

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO The American Legion's 106th National Convention

August 22 – 28, 2025 *Subject to Change Without Notice* As of 8/11/2025

TIME ZONE:

Tampa is Eastern Time Zone.

TEMPERATURE:

The average high temperature in Tampa in mid-August is 91 degrees F; average low is 75 degrees F. The extended forecast may be found at <u>Tampa, FL Weather Forecast | AccuWeather</u>. Plan and pack accordingly. Be weather alert with the heat and rain!

HEADQUARTERS HOTELS:

The headquarters hotel for The American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary will be at the Marriott Water Street. The headquarters hotel for Sons of The American Legion will be at the JW Marriott Water Street. Heads up! JW Marriott & Marriott Water Street are cashless – cards are the only way to pay!

MEETINGS/EVENTS LOCATIONS:

The American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary General Sessions will be held at the Tampa Convention Center, located at 333 S Franklin St. Tampa, FL 33602. The center will open one hour prior to the start of the first event each day. Sons of The American Legion General Session will be held at the JW Marriott Water Street at 510 Water St. Tampa, FL 33602.

Tampa Convention Center will also be the site of the Exhibit Hall and Emblem Sales Store, Color Guard Contest, Patriotic Memorial Service, membership training utilizing subject matter experts, National Commander's Banquet, and Auxiliary States Dinner.

Don't miss the Color Guard competition on Friday August 22^{nd} at 1:30 PM in East Hall, Third Floor – featuring units from CA, FL, MD, NC, & VA as well as over 20 JROTC units! Come cheer on your home Department and witness top-tier precision and pride in action!

National Staff Offices for The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Badges & Packets will also be in the Tampa Convention Center, as well as Distinguished Guest Registration. Please visit the mobile app or Convention Information | The American Legion for exact meeting room locations and the calendar of events.

REGISTRATION/CREDENTIALS:

All attendees must wear the proper credentials to access most areas. If you pre-registered with your department, you will obtain credentials on-site from your department. Contact your department for their applicable on-site registration location.

There will be on-site registration in the Tampa Convention Center, Foyer, Second Floor.

To register on-site, will need your ID, current American Legion Family Membership card and \$35 cash. No credit cards will be accepted!

DRESS CODE:

Recommended dress code while in the convention audience and commission/committee meetings is business casual, which is defined as trousers and collared polo shirt – preferably Legion polo – for men and appropriate parallel dress for women. Comfortable shoes but no flip flops. If onstage at any point, business dress (shirt, tie, and jacket – appropriate parallel dress for women).

- All Commission and Committee Meetings: Business casual. Those preferring to wear Business dress may do so.
- National Executive Committee Meetings, audience: Business casual. Those preferring to wear Business dress may do so.
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- National Convention, stage appearances: Business Dress
- National Commander's Banquet: Leave the tuxes and gowns at home. The dress code for this year's commander's banquet is "resort business casual." In practical terms this means collared shirts and khaki style pants with comfortable dress shoes for men and women with the addition of skirts, dresses, flats and sandals for women. No shorts or flip-flops.
 - If you ordered a banquet shirt from Emblem Sales, this will be delivered to Tampa and can be picked up at the Convention Center, West Hall, Third Floor, near Emblem Sales.

AIRLINES/TRANSPORTATION:

Check your airline's website and/or download your airline mobile app to get the timeliest updates.

A good rule of thumb is to allow two (2) hours minimum for flight check-in.

Upon arrival to the Tampa International Airport and/or downtown Tampa area, wait times and costs may have increased with Uber, Lyft, taxies, etc. Plan accordingly.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE:

Food and beverage options will be located throughout the Tampa Convention Center. Please utilize these areas to enjoy your culinary delights and refreshing beverages. The center accepts cash, all major credit cards, and Apple Pav.

For ticketed food & beverage events and bar services, cash, all major credit cards, and Apple Pay are accepted. There is an ATM located just inside the Franklin Street entrance of the Tampa Convention Center.

For local menus around the Tampa area, visit Restaurants in Tampa, FL, Menus and Guide - Allmenus.

There are multiple refillable water bottle stations all throughout the Convention Center – please make sure to bring your water bottle and **HYDRATE** as much as possible.

EXHIBIT HALL/EMBLEM SALES:

The Exhibit Hall/Emblem Sales will be located in West Hall, Convention Center, Third Floor.

A few paws-itively adorable surprises may be found in the exhibit hall – keep your eyes open on Aug. 22^{nd} & Aug. 25^{th} !

The Blood Drive needs You! Make an appointment in advance via the convention website or stop by Sunday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Monday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to donate. Walk-ins are welcome!

Eye Screening will be in Room 303 – 304 of the Tampa Convention Center. Access to this room will be via the exhibit hall.

The Strategic Insight Series will be in Room 301 – 302 & Membership Training will be in Room 305 – 306 of the Tampa Convention Center. Access to this room will be via the exhibit hall.

If you do not have your own reusable water bottle, you may purchase @ Emblem Sales. <u>Hydration</u> is the name of the game at National Convention this year!!

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

NO weapons of **ANY** kind are allowed in the convention center.

Should an incident occur inside the Tampa Convention Center, attendees should dial 813.231.6130 or 911 from a cell phone for the Tampa Police Department. For any medical or life-threatening emergency, always dial 911. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and first aid stations are located throughout the center. Please be aware of these locations as well as your nearest exits.

A Medical Services letter will be included in each registration bag.

Should you become ill or experience any COVID type symptoms, please advise your Department Adjutant. Throughout the Convention Center, hand sanitizing stations are in place.

For most hotels, guestroom/floor access may only accessible for registered hotel guests via a secured key card.

If you are walking from the JW or Marriott to the Tampa Convention Center, or anyplace, be cautious of cars entering/exiting parking garages and surface lots. Many drivers may not pay attention OR could have obstructed views.

Like any other major city, please use the buddy system and common sense when exploring Downtown Tampa. Travel in groups, be cautious of overindulging, & stay in well-lit areas. Make sure to keep your head on a swivel so that you can continue to have an amazing time enjoying the wonderful city of Tampa. Always be aware of your surroundings.

LOST & FOUND:

Lost and Found will be located at Legion Staff Offices: Room 114 – 117, Tampa Convention Center.

SCOOTERS/WHEELCHAIRS/MOBILITY DEVICES:

Scootaround & Mobility City are the current, available companies offering scooter rentals. Visit Convention Information | The American Legion for available scooter rental contact information.

SHUTTLES:

A detailed schedule is currently on <u>Convention Information | The American Legion</u> and will be on the mobile app.

OFF-SITE EVENTS:

Buccaneers Game:

Saturday, August 23rd @ 7:30PM Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs Buffalo Bills Raymond James Stadium 4201 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33607

Rays Game:

Sunday, August 24th @ 12:10PM Tampa Bay Rays vs St Louis Cardinals Steinbrenner Field 1 Steinbrenner Dr. Tampa, FL 33614

Tickets must be purchased in advance – please see the flyers located on <u>Convention Information |</u> <u>The American Legion</u>.

For other local deals in Tampa, please visit: Unlock Tampa Bay Deals

OTHER:

There are 8 pet/service animal relief areas both indoors and outdoors with synthetic grass, waste disposal bags, & drinking sinks.

Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is not permitted inside the convention center or on balconies, excluding designated smoking areas.

With all service-related venues, wait times may have increased and amenities may have been scaled back (housekeeping limited service, etc.) Patience and flexibility are appreciated during your travel and stay experience.

In your mobile app, please complete the survey which will help with future convention planning.

The Convention/Mobile App will be the format used to reach attendees in an emergency or alert. Please ensure you have downloaded the app prior to your arrival! (Search TALNC25 into the Apple Store or Google Play Store)

See you in Tampa!

For the most up-to-date information while on-site in Tampa, download the mobile app:

Mobile Apps | The American Legion