



Congress Beacon

Newsletter of Delta Sigma Pi's 2023 Grand Chapter Congress

Registration Confirmation Edition

CONGRATULATIONS!

Now that you've registered for the 55th Grand Chapter Congress, this document will help you plan for your attendance. This newsletter is designed to make planning your visit to Houston easy. Included below is information for the Marriott Marquis Houston hotel, air travel, ground transportation and more. After thoroughly reviewing the materials, if you still have questions, contact the Central Office at 513-523-1907; registration@dsp.org.



Visit dsp.org/GCC for more details!

Houston attracts visitors and transplants alike with a wonderful mix of world-class arts, booming business, pro sports and award-winning cuisine. Houston is a temperate city filled with eclectic neighborhood's, fascinating gallery spaces and attractions, and much, much more, putting it on the North American tourism map for good.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

- Nametags for Grand Chapter Congress will be required for entry into all events. *Full* Congress registrants will receive a nametag that allows entry for all events throughout the week. *Partial* registrants will have special color-coded nametags that allow entry to events by the day(s) registered for. Please ensure you have registered for all the days you wish to participate in at Congress. If you partially registered and wish to upgrade your registration, please call 513-523-1907 or email registration@dsp.org for assistance.
- Tickets will be *required* for meal functions and the Friday Stampede Houston (Private event for all registrants) and BBQ dinner buffet. Nametags will provide access to all other Grand Chapter Congress events. Access to functions will be controlled.

ACCOMMODATIONS – The GCC host hotel Marriott Marquis Houston (1777 Walker Street, Houston, TX 77010) is located in downtown Houston, Texas, and is connected by skywalk to the George R. Brown Convention Center and a number of downtown eateries and outlets. Equipped with spacious guest rooms and suites with city, park or pool views and deluxe amenities such as a full-service spa and modern fitness center. The hotel has the world's largest Texas-shaped rooftop lazy river and outdoor infinity pool. Satisfy your palate with myriad dining options, including Biggio's Sports Bar, Walker Street Kitchen, Xochi by HugoOrtega, and enjoy outdoor ambiance of High Dive and the Cueva Wine Bar. A full-service Starbucks is available in the Convention Center.

Reservations are open! Book Delta Sigma Pi's an amazing rate of \$149 + 17% taxes for single, double, triple or quad occupancy (approximately \$175/night). Upgrade options may be available. Attendees are encouraged to book [online](#) or call 713-654-1777 or 800-228-9290 before July 5, as hotel rooms will have a tendency to sell out! The inventory changes daily as other Deltasigs book and cancel rooms.

There is a 72-hour cancellation policy and early departure fee. Hotel address and website: Marriott Marquis Houston 1777 Walker Street, Houston, TX 77010 Main Line: 713-654-1777. Check-in is 4:00 p.m. and check-out is 11:00 a.m. ALL Marriott Bonvoy members receive free guestroom internet; if not yet a Bonvoy member please [join now](#).

Currently, self-parking is \$40 and valet parking is \$65, both with unlimited in/out privileges. Prices are subject to change. Self-parking garage location: Avenida North Garage, 701 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, Texas, 77010. Other parking options are available in the area that may be more cost-effective.

Overflow Hotel: If you find you cannot get a room at the Marriott Marquis for your desired dates, we are happy to offer you a nearby overflow option at the Hampton Inn Houston Downtown, which is a walkable block from the Marriott Marquis. For any nights the Marriott Marquis Houston may be sold out (which may include August 12, 13 and 14), attendees can stay at the Hampton Inn Houston Downtown (710 Crawford St., Houston, TX 77002). King or two queen bed rooms have been secured at same rate, \$149 + tax per night. Visit [online](#) or call 713-224-0011, mentioning Delta Sigma Pi to secure group discounted rate. These reservations too, are available until July 5, or until filled whichever comes first. Book now! There are also, several other hotel options walkable to the Marriott Marquis if desired, but no other overflow arrangements have been made with additional hotels at this time.

AIR TRAVEL and CAR RENTAL – See also “Airport Transportation.”

For links to Houston area websites, or to learn more about travel discounts for rental cars, air travel, etc., see www.dsp.org/GCC. Keep checking the site as more details are added over time.

RENTAL CARS – Save with Enterprise Rent-a-Car and National Car Rentals! Book directly through [Delta Sigma Pi's page](#) or reserve by phone at Enterprise 1-800 RENTACAR (1-800-736-8222) and National 1-800 CARRENT (1-800-227-7368). Make sure to use Corporate Number/Contract ID (available [online](#)) when reserving to take advantage of special offers and waived youthful driver fees.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION – Houston has two major airports – Houston Hobby (HOU) 9.5 miles and Bush Intercontinental (IAH) 20.5 miles away from downtown Houston. The hotel does not offer a airport shuttle service to the Marriott Marquis Houston. You might consider a car rental using Deltasig partners (see above). Alternate transportation methods include car services, taxi, bus service, Uber or Lyft ride shares and via the METRORail lines.

ALCOHOL POLICIES – The legal drinking age is 21. Attendees should be prepared to present valid personal identification as requested. It is recommended to have two picture identifications with you.

Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase by those of legal age (21) for their own consumption at various Grand Chapter Congress events. These beverages will be served by hotel management personnel who will enforce the minimum drinking age.

ALUMNI CHAPTER TRAVEL AWARD – See “Travel Awards”.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE SUGGESTIONS – Ideal arrival time is Tuesday, August 15. Congress Registration is 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, continuing on the following days. Grand Chapter Congress “proper” begins Wednesday, August 16, with the Marketplace, and a day of educational and leadership programming beginning at 9:00 a.m. Delegate Orientation is Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. **All Delegates and Alternates must attend the Orientation.** The Saturday Grand Banquet and Dance is the final scheduled Congress event on August 19. Departure should be planned no sooner than Sunday, August 20. Refer to the tentative schedule at the end of this *Beacon* for more details.

AWARDS – See “Travel Awards”

BANQUET SEATING – There is an opportunity to request who you would like to sit with at the banquet on Saturday, August 19th by completing this [form](https://forms.gle/KikeRtTiJ6qyWJuf9) <https://forms.gle/KikeRtTiJ6qyWJuf9> Wednesday, July 19. Table assignments will be made available during Congress and will be based on first come-first serve and are based on availability. You may email banquet@dsp.org with any other questions. There will be a Banquet Seating table set up during Congress for attendees to view table assignments and make any changes. All persons you wish to sit with must also indicate in their request that they also wish to sit with you.

CANCELLATIONS – See “Transfers/Cancellations” for information on how to cancel your Congress registration.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FUNDS – Collegiate chapters may have grantable funds available through their Chapter Leadership Fund (CLF), a chapter-specific account within the Leadership Foundation created to receive chapter designated charitable gifts. These funds may help offset the educational costs associated with Grand Chapter Congress. Chapters should encourage their alumni and friends to financially support their chapter’s CLF by visiting dsp.org/donate. Chapters can request grants to cover the costs related to attending Grand Chapter Congress—including registration fees, travel and lodging. Collegiate chapters can find information about their chapter’s CLF, including available funds and the process to request a grant, by logging into the Hub.

CHAPTER MERCHANDISE SALES – Chapters may sell merchandise during designated times at a pre-assigned table only with advance reservations. A request must be made using the “GCC Chapter Sales Approval Form”, which is available in the [Hub Forms Module](#) until July 1. If the submitted form is approved, \$25 per item being sold will be invoiced to the chapter – **form and payment must be received by July 1**. All sellers - collegians and alumni - must be fully registered for Grand Chapter Congress. Please review the [merchandise policy](#) to ensure you are in compliance.

CHILD CARE – No formal “youth programs” or childcare will be arranged by the Fraternity. The hotel does not offer babysitting services. The Fraternity does not endorse or recommend any service.

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER TRAVEL AWARD – See “Travel Awards”.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS – There are multiple Community Service opportunities for you to take part in for Grand Chapter Congress! Join our onsite community service event on Friday afternoon to support Operation Gratitude. Their mission is to “Honor the service of our military and first responders by creating opportunities to express gratitude.” Deltasigs will be making paracord lanyards, and writing letters to be included in care packages that Operation Gratitude will then ship all around the world. When we craft a paracord lanyard, we are providing a service member or first responder with a tangible and lasting expression of gratitude and a symbol of the appreciation of grateful Deltasigs and people everywhere. When our lanyards arrive at their facility, they will attach a carabineer that can be clipped onto almost anything to keep it within reach should an emergency arise. Operation Gratitude includes lanyards in their care packages because they’re both functional and meaningful, as they are handmade who want to show their appreciation of our Military and first responders. All supplies will be provided, just bring yourself and fellow Deltasigs to participate.

Throughout the week, we will be supporting our national initiative, Ronald McDonald House Charities, with donations of pop tabs, gift cards and other needs as requested via their websites. Rather than bringing those items to Houston, we encourage you to make your donations at your local Ronald McDonald House – and then as applicable record that donation in the Hub as a community service project. If you want to bring to Houston, a table will be available in the Deltasig Marketplace Wednesday – Saturday noon for collection. We no longer weigh pop tabs at events.

Have some Deltasig T-Shirts you’re ready to part with – or maybe you’re ready to add some new T-Shirts to your collection. Bring your gently-worn Deltasig T-Shirts to Houston for donation at the Community Service Table in the Deltasig Marketplace. Then later in the week, come back and shop the options for only \$5 with proceeds supporting a local charity in Houston.

CONGRESS LADDER & PIN – A Fraternity tradition is for Congress attendees to purchase a Deltasig Grand Chapter Congress ladder and lapel pin for each Congress they attend. Order a GCC Ladder and Pin combo to ensure you get them in advance, as they are limited!

To order your Pin and Ladder, visit the [Deltasig Shop](#).

CONGRESS TRAVEL FUND FOR COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS – During fall 2021, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation for collegiate chapters to receive up to a \$300 reimbursement credit from a chapter’s GCC Travel Fund for the 2023 (Houston) Grand Chapter Congress. Newly installed chapters should check with the Central Office as funds may not be available. The Congress reserve fund will be issued as an account credit (viewable in the Hub) to each eligible chapter within 14 days after Congress. If the chapter prefers the fund to be disbursed via check, the request must be made at least 14 days prior to the start of the event. The official delegate of each chapter and each Grand Officer are required to attend each business session of the Grand Chapter Congress. Failure to be in attendance proportionately reduces any available expense allowance. Absence at any roll call or during a fractional part of one session exceeding thirty (30)

minutes in length will constitute an absence, unless the Grand President has officially excused the delegate/alternates or officer for a good cause.

CREDENTIALS – All delegates and alternates will need to check-in at the Credentials Desk – open Tuesday, August 15 (10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.) and Wednesday, August 16 (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). A mandatory meeting for all delegates and alternates is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16 (5:15 – 6:30 p.m.) to discuss legislative process, seating requirements, and understand business requirements for the rest of the week. *Collegiate delegates must be currently enrolled for fall term at the school where their chapter is chartered **and** all delegates must be fully registered for Congress.*

DISABILITIES, SPECIAL DIETS OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS – Delta Sigma Pi and Marriott Marquis Houston want to accommodate your needs as best as reasonably possible. Please contact registration@dsp.org before your trip so we can make arrangements for your comfort. If you have vegetarian, vegan, allergy or other dietary needs, please communicate that detailed information as soon as possible (no later than August 1) to registration@dsp.org if you did not already do so when registering. On-site requests may not be able to be accommodated satisfactorily and there may be an additional charge in order to meet certain requests.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS –

- **Wednesday** - Business casual attire may be worn for the educational sessions. For the Wednesday night Grand President's Reception and Game night – wear your letters, collegiate “game day” or other casual attire.
- **Thursday** – Professional attire (traditionally a suit or dress) is required for the Business Sessions and Honorary Initiation.
- **Friday** – Business casual attire may be worn for the Friday Business Sessions, lunch and onsite community service activities. Be sure to wear your letters or other casual attire (such as nice shorts and Deltasig shirts) for the outing on Friday to the Stampede Houston.
- **Saturday** - Business casual attire may be worn for the Saturday Business Sessions. Professional attire (traditionally a suit or dress) is required for the Saturday Banquet and Dance. Some of the Board of Directors, Regional Vice Presidents, staff, and others may wear formal attire for the Banquet and Dance. Other participants are welcome to wear formal attire, but it is not required (see below).

August has the most sunshine and is considered the warmest month of the year in Houston. Temperatures in Houston average a daytime high of 94.3°F and evening lows of 77.5°F. The average relative humidity in August in Houston is 70% which is considered, STICKY!

Those wishing to use the pool and workout facilities should bring appropriate clothing. Also, bring comfortable shoes for walking and dancing, as well as an umbrella. Remember to bring a sweater or a light jacket as hotel meeting rooms can be very cool at times. Be sure to bring your Fraternity badge, Congress Ladder, pins and other Deltasig jewelry; driver's license or other ID, your hotel confirmation. Also, consider bringing copies of your résumé for career opportunities offered by various Deltasig partners. Delegates and alternates should also bring a Ritual Book, Bylaw amendments, copies of Bylaws and Policy and Procedure Manuals.

See also “TUXEDOS/FORMAL ATTIRE/DRESSES”.

EXPENSES – In planning for your convention expenses, there are several additional items that you should consider. Your personal costs will include lodging, meals which are not part of the convention program, your transportation to and from the Houston area and hotel, car service or bus fares, tips, snacks, drinks, souvenirs and other incidental expenses. See “CONGRESS TRAVEL FUND” for reimbursement details.

FLOWERS/CORSAGES – Contact the hotel front desk or do a local online search for options.

FRIDAY NIGHT OUTING – Off Property Event at Stampede Houston a fun and upbeat private DSP Night!
Join hundreds of Deltasigs from 6-10 p.m. for a private event at the Stampede Houston, including BBQ dinner buffet with activities such as pool, darts, mechanical bull, karaoke rooms, ax throwing, cornhole, DJ and dance floor, a line dance instructor, photo booth and entertainment by a live band. Come learn, play, compete, dance, and connect with brothers you know and don't know yet! Transportation included. Delta Sigma Pi Full or Friday Registration required. Must have nametag and ticket to enter.

HOST COMMITTEE – There will be a Host Committee Table available on Tuesday through the end of the week where you can stop by and talk to brothers from the Houston area about places to go, things to do and dining establishments you may not want to miss.

HOTEL AND CONGRESS REGISTRATION – When you arrive at the Marriott Marquis Houston, you will need to check-in at the front desk for your hotel accommodations. Beginning Tuesday, August 15, you may also check-in with Delta Sigma Pi, between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., for your official Congress registration packet.

HOUSTON and AREA INFORMATION – Extensive visitor information is available at www.dsp.org/GCC. [Visit Houston](#) also has resources available online.

MARKETPLACE – Fraternity partners, sponsors and vendors, including chapter merchandise sales, will be in the Deltasig Marketplace throughout the convention. For those chapters wishing to sell items, refer to “CHAPTER MERCHANDISE SALES” and complete the “GCC Chapter Sales Approval Form” in the [Hub Forms Module](#). See tentative schedule for open hours.

ONSITE EVENT REGISTRATION – Tickets/nametags **may** be available on-site for additional full-day packages that are not sold out. Space is limited and preference is given to those with advance full registrations.

PARKING – See “ACCOMMODATIONS” for details and discounts.

ROOMMATES – If you are looking for a roommate for Congress, email registration@dsp.org your name, age, gender, school, email and phone number. Staff will accumulate the data and forward it to others seeking roommates. It is your responsibility to follow-up with contacts, make a hotel reservation, etc. Delta Sigma Pi assumes no responsibility or liability regarding this optional service.

SAFETY – During the summer months, it is easy to become dehydrated. Drink plenty of water and juices (caffeine and alcohol dehydrate even more) and be conscious of high temperatures. Seek assistance if you’re not feeling well or chilling when in the heat – heat stroke is a serious risk for everyone. *Water is good for you!*

Remember, there is safety in numbers so **always** travel in groups. We want your Congress experience to be pleasant and memorable. Use common sense and be alert.

STAMPEDE HOUSTON – See “FRIDAY NIGHT OUTING”

TOURS – No Deltasig-only tours have been arranged. Links to Houston attractions and a number of tour vendors are found at www.dsp.org/GCC. See “HOUSTON AND AREA INFORMATION” above.

TRANSFERS/CANCELLATIONS – Registration transfers (from one person to another) are simple – Transfers should be requested at www.dsp.org/myregistrations by the original registrant. A \$30 service fee paid by the new registrant will be incurred at the time of registration. If circumstances beyond your control force you to cancel, please submit your cancellation request at www/dsp.org/myregistrations. Cancelled registrations will be refunded in full, less a 10% per person service fee, if the cancellation request is **received at the Central Office by July 19**. All cancellations **received after July 19 are nonrefundable**. If your registration was paid by chapter check or someone else, the refund will be payable to that entity. Refunds will be made as promptly as possible; however, those canceling near Congress will experience a delay due to staffing limitations. Please contact registration@dsp.org with questions.

TRAVEL AWARDS – The Kenneth B. White Collegiate Chapter Travel Award is presented at each Congress to the one collegiate chapter exhibiting the greatest promotion of the Congress through its vigorous attendance. This award is named in honor of Brother White, an initiate of Gamma Chapter (Boston). Eligibility Requirements: chapter must have a delegate seated at the Grand Chapter Congress; members included in consideration of award must be of collegiate status at the time of Grand Chapter Congress; members must be paid and registered for *Full Registration* at least 10 days prior to the Congress opening session; members may not change registration as to which collegiate chapter they represent at any point during the Grand Chapter Congress.

The Robert O. Hughes Alumni Chapter Travel Award is presented at each Congress to the one alumni chapter exhibiting the greatest promotion of the Congress through its vigorous attendance. This award is named in honor of Brother Hughes, an initiate of Beta Nu Chapter (Pennsylvania), and recipient of the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award. Combined, Bob and Arlene Hughes attended over fifty Congresses! Eligibility Requirements: chapter must have a delegate seated at the Grand Chapter Congress; members included in consideration of award must be of alumni status at the time of Grand Chapter Congress, be paid and registered for *Full Registration* at least 10 days prior to the Congress opening session, indicate which alumni chapter they represent on their Congress registration form *and reside* in the area of the alumni chapter.

TUXEDOS/FORMAL ATTIRE/DRESSES- all optional and only offered as a suggestion if desired.

- [The Black Tux](#) is an online tuxedo company (may also be affiliated with some Nordstrom stores) that ships directly to you and you return it directly. You receive the package 10 days prior to the August 19 banquet, allowing you plenty of time to correct any sizing issues. To return, you put in the provided box and drop it off at UPS within 3 days. Visit www.theblacktux.com for more details and to get your order underway. *Tuxedos are not required for the GCC Banquet, but several leadership and others will be wearing tuxedos.*
- [ThredUP | An Online Consignment & Thrift Store](#) Thrifty and sustainable. Discover one of the world's largest online consignment & thrift stores. As one of the world's largest online resale platforms for women's apparel, shoes, and accessories, the mission is to inspire a new generation of shoppers to think secondhand clothes first.
- [Rent the Runway](#) One-Time Rentals. Lock in a show-stopping outfit for a special day and keep items for 4 or 8 days at a time.