

VOLUNTEER TALKING POINTS

Key City Facts

- 14th largest city in the country
- Fastest growing city in the Midwest and one of the fastest growing in the country
- Located within a one-day drive or one-hour flight from more than half the U.S. population
- Hotels
 - 4,250 hotel rooms downtown; 2,250 hotel rooms connected/ adjacent to convention center
 - 1,000 hotel rooms currently under construction downtown
- John Glenn Columbus International Airport
 - 40+ nonstop destinations, with daily direct flights from to the east and west coasts
 - 150+ daily departures
 - 10 minutes to downtown

Why Columbus

- We're uniquely collaborative. Meeting planners have told us they're impressed by the distinct spirit of teamwork and collaboration that runs throughout our city, making more possible with their group. It's one of the reasons ASAE chose Columbus to host the annual meeting.
- Columbus has a strong convention package featuring a newly renovated and expanded convention center, growing hotel inventory and walkable entertainment districts.
- The Greater Columbus Convention Center sits at the heart of downtown, surrounded by the city's "Five on High" unique neighborhoods. A compact convention package with more than 100 restaurants, facilities, hotels and entertainment options just outside its doors.
- A walkable downtown and numerous transportation options make getting around Columbus easy.
 - The AirConnect circulates between the airport and convention center/downtown hotels.
 - The CBUS offers free hop-on/hop-off transportation throughout downtown.
 - Alternative options include ridesharing, scooters and even an autonomous shuttle.
- Columbus celebrates diversity, and people of any background, age or interest will feel welcome and find fun and unforgettable experiences.
 - Columbus City Code prohibits discriminatory practices and protects sexual orientation in the city of Columbus.
 - Columbus has received a perfect score for six years running from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Municipal Equality Index (MEI) – and many large employers are top-scorers
- More than 60 colleges and universities bring students, faculty and researchers from around the world who constantly infuse new ideas and people into our ecosystem.
- The city has an enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit fueled by innovation, risk-taking and big thinking. It is home to 15 Fortune 1000 companies and numerous startups.
- Recent accolades:
 - NYT named Columbus a top 52 place to visit in the world in 2019
 - One of Food and Wine's places to visit and eat in 2019
 - Chicago Tribune called Columbus a must visit destination in 2019

What should I do/see in Columbus?

There will be Columbus "hot spots" cards at each table you can give people looking for things to do.

Food:

- Columbus is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of America's up-and-coming culinary destinations. *Food and Wine* named Columbus one of its top cities to visit and eat in 2019. Our creative chefs have access to the best local ingredients in which to craft their menus, and the local spirits, craft beer and coffee scenes are booming.
 - Love coffee or beer? Check out the Columbus Coffee Trail and Columbus Ale Trail. It's a great way to explore the city and sample some of the country's best coffee and craft beer. The Coffee Trail features dozens of local craft roasters and the Ale Trail features nearly 50 craft brewers.
 - *Please be prepared to share 2-3 of your favorite local restaurants close to the GCCC.*
- Make sure to stop by the North Market, just across the street from the convention center. It's a historic market that features dozens of local food vendors, produce stands and more. Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams got its start within the market.
 - *Please be prepared to share your favorite vendor*

Shopping:

- If you love to shop, head to the Short North Arts District where you'll find locally owned boutiques and funky thrift stores.
- Across the street from the convention center is The Candle Lab, a locally owned shop where you can make your own custom-scented candle to take home with you.

Arts / Culture

- Columbus' arts scene is thriving! Take a walk through the Short North Arts District to browse galleries or admire public art and wall murals.
 - The Pizzuti Gallery is one of the largest contemporary art collections in the world. This hidden gem is located just a couple of blocks from the GCCC along Goodale Park.
 - On Aug. 11, you can watch a live mural being created in the Short North Arts District from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The new National Veterans Memorial and Museum opened late last year. It's the only museum in the country that focuses on telling the stories of veterans – across all branches of military and all eras of conflict – in one place. It is located along the Scioto River, across from COSI, where the Opening Event took place.
- Festival Latino is happening along the riverfront until 8 p.m. tonight. It is free to enter.

Active / Outdoors

- Walk, run, bike or scooter along the Scioto Mile, a gorgeous pathway next to the Scioto River that connects miles of trails throughout the city.
- On Sunday at 4 p.m., the Columbus Clippers, our Triple-A baseball team will play against the Buffalo Bisons. Huntington Park is just a few blocks away on Nationwide Blvd.

Five On High Neighborhoods:

- **Short North Arts District:** Just outside the north entrance. Taste local flavors in one-of-a-kind restaurants, see original art or go boutique shopping
- **Arena District:** Just outside the west entrance. See NHL hockey, Triple-A baseball or a major concert, find some familiar restaurants. Stroll the iconic North Market.
- **University District:** Home to OSU, iconic sporting locations, an under-the-radar arts scene.
- **Downtown:** Our beautiful waterfront, renowned art museum, historic statehouse, top-ranked science center and multiple performing arts theatres.
- **German Village:** The entire neighborhood is on the National Registrar of Historic Places, with tree-lined brick streets and quaint eateries and shops, like The Book Loft, where you can get lost in 32-rooms of books.