safe and designated location.
- Meet the delivery person in a well-lit, populated area. Youth attendees should never meet a delivery person alone.
- Check the Packaging: Before eating, inspect the food packaging to ensure it is sealed and hasn't been tampered with. If something seems off, contact the delivery service or restaurant immediately.

**Report Suspicious Activity:**

- Be proactive: If you see anything suspicious, such as individuals loitering in hallways or unusual activity around the entrance, report it to hotel security right away.
- Trust your instincts: If you feel uneasy about a situation, seek help from hotel staff, Council staff or security.

**Emergency Contact Info:**

- Know local emergency numbers: The Washington Hilton staff will be trained in safety procedures, but it's always good to have the local emergency contact numbers handy (e.g., 911 for police, fire, or medical emergencies).
- Keep a list of important contacts: Make sure you have emergency contacts saved on your phone and let a friend or family member know your itinerary.
- It is important for Council staff to stay informed when an emergency situation arises. If an emergency does occur or you need to contact our on-site team, you can text or call this number 301-961-2901 and it will connect you to the first available team member. Remember, in the case of serious injury or emergency your first call should always be to 911.

# Delegation Exploration and Ideas for Extended Stays in DC

## Tourism Information

- [Washington D.C. Convention and Tourism Corporation](#): 202-789-7000
- [D.C. Chamber of Commerce](#): 202-328-4748
- [National Park Service](#) 202-619-7222

## Theaters

- [Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#): 202-467-4600
  - Wednesday-Sunday. At DC's arts and cultural facility, visitors can hear a FREE concert. Advanced reservations encouraged and patrons are encouraged to arrive early. Free tickets will also be available at the Hall of States Box Office on the day of the performance, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Standing room is available behind the seated area as space allows.
  - Performances will range from professional comedians, to jazz artists to college choirs. Simply come to the Kennedy Center's grand foyer and enjoy!
- [Shear Madness](#): 202-467-4600
  - This comedy 'whodunit' lets the audience play armchair detective. A murder is committed in a unisex hair salon in Georgetown, D.C. The audience joins in the investigation, eventually voting on the guilty party. May be too mature for some young people.
- [National Theatre](#): 202-628-6161
  - The oldest, continuously operated theater in America, the National Theater opened at its current site, two blocks from the White House, in 1835. The National Theater offers Broadway productions, Tony Award winners, and similar productions.
- [Warner Theater](#): 202-783-4000
  - Opened in 1924 as a silent movie theater, today the Warner presents the finest in theatrical and dance presentations. Located downtown, 1 block from Pennsylvania Avenue.
- [The Shakespeare Theater](#): 202-547-1122
  - Downtown theater dedicates itself to becoming the nation's premier destination for classical theater. Presents 5 major epic productions a year.
- [The Folger Theater](#): 202-544-7077
  - The Folger Shakespeare Library on Capitol Hill features an Elizabethan-style theater that exclusively shows Shakespeare plays.
- [The Mead Center for American Theatre - Arena Stage](#): 202-488-3300
  - Located on 6th Street Southwest, the Mead Center showcases American theatre with numerous plays, musicals, and other productions.
- [Toby's Dinner Theater](#): 1-800-88-TOBYS
  - Toby's is the premiere dinner theater in the D.C. area. Features a buffet-style dinner and "in-the-round" stage. Staff is very familiar with 4-H groups. Be sure to book early. Located in Columbia, MD.
- [Woolly Mammoth Theatre](#): 202-393-3939
  - The Tony Award-winning Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company creates theatre that highlights the stunning, challenging, and tremendous complexity of our world. For over 40 years, Woolly has maintained a high standard of artistic rigor while simultaneously daring to take risks, innovate, and push beyond perceived boundaries.
  - Woolly is located in Washington, DC, equidistant from the Capitol and the White House.
- [Round House Theatre](#): 240-644-1100
  - Dubbed "the current meteor in DC theatre" by Peter Marks of The Washington Post, Round House Theatre is one of the "Big Six" professional theatres in the Washington, DC area. Round House is a theatre for everyone.

## Capitol Hill:

- Congressional Committee Hearings: 202-224-3121
  - [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)
  - Before leaving the hotel on Capitol Hill Day, obtain a copy of "Today in Congress" from The Washington Post. This will list the times and locations of committee hearings scheduled for the day. This is an excellent way to observe your representatives at work. Most committees meet at 10:00 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m., and are open to the public unless otherwise noted.
- [United States Capitol](#): 202-225-6827
  - Tours available Monday – Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - To visit areas of the Capitol beyond the Capitol Visitor Center, you must make a reservation in advance. Note that currently tour schedules are closed, however, are expected to open very soon to the public. Tour schedules can fill up quickly, so it is advisable to book your tour as soon as tours are available. It may also be necessary if you desire a tour of the Capitol to connect with your congressperson to get a tour with their staff members. Guided tours of the historic Capitol begin at the orientation theaters with a 13-

minute film, "Out of Many, One," which will take you on a journey through our country's struggle to establish the world's first truly representative democracy and introduce you to the magnificent building that houses our Congress. Once inside the historic Capitol, visitors will see the Crypt of the Capitol, the Rotunda, and National Statuary Hall. All tours begin and end at the Capitol Visitor Center.

- U.S. residents can also go directly through the offices of their Representative or Senators. Many Congressional offices offer their own staff-led tours to constituent groups of up to 15 people, and most can assist you in booking a general tour.
- The following are prohibited in the Capitol:
  - Aerosol and non-aerosol sprays
  - Cans and bottles
  - Oversized suitcases, duffle bags, and oversized backpacks
  - Knives of any length, razors, and box cutters
  - Mace and pepper spray
  - Food or drink, including water (note that bottles are not allowed, which are allowed in most other places. Be sure to call ahead before your tour, as this information is subject to change.
- Library of Congress: 202-707-5458
  - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  - Closed Sunday and Monday
  - Last entry for visitors is 30 minutes prior to closing.
  - Free Timed-Entry Tickets Required:
  - Reserve free same-day tickets online [here](#) each day at 9 a.m. ET.
  - Reserve free advance tickets online [here](#).
  - There is a gift shop in the Jefferson Building, which sells books, cards, and crafts. The Library of Congress contains nearly 164 million items, including books, newspapers, manuscripts, maps, motion pictures, recordings, prints, and posters. Public services include Braille books and talking books for the blind, as well as tapes and discs. From the visitors' gallery, one can view the main reading room under the beautiful dome. Exhibits in the Great Hall include a Gutenberg Bible and the hand-executed Bible of Mainz. On Monday through Friday, public tours, for groups of 10 or less, for the Jefferson Building leave between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., on the half-hour.
  - Groups of 21 people or more must request free timed-entry tickets by completing the [group registration form](#).
- United States Supreme Court: 202-479-3211
  - Open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - Free to enter and no reservation needed.
  - The nine justices of the highest court in the land hear arguments starting the first Monday in October and continuing through April. They hand down decisions from April through June. A free 25-minute film is shown to the public throughout the day. There are exhibits on the history of the Court on the lower level. Plan to spend at least 45 minutes in the Supreme Court Building, and attend either the lecture or the film to gain a better understanding of the Court. Court sessions, which begin at 10:00 a.m., are open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. When court is not in session, a brief lecture on the court takes place in the courtroom every hour on the half-hour, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - All visitors must pass through security screening before entering the building. During the months of March – June, visitors should anticipate longer wait times to enter the building due to larger crowds visiting the Nation's Capital.
- Folger Shakespeare Library: 202-544-4600
  - Open Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Box Office is open from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Located at 201 East Capitol Street SE, this library holds largest collection of Shakespeare works in the world, plus a small Elizabethan theater.
- United States Botanic Garden: 202-225-8333
  - The conservatory is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - The US Botanic Garden is proud to offer the citizens of Washington and visitors from across the nation a beautiful and fascinating living plant museum here on our Nation's Mall at the foot of the U.S. Capitol. You can also visit Bartholdi Park, which is located directly across the street, next to the Rayburn Office Building.
- Union Station: 202-289-1908
  - Shops open Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Sunday from noon – 6 p.m.
  - There are many features of this Beaux-arts center that visitors seem to enjoy including a variety of food and shopping venues.
- National Postal Museum: 202-633-9360
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Next to Union Station, this museum has interactive exhibits and postal history. This is a great destination for groups and a wonderful "off the mall" museum. The Postal Museum is a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

### Government Sites

- [White House](#): 202-456-7041
  - Available by prior request only
  - Public tours of the White House are available. Requests must be submitted through one's Member of Congress.
  - These self-guided tours are available from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, (excluding federal holidays or unless otherwise noted). Tour hours will be extended when possible based on the official White House schedule. Tours are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests can be submitted up to six months in advance and no less than 21 days in advance. You are encouraged to submit your request as early as possible as a limited number of spaces are available. All White House tours are free of charge. (Please note that White House tours may be subject to last-minute cancellation.)
- [White House Visitors Center](#): 202-208-1631
  - Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - White House tours are significantly enhanced if visitors stop by the White House Visitor Center located at the southeast corner of 15th and E Streets, before or after the tour. The Center features many aspects of the White House, including its architecture, furnishings, first families, social events, and relations with the press and world leaders, as well as a thirty-minute video. Allow between 20 minutes and one hour to explore the exhibits. The White House Historical Association also sponsors a sales area. Restrooms are available.
- [Bureau of Engraving and Printing](#): 202-874-2330
  - Open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. with the last entry at 2:45 p.m.
  - "School group" arrangements available; call and see if you qualify. Free tickets are available at the ticket kiosk at 8 a.m., usually gone before 9 a.m. 14th and C Streets SW, The Bureau makes paper currency, postage stamps, treasury notes, military certificates, and invitations for the White House. Line forms early.
- [National Archives](#): 866-272-6272
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Last admission is 30 min prior to closing.
  - Admission is free.
  - Located at 7th St and Constitution Avenue, the National Archive display the original Declaration of Independence, The U.S. Constitution, and The Bill of Rights. The Archives also contain records of the U.S. government, including documents, maps, pictures, sound recordings and drawings created in the course of government activity. Allow 30 to 45 minutes for your visit.
- [The Pentagon](#): 703-697-1776
  - Available by prior request only
  - To take a guided tour of the Pentagon, you must make a reservation in advance. Schedules can fill up quickly, so it is advisable to book your tour well in advance of your visit. Reservations may be booked from 8 to 90 days in advance. Reservations will not be accepted for tour dates within 7 days or more than 90 days away. Please review the Tour Guidelines and Security Information before requesting a tour. Hours: All guided tours of the Pentagon are free and available by reservation only. Tours are conducted Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Book a Tour: U.S. Residents can reserve a tour by contacting their Congressional and Senate Representative. The Congressional office staff often submit requests for constituents. Contact information for state representatives can be found at either [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) for your Congressional office or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) for your Senator's office.

### Smithsonian Museums

- [National Museum of American History](#): (202) 633-3717
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Located at the Northwest corner of the Mall, this museum has something for everyone. Some exhibits include "First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image", "The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden," the Star Spangled Banner, and many items of American history and culture.
  - Eat at America's Table is the main eatery at the museum. The menu includes traditional culinary dishes from our nation's kitchens, cheese and charcuterie, and classic American sandwiches, great American barbecue and grill favorites (burgers, hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches etc...) as well as cooking inspired by Tex-Mex and Native-American traditions. The café also offers classic salads made fresh with seasonal inspiration. Guests will find freshly brewed coffee as well as wine, beer, and other bottled beverages. All desserts are made in house.
  - Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- [National Air and Space Museum - Flagship Building](#): 202-633-2214
  - Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Located at the Southeast corner of the Mall, learn about the history of flight and see aircraft, spacecraft, and related items. There are movies in the Einstein Planetarium and the Johnston IMAX Theater for an additional charge. Check the website for hours.
  - An individual can reserve up to [six free timed-entry passes](#) for their visit. If you are reserving for a group of 10 or more please visit the [group reservations page](#).
  - Dining Option: Mars Café (Lower Level) Coffee and full espresso bar, featuring locally roasted "Bird Friendly" artisan coffees, specialty teas, and a selection of seasonally inspired sandwiches, warm paninis, salads, and pastries. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [National Air and Space Museum - Udvar Hazy Center](#): 703-572-4118
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - The center features an observation tower where visitors can watch air traffic at Dulles airport and there are hangars holding 200 aircraft and 135 spacecraft and an IMAX theatre.
  - Dining Option: Shake Shack favorites including burgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, fries, frozen custard, coffee, and shakes—including two exclusives, the Constellation Crunch Concrete and Out of This World Shake. In addition, pre-packaged salads and sandwiches are available as a quick pick option. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [National Museum of the American Indian](#): 202-633-6644
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - The newest edition to the Smithsonian Museums on the National Mall, this museum is an institution of living cultures dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of the life, languages, literature, history and arts of the Native peoples of the Americas.
- [National Museum of Natural History](#): 202-633-1000
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - This building is located on the North side of the Mall and is easily recognizable by its green dome. It is home to the Hope diamond and gem collection, a dinosaur display, and a marine life exhibit. IMAX movies are also offered for an additional charge.
  - Dining Options: Atrium Café (Ground Floor)  
The museum's largest café, featuring family-friendly menus such as Butcher Craft Burgers, a seasonal Chef's Market Table, desserts, beverages, wine/beer, and coffee.  
Open: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - Dining Option: Ocean Terrace Café (First Floor): The Ocean Terrace Café has been developed with a greater focus on grains and vegetables being at the core of a daily diet. Entrees feature sustainable items, seasonally available local produce, artisan craft foods, vegetable focused entrees, and the reduced use of proteins. Try our fair-trade certified coffees and teas along with house-baked pastries and desserts. Open: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- [Freer and Sackler Art Galleries](#): 202-633-4880
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Featuring large collections of Asian art, the Freer and Sackler Art Galleries are located on the National Mall.
- [Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery](#): 202-633-7970
  - Open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - The Smithsonian American Art Museum is home to one of the largest collections of American Art in the world, including art from the colonial period to today. The museum is located on 8th and F Streets, NW.
- [Renwick Gallery](#): 202-633-1000
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - The Renwick Gallery houses the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection of contemporary craft and decorative art on 17th and Pennsylvania NW near the White House.
- [Hirshhorn Museum](#): 202-633-4674
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden is the Smithsonian's museum of international modern and contemporary art.
  - Dining Option: Dolcezza Coffee & Gelato @ Hirshhorn: Handmade seasonal gelato, specialty espresso drinks, and small batch pastries from one of D.C.'s most popular locally-owned coffee purveyors, housed in a stunning new lobby coffee bar designed by celebrated artist and architect Hiroshi Sugimoto. The space also features furnishings created by Sugimoto and his studio, including tables from a 700-year-old Japanese nutmeg tree.  
Open: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#): 844-750-3012
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Located in-between the Washington Monument and National Museum of American History, the National Museum is the only museum in the country to focus on the preserving and understanding of African American life, culture, and history.

- Dining Options: Sweet Home Café  
The 2017 James Beard Award nominated Sweet Home Café showcases the rich culture and history of the African American people with traditional, authentic offerings as well as present-day food traditions.  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- [Arts and Industries Building](#): 202-633-1000
  - The Arts and Industries building was opened in 1881 to house the exhibits of the World's Fair in Philadelphia. Now the building houses rotating exhibits, which are constantly being changed. This museum is currently closed for renovation.
- [Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute](#): 202-633-4888
  - Grounds open daily from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Buildings open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Located at 3001 Connecticut Ave. NW.
  - Admission is free.
  - Dining Options:
    - Elevation Burger at Mane Grill (near Tiger/Lion Hill): Hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, vegetarian burgers, vegan burgers, hot dogs, grilled cheese, chicken tenders, fries, and milkshakes. Opens at 10:30 a.m.
    - Zoo Market Café (outside the Small Mammal House): Zoo Market Café featuring offers delicious, made-to-order sandwiches and wraps featuring Boar's Head® meats, fresh salads, hot breakfast sandwiches and Bird Friendly coffee. Or, indulge your sweet tooth with gelati, Italian ice, frozen custard and cookies! Vegetarian options available. Hours vary based on weather and park attendance
    - Sbarro (Panda Plaza): Pizza, stromboli, hot dogs, chicken tenders, soft drinks. Opens at 9 a.m.
    - Auntie Anne's & Carvel (Panda Overlook, Mane Grill (weekends only): Soft pretzels, pretzel dogs, frozen lemonade, Carvel ice cream, soft drinks. Hours vary based on weather and park attendance
    - Food Trucks: Ben & Jerry's, Bootheel Bar B Que, Dippin' Dots, Dolci Gelati, Popcorn Wagon, Vintage Views. Hours vary based on weather and park attendance

### **Sporting Events**

- [Washington Nationals Baseball](#): 202-675-6287
- [Baltimore Orioles Baseball](#): 888-848-2473
- [D.C. United Men's Soccer](#): 202-587-5000
- [Washington Mystics Women's Basketball](#): 1-877-324-6671

### **Other**

- [International Spy Museum](#): 202-393-7798
  - Open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Ticket prices vary based on day/time, but start at around \$30 per person.
  - The International Spy Museum opened to rave reviews in April of 2003, and has been a huge success. The museum chronicles the history of spying across the globe, and features the largest collection of international espionage-related artifacts open to the public. Please contact the International Spy Museum for more information.
- [Artechouse DC](#)
  - An innovative leader in the field of digital and experiential art, ARTECHOUSE expands the possibilities of art and how you experience it through cutting edge technology-driven exhibitions and experiences.
  - Ticket pricing varies, but is approximately \$28 per person.
- [National Building Museum](#): 202-272-2448
  - Open Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - 5th and F Streets NW, Learn about D.C. history and history of buildings and architecture in D.C. This beautiful building is the site of many presidential inauguration balls, and has changing exhibits. \$7 for youth (3-17) and students, \$10 for adults.
- [National Gallery of Art West and East Wings](#): 202-737-4215
  - Open Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Located on the Northeast corner of the Mall, these art galleries contain works by Da Vinci, Monet, Rembrandt, Whistler, Picasso, Degas, and Van Gogh. (Not part of the Smithsonian) Admission is free.
- [National Geographic Museum](#)
  - TEMPORARILY CLOSED
- [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#): 202-488-0406
  - Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - This museum is located between 14th and 15th Streets SW. Admission free, but TIMED PASSES are necessary for visiting the Permanent Exhibition – The Holocaust. These tickets can be obtained at the Museum on the day of your visit or in advance by calling tickets.com at (800) 400-9373. Each day, the

Museum distributes on a first-come, first-served basis a large but limited number of timed entry passes for use that same day.

- To secure a group reservation for 21 or more, fill out the form found at [this site](#). The form must be submitted a minimum of 4 weeks in advance. The required chaperone ratio is 1 adult for every 7 students.
- **Washington Monument**: 202-426-6841
  - Summer Hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day): 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - Tickets are required in order to enter the Washington Monument. The ticket system is administered through the National Park Reservation Service (NPRS). Reservations for the Washington Monument may be made between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST by calling 1-800-967-2283 or over the internet [here](#).
  - Tickets can be reserved from 24 hours up to 3 months in advance. Hours for the ticket kiosk are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - Tickets are usually distributed for the day during the morning hours, so it is important to be at the kiosk early.
- **Ford's Theatre**: 202-347-4833
  - Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Box office open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - Ford's Theatre is both a historic site and an operating performing arts facility. It offers family productions, just as it did in 1865 when President Lincoln was assassinated there. The theater has been restored to look exactly as it did that historic night.
  - Be sure to check out the Peterson House across the street. This is where President Lincoln was taken after he was shot; it still contains the bed where he died. Advance individual tickets are \$3.5, Limited number of same-day tickets available at the Ford's Theatre Box Office beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- **Old Post Office Tower**: 202-462-6841
  - Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week.
- **Hard Rock Café**: 202-737-7625
  - Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday – Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
  - On the corner of 10th and E Street, NW.
- **National Cathedral Tour**: 202-537-6200
  - Open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. most days. Hours vary based on events.
  - Admission is free, but there are many ticketed tours available ranging in price. Check [here](#) for details.
  - The National Cathedral is the world's sixth-largest Cathedral. Marvel at old-world craftsmanship and Gothic architecture.
- **O Museum in the mansion**: 202-496-2070
  - Embark on an exciting self-guided adventure through secret doors and hidden passages. Walk in the footsteps of presidents and freedom fighters. No maps or hints – just your sleuthing skills! Each visit promises access to at least 60 legendary rooms and 32 concealed passages. Which rooms and which secret doors change daily, as there are 112 rooms and nearly 90 secret doors!
  - Ticket pricing varies. Dinner can be arranged onsite if desired through the museum.
- **DC Ghost Tour**
  - Unlike our standard tour, private groups are led by a tour guide who is focused on your group, and only your group. This allows for an experience that can be tailored to your group's unique needs, personalities, or interests.
  - Inquisitive types can ask their guide as many questions as desired without feeling self-conscious. Photography enthusiasts can take the time to pause at each tour stop and snap photos to their hearts' content.
  - Ticket pricing varies.
- **Brookside Gardens**
  - Brookside Gardens is Montgomery County's incomparable, award-winning 50-acre public display garden within Wheaton Regional Park. Gardens also features two conservatories for year-round enjoyment. Admission to the gardens is free. The Gardens are open from sunrise to sunset.
- **Wharf DC City Cruises**: 866-302-2469
  - Water experiences beyond compare. Choose from a variety of cruises including: dinner cruises, brunch cruises, lunch cruises and sightseeing cruises. All of the vessels are conveniently docked at The Wharf, giving you the perfect launch point to explore the nation's capital from the water.
  - Ticket pricing varies.
- **Escape the Room**: 202-742-4352
  - Ticket pricing varies. Hours vary based on location.
- **Medieval Times Baltimore**: 1-888-WE-JOUST
  - The top knights of our kingdom will battle with brawn and steel to determine one victor to protect the throne. Join us as we feast and raise a goblet to our Queen.
  - Ticket pricing varies, but is approximately \$70 per person and includes dinner.
- **Dave & Buster's**: 301-273-2700
  - Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. – Midnight. Monday & Tuesday, 11 a.m. – Midnight, Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 a.m.

## Cities

- [Annapolis, MD](#): Annapolis is the capital of Maryland, home to the U.S. Naval Academy and is the "sailing capital of America." You can tour the Naval Academy or take a harbor cruise. Located 50 miles east of Washington, D.C.
- [Baltimore, MD](#): Baltimore features many exciting attractions such as historic Ft. McHenry, the Inner Harbor, Federal Hill, National Aquarium, Science Center and sports team such as the Orioles and Ravens. Located 35 minutes northeast of Washington, D.C.
- [Richmond, VA](#): Visit the capitol of the Confederacy and the heart of Virginia on your way to Washington. Located on I-95 and I-64, 120 miles south of Washington, D.C.
- [Williamsburg, VA](#): Go back in time in colonial Williamsburg. Located 150 miles south of Washington, D.C.
- [Philadelphia, PA](#): Philadelphia is the second largest metropolitan area on the east coast, and includes many historical sites. Located 133 miles north of Washington, D.C.
- [New York City, NY](#): Visit the Big Apple while you are on the east coast. New York is a four hour drive from Washington, D.C. and is second only to Washington in the amount of tourist attractions. Located 224 miles northeast of Washington, D.C.

## Historical Attractions

- [Gettysburg National Military Park](#): 717-334-1124
  - Park grounds open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Gettysburg National Military Park is open year-round. There is no fee for entrance to the park, National Cemetery, or park buildings. The Gettysburg National Cemetery is open at dawn and closes at sunset. Gettysburg is roughly an hour and 20 minutes north of Washington, D.C. on Route 15. A battlefield guide can be booked for around \$152.
- [Manassas National Battle Field Park](#): 703 361-1339
  - Park grounds open daily from dawn to dusk.
  - This battle field was the scene of two Civil War clashes in 1861 and 1862. Located 30 minutes from Washington in Manassas, VA.
- [Monticello](#): 434-984-9800
  - Open daily Monday- Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - The famous home of Thomas Jefferson is located 3 hours south-west of Washington, D.C. in Charlottesville, VA. Also located in Charlottesville is the University of Virginia. Admission for student groups is \$8.00 per person.

## National Parks

- [Shenandoah National Park](#): 540-999-3500
  - Conveniently located on approach to Washington D.C. from the west on I-66 or I-64, Shenandoah offers camping, hiking, picnic areas and beautiful scenery.
- [Blue Ridge Parkway](#): 828-298-0398
  - Connecting Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Shenandoah National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway provides a scenic route to D.C. from the south. Includes hiking, camping and picnic areas.

## Amusement Parks

- [King's Dominion](#): 804-876-5000
  - Hours vary by date, check the website for details.
  - Boasted as the largest amusement park on the East Coast, King's Dominion is roughly an hour and a half south of Washington, D.C. Features 12 roller coasters and a 19-acre water park.
- [Six Flags America](#): 301-249-1500 (press 1, then 3 for group sales OR 4 for tickets and general information)
  - Hours vary by date, check the website for details
  - Six Flags America for the Washington/Baltimore area features over 100 rides and attractions, including 8 roller coasters and a water park. The regular group rate is \$33 plus tax per person.

## Beaches

- [Virginia Beach, VA](#): Virginia Beach is a very popular tourist destination and Virginia's largest city. It is accessible by interstate and located just east of Norfolk.
- [Ocean City, MD](#): Ocean City is Maryland's number 1 beach destination. Located 2 1/2 hours east of Washington across the Bay Bridge.

## Other

- [National Aquarium in Baltimore](#): 410-576-3800
- Open Mon-Thurs and Sat from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fri 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- The National Aquarium is Baltimore's number one tourist attraction and home to more than 10,500 marine and freshwater animals. Book a reservation in advance.