

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



NCA welcomes you to this year's annual convention in New Orleans. To help you prepare, we've put together this quick reference guide so you're ready for a successful event. For even more details, the [NCA website](#) and [app](#) is where you'll find *everything* NCA including events, professional development, and so much more!

General Information

For those arriving on Wednesday, your journey will kick-start the moment you arrive at the airport. Be on the lookout for our welcome band playing at the airport on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, from 9 AM - 6 PM.

Official Convention Venues

New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street
(504) 581-1000

Sheraton New Orleans
500 Canal Street
(888) 627-7033

Time Zone

New Orleans is located in the Central Time Zone (UTC-06:00)

Weather

November average high: 72 °F / 22 °C August average low: 53 °F / 12 °C.

What to Pack

Bring comfortable shoes as both venues are large, so be prepared for a lot of walking. Meeting room temperatures can vary, so dressing in layers is advisable.

The Welcome Reception will be held outdoors in the evening when temperatures drop. Consider bringing a shawl or light sweater.

Airport Ground Transportation

Downtown New Orleans is approximately 12 miles from the airport with several travel options:

- **City Bus**
Hop the RTA's 202 Airport Express, which travels from the airport terminals to Elk Place at Canal Street in Downtown New Orleans. The fare is \$1.50 and the bus makes 9 daily trips to New Orleans.
- **Taxi Service**
There is a cab stand right outside of the airport on level 1. Fares are \$36 each way for one or two people. Three people or more are \$14 each. There is a \$1 per bag fee. This fare is good from the airport to anywhere in the city of New Orleans. It's regulated by the city but is subject to change.

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- **Ride Sharing**

[KreweCar](#) is a locally owned and operated premium rideshare service that allows you to book safe rides in advance with professional drivers who are screened and background checked. They also offer car seats and boosters for families traveling with small children.

Easily order an **Uber or Lyft** when you land at the New Orleans airport, and they'll get you to your destination in no time! Located on the bottom level of the airport parking lot, there is a designated spot for ride-share pick ups. It is conveniently across the street from baggage claim, so grab your suitcase and meet your driver. Trips to and from the airport with start and end locations in Orleans Parish are a minimum of \$33. Click [here](#) to view pricing information.

- **Accessible Transportation:**

[We Lift Rideshare](#)

Phone: Toll Free: 877.857.7728 / Local Phone: 504.800.8005

Email: i.warren@welifrideshare.com

Parking

Both the Marriott and the Sheraton offer parking options. Below are their respective prices:

- **Marriott: Valet**
Valet - \$49 regular sized vehicles, \$55 oversized vehicles
- **Sheraton:**
Valet- \$52, On-Site- \$42

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi will be provided in all areas of our convention.

Marriott

Network: NCA Conference

Password: NCA-2024

Sheraton

Network: MarriottBonvoy_Conference

Password: NCA-2024

Social Media

Share your experience by posting pictures, messages, and more using one of the social media accounts below. Be sure to use #NCA2024 on your posts.



LIKE

[Facebook.com/NationalCommunicationAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/NationalCommunicationAssociation)



FOLLOW

[X.com/NatComm](https://x.com/NatComm)



WATCH

[YouTube.com/NationalComm](https://www.youtube.com/NationalComm)

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NCA Mobile App Replaces the Print Program

In line with our sustainability efforts, we are transitioning away from print programs. This year, print programs are only available to those who requested them during registration.

You can access NCA 2024 information on your smartphone or tablet by downloading the app from your app store. Simply search for “NCA 2024” or scan the QR code below.

Benefits of Using the Mobile App:

- **Create Your Itinerary:** Save a personalized schedule of sessions.
- **Messaging:** Communicate with other attendees and receive messages.
- **Access Session Handouts:** View handouts provided by presenters. To find them, select the session and click on “Attachments.” Note that this option will only appear for sessions with available resources.
- **Take Session Notes:** Keep notes directly in the app by selecting the session and clicking on “Notes.” You can also export all your notes by going to “Menu,” selecting your profile (your name), then “Program Materials,” and finally “Export Notes.”



Where else can I find the schedule?

The schedule is available in the convention program booklet, on our [website](#), and in the app.

Build Your Schedule

See the NCA 2024 [Online Program](#) app to view all convention happenings. [Build your schedule](#) with everything you want and nothing you don't. This tool is meant for planning purposes only. Adding a session to your personal schedule is not a form of registration nor does it guarantee you a seat in a session. You can also easily browse education and events on the app and your personal schedule will automatically pull through from the NCA online program. Parts of the program you don't want to miss include:

- **Early Morning Tea Conversations:** a new opportunity to sip and connect with early bird colleagues at 6:45 a.m. in facilitated [Death Café](#) and [Mindfulness, Meditation & Well Being Cafe](#) conversations.
- **Student Lounge:** Located in the Sheraton Hotel (Southdown, 4th Floor), the lounge is an

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exclusive space for undergraduate and graduate student attendees. Network with fellow students, grab a small bite, and relax between sessions. Open 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Thursday through Friday.

- **Day of Service:** Give back in as little as 15 minutes or spend a few hours. The choice is yours. (Sponsored by Kendall Hunt).
- **First Vice President Spotlight Sessions:** The 4 Ls (Loss, Leadership, Legacy, and Leverage) are needed moments of greatest regard based NCA First Vice President's (Dr. Jeanetta Sims) time spent serving and listening across three decades of NCA involvement. Each session comprises diverse, pivotal voices and approaches for greater regard. And, we reflect on the lives of two past NCA Presidents.
- **Newcomer's Welcome and Orientation:** This session is for first-time convention attendees and/or new NCA members. Association officers and leaders will provide an overview of both the association and the convention
- **Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S):** Unlock innovative, class-tested activities, assignments, projects, games, simulations, and assessment techniques. This session addresses specific communication concepts, theories, skills, and learning objectives—providing you with practical tools to enhance your teaching.
- **Scholar to Scholar:** An interactive presentation format where participants display their work using creative posters, digital slides, and other media with the goal of engaging conversation with other scholars in attendance. Come see the work of a diverse group of scholars in a novel and engaging format!
- **Graduate School Open House:** a valuable opportunity for colleges and universities to connect with prospective students.
- **Career Fair:** your place to go to seek new career opportunities.
- **Interest Group Meetings:** Join interest group meetings to connect with others who share your specific research interests and goals.

Registration

Registration Hours:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| • Wednesday, November 20 | 3:00 – 7:00 PM |
| • Thursday, November 21 | 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM |
| • Friday, November 22 | 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM |
| • Saturday, November 23 | 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM |

Self Check-in Registration Kiosks

Save time and use the self check-in/badge pick up registration kiosks available in the registration area. All you need is your QR code provided in the 2024 NCA Annual Convention Show Badge Pick Up barcode email.

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On-site Registration

The NCA registration and exhibit hall are located in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott (3rd floor). You are encouraged to register online before arrival to save time to avoid waiting in line. You'll receive your confirmation and QR code immediately, which can be scanned at self-check-in/badge pick-up.

Events and Education that Require Registration

Certain events and activities have additional fees, limited seating available or require a ticket for entry. Examples of this include Pre-conferences and Short Courses. Registration can be completed [online](#) or at the onsite registration desk.

Events

Welcome Reception

Thursday, November 21 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Porte-Cochère, Marriott

Immediately following the session, **join us for a parade to the Welcome Reception!** The parade will begin at Grand Ballroom C and will make its way to the Porte-Cochère at the New Orleans Marriott. Celebrate with us as we march together in a vibrant display of community spirit and anticipation for the evening ahead!

Indigenous Caucus Opening Session

Thursday, November 21 – Sunday, November 24 | 7:00 – 7:45 AM
Mardi Gras Salon D, 3rd Floor, Marriott

All are welcome to attend this sacred event, regardless of background or experience

Sunset Zumba

Thursday, November 21 | 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Proteus, 8th Floor, Sheraton

Sunrise Yoga

Friday, November 22 – Saturday, November 23 | 6:30 - 7:30 AM
Armstrong Ballroom, 8th Floor, Sheraton
Participants must bring their own mat.

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Other Fun Stuff

Built in Breaks

A brief mid-day break on Thursday-Saturday from 12:15-12:45 PM for lunch and for visiting the Exclusive Exhibit Hall Hours.

Food Kiosks:

Enjoy a variety of delicious food options available in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday and Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Take a break, refuel, and network with fellow attendees! Please note that the Marriott is a cashless facility, so be sure to bring your cards for purchases!

NCA Hub/Booth:

Make sure to stop by the NCA Hub/Booth at booth #309! Connect with NCA staff to discover valuable resources designed just for you. Experience a live demo of our new website, and don't miss the chance to win exciting prizes (e.g. free conference registration and travel)!

Headshot Lounge:

Capture a professional image and make a lasting impression by recording video testimonials regarding your experience with NCAs programs, products, and services! Our Headshot Lounge is available on Thursday and Friday only at the NCA Hub! Sponsored by Bedford St. Martin's/Macmillan Learning, this is a fantastic opportunity to update your professional portfolio.

Accessibility Information

Wheelchair/Scooter Charging Stations:

Available in the Exhibit Hall at the Marriott and the Evergreen Room (4th floor) at the Sheraton.

Wheelchair/Scooter Rentals:

NCA will have a limited number of scooters available for attendees. Attendees are required to sign the scooters in and out each day in the exhibit hall. Please note that these are for unanticipated needs. Convention attendees are responsible for renting, paying, and organizing the drop off and pick up of wheelchairs and scooters.

Total Access Mobility Services

Address: 500 Port of New Orleans Pl, New Orleans, LA 70130

Phone: 504.534.3366

Website: totalaccessmobility.com

Discount Code: NCANO24

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Enlarged Print Program:

Large print versions of the program are available at the registration desk.

ASL Interpretation:

There will be interpreters at all general sessions.

Gender Neutral Restrooms:

Located on the 2nd floor near Galerie 6 and on the 4th floor near the Blues Office in the Marriott, and on the 3rd floor near Napoleon Ballroom C1 in the Sheraton.

Lactation Room:

Located in the Blues Room, 4th Floor, Marriott.

Quiet Room:

Available in the Audubon Room, 5th Floor, Marriott, and at the Grand Ballroom Registration Desk, 5th Floor, Sheraton. These rooms should not be used for meetings or phone calls.

Prayer Room:

Available in the Zulu Room, 5th Floor, Sheraton.

Service Animal Relief:

- **Marriott:** on the 5th floor off of the pool deck
- **Sheraton:** None

Other Information

Don't see what you need in this guide? Review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information.

Thank you in advance and see you in New Orleans!