

Beta Theta Pi
179th General Convention
August 2-5, 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

Alumni, Families and Guests

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is the General Convention?

Beta Theta Pi's General Convention is the Fraternity's annual reunion where the Beta family cultivates new and old relationships, celebrates individual and chapter achievements and inspires attendees to continue to live Beta's values. Leadership College and various general sessions provide enriching educational experiences, while our chapter delegates, Fraternity Trustees and Foundation Board conduct the business of the Fraternity.

When is Convention?

Beta's 179th General Convention will be held August 2-5, 2018 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Where will it be held?

Convention will be held at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel & Convention Center.

What is the schedule for Convention?

Every day of Convention includes time for legislation, celebration and education. An overview schedule is located on Beta Theta Pi's website. Check back periodically for updates, as we'll be adding more details throughout the summer. (A tentative schedule for the Spouses and Guests Program is [located here.](#))

Who goes to Convention?

Everyone is invited! General Fraternity Officers have special responsibilities:

- Foundation and Fraternity Board Members: Lead sessions, host banquets, conduct Board and General Fraternity business, and mingle with undergraduates and volunteers.
- General Fraternity Officers: Participate in legislative sessions, host meetings, facilitate and attend workshops, and mingle with undergraduates and volunteers.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

How do I register?

Everyone coming to Convention needs to register online at beta.org/convention.

What does it cost?

Alumni and guests can come for the entire Convention, just a day, or for just one meal. Pricing varies based on the options you choose and when you register.

	Register By		
	April 15	June 29	July 3
Full-time Registration <i>(Thursday through Saturday; includes most meals)</i>	\$210	\$210	\$250
One-Day Registration <i>(choose Thursday, Friday, or Saturday; includes at least one meal per day)</i>	Thurs - \$60 Fri - \$55 Saturday - \$110	Thurs - \$60 Fri - \$55 Saturday - \$110	Thurs - \$60 Fri - \$55 Saturday - \$110
Saturday Dinner Only	\$75	\$75	\$75

What if I have special needs or dietary restrictions?

During the online registration process you can indicate special needs, ADA or dietary restrictions. We will do our best to work with the hotel to meet those needs.

What if I'm having trouble registering online?

Call 800.800.BETA and ask to speak with a member of the Convention team. We are happy to assist you.

Cancellations and refunds

If you cancel by June 30, we can refund 50% of the fees you paid. After June 30, your fees are non-refundable. To cancel, please contact the Administrative Office at 800.800.BETA and ask to speak to a member of the Convention registration team.

SCHEDULE

Basic Overview

See the Convention website for an overview of the 2018 Convention schedule. Please note this schedule is subject to change as presenters and guests are confirmed. A tentative schedule specific to the Spouses and Guest Program [is located here](#).

SPOUSES AND GUESTS PROGRAM

Can spouses and guests attend Convention?

Spouses and guests are highly encouraged to attend Convention and can be added during the online registration process.

Who is hosting the Spouse and Guest Program this year?

Dasha and D. Kirk Little, *East Carolina '82*, are the honorary hosts for the Spouses and Guests Program at the 179th General Convention. This loyal Beta couple lives in the Norfolk area and will provide great insight into local attractions and other "insider knowledge" for all spouses and guests at the Convention. Along with this year's honorary hosts, Beta Sweetheart Mindy Brant also looks forward to greeting and assisting our spouses and guests this year.

What activities will be offered with the Spouses and Guests Program?

This year participants will enjoy a flexible schedule with an ongoing hospitality suite, various evening receptions, a cooking class and other local activities depending on each person's interests. Spouses and guests will also enjoy a few Convention-wide meals including a dinner on Thursday, luncheon on Friday and Closing Celebration Banquet on Saturday evening. ([Click Here](#) to review more specifics about the Spouses and Guests Program and other local attraction options in Norfolk.)

Is there a hospitality suite for spouses and guests throughout Convention?

Back by popular demand, the spouses and guest hospitality suite will be available in the Parlor Suite on the Fourth Floor throughout Convention. Come sit, relax and visit with new and old friends while enjoying complimentary snacks and refreshments. The suite will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. each day (beginning noon on Wednesday). The hospitality suite is also where the Spouses and Guests Orientation will occur on Thursday at 4:15 p.m. Enjoy!

How do I learn more?

Want to learn more about the Spouses and Guests program? Contact staff liaison David Greis, *Kentucky '14* (david.greis@beta.org). David will be working closely with Mindy Brant (c. 317-755-7163) and our honorary hosts, Dasha and Kirk Little.

HOTEL ROOMS

Where will Convention be held?

Convention will be held at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside.

What are check-in and check-out times for the hotel?

While check-in time is 4:00 p.m., the hotel will do their best to have rooms available prior to Thursday's kick-off event at 3 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

How do I book my hotel room?

You must reserve your own hotel room by July 12, 2018. After that date, our room block and special rates expire:

- Norfolk Waterside Reservations: 800.874.0264
- Special rate / group name: Beta Theta Pi
- Convention rate = \$134 / night, plus fees
- The special room rate is available beginning July 25 and continuing through August 12, if you'd like to extend your stay

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

When should I arrive?

If you're coming for the entire Convention, events begin at **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 2, 2018**. Some people come for the entire Convention, others attend just a few events – either way is fine. Please visit beta.org/convention for a more detailed schedule of events and plan your travel accordingly.

When should I plan to depart?

Convention officially ends late Saturday night. Plan on leaving any time on Sunday August 5.

What airport should I fly into?

Participants that are flying to the General Convention should fly into Norfolk International Airport (ORF).

How do I get from the hotel to the airport and back?

The Norfolk Waterside is located 10 miles from Norfolk International Airport. Please make your own arrangements upon arrival. You will have the opportunity onsite to sign up for a Beta-provided Sunday shuttle back to the airport.

If I'm driving, where do I get directions to the hotel?

Directions to the hotel property can be obtained by using MapQuest or Google Maps for directions. The hotel address is 235 E Main St. Norfolk, VA 23510.

Is there parking at the hotel?

Yes. Parking is \$15 per night per vehicle.

OTHER HELPFUL INFO

Are there dining locations close to the hotel?

The Norfolk Waterside is located in the heart of downtown Norfolk. There are numerous dining options in the vicinity. For more information visit www.downtownnorfolk.org.

What should I bring to wear?

The Saturday evening banquet is a coat and tie event for men and comparable attire for women. Other events, including Friday's Awards Luncheon are casual (shorts and polo shirt are appropriate). Please plan and pack accordingly.

Who do I contact if I have further questions?

The Administrative Office staff is eager to answer your questions. Please call 800.800.BETA during regular business hours and ask to speak to someone on the Convention team.