

GEORGIA SCHOOL SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY



CONFERENCE GUIDE

&

TRAVEL GUIDE TO

ST. SIMONS ISLAND



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter 1

Conference Overview 2

Conference App 3

About St Simons 4

Lodging 5

Attractions 7

Discounts 8

Contact Us 9



WELCOME LETTER

On behalf of Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, the Georgia Department of Education, and our other conference partners -- I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to enhancing school safety in the State of Georgia. School safety is always a top priority at our agencies, and we are honored that you choose to learn and grow with us in that mission. I hope that you find this conference brings you valuable knowledge and invaluable connections to take back to your organization and community.



Linda Criblez

Deputy Director, Homeland Security

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Day 1



Opening Ceremonies

Join us in the picturesque courtyard (across the green from the main entrance) for a brief opening ceremony featuring Georgia State Patrol's Honor Guard.

Day 1



Training Sessions

Sessions will begin promptly at 8:30AM. Be sure to set your agenda early in Whova for your favorite sessions! Today will also feature a lunch buffet.

Day 2



Training Sessions

Sessions will begin promptly at 8:30AM. Be sure to set your agenda early in Whova for your favorite sessions! Today will also feature a lunch buffet.

Day 3



Training Sessions

Sessions will begin at 8:30AM. We will end with a half day on our final day to allow for return travel time. Thank you for joining us, and don't forget to fill out our feedback surveys!

All 3 Days



Vendor Tent

Venture across the parking lot to Square 67 to visit our vendor tent! Tour the helpful products and services tailored to you and enjoy light refreshments.

Check this out!

Did you know that you could find the venue map and floorplan on Whova? Go to your Homepage and click "Floormap" to explore our space!

CONFERENCE APP

Our conference management app has everything you need to make the most of the conference! Here's a basic walkthrough of all things Whova.



CHECKLIST



Download

Using the link provided in your welcome email, download the Whova app and sign in using your registration email address.



Update

Update your profile to better network with other attendees and vendors. You will be prompted at sign-in, or you can click "Edit My Profile" in the upper left corner.



Agenda

Set your agenda early! This year you can claim a seat or be placed on the wait list by selecting your favorite sessions in the "Agenda" tab. Easily see your selections in "My Agenda".



Familiarize

The Homepage has multiple resources including relevant documents, speaker bios, floormap, feedback surveys, and more.



Questions

You can ask questions about a session through the app via the Homepage or by clicking "Q and A" on the session description from the agenda.



Social

Network with other attendees via the "Attendees", "Community", or "Messages" tab. Make the most of your connections with your ability to follow up in the app!

TIPS



Whova also tracks sessions credits, so only use your registration email when signing in so credits can be allocated appropriately.



We are not using the leaderboard or gamification feature, so don't be that person spamming the group...conference moderators will block you.



Still have questions? Check out the "WhovaGuide" on your Homepage, or message/email/visit GEMA/HS' Renee Redmond.



ABOUT ST. SIMONS

A welcome from The Golden Isles

The largest barrier island in the Golden Isles, St. Simons Island lies across the immortalized Marshes of Glynn, made famous by poet Sidney Lanier. Moss-draped oaks line the winding island streets, creating a picture-perfect image worthy of a Faulkner tale.

The island's villages offer a charming and unique selection of shops, breathtaking beaches, fascinating museums, and challenging golf courses. St. Simons Island is home to a variety of arenas for outdoor adventure, with plenty of things to do like kayaking, fishing, biking, and tours.

You'll also find exceptional restaurants on St. Simons Island that will give you a true taste of the island. A variety of accommodations—from friendly inns to luxurious resorts—round out the island's warm welcome, giving it the claims to fame that have attracted vacationers and groups for generations.

Explore the variety St. Simon's has to offer and welcome! Visit the official Golden Isles website and the virtual Visitor Guide for more information!



Golden Isles Visitor Guide 2025 Golden Isles Visitor Guide

<https://goldenisles.mydigitalpublication.com/>

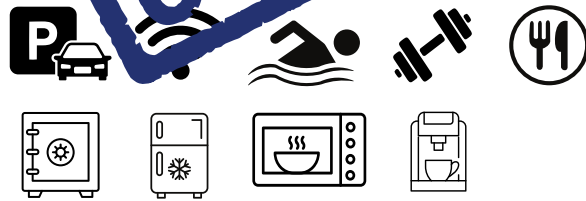
LODGING



SeaPalms Resort

☎ 912-638-3351 🌐 <https://reservations.travelclick.com/171682groupID=2653780>

Get away from it all in our luxurious rooms and suites with views of enchanting salt marshes. Our spacious and airy accommodations are designed with your comfort in mind.



The Inn by Sea Island

☎ 855-449-1440 🌐 <https://www.seaisland.com/stay/the-inn/>

The Inn by Sea Island embodies the spirit and warm hospitality of this beautiful coastal destination. Recently named #1 World's Best Islands in the U.S. by Travel+Leisure, it's the perfect base to explore Georgia's beautiful Golden Isles and soak up its easy pace. Unwind at our TopGolf SwingSuite!



Home2 Suites St Simons

☎ 912-638-0333 🌐 <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ssiarht-home2-suites-st-simons-island/>

We're just minutes from shopping at Redfern Village, sunbathing at King and Prince beach, Brunswick business parks and the community pier. Grab free breakfast before your day of adventure. For nights in, take advantage of your in-suite kitchen and free WiFi.



LODGING



Best Western Plus – St Simons

☎ 912-638-7805 and mention the conference rate

Offers 61 exterior access rooms and a beautiful pool and spa area shaded by majestic live oaks. Newly renovated. Complimentary breakfast and Wi-Fi. Our convenient location is quietly tucked off the main road but just minutes from public beach access, the shopping village, lighthouse and numerous restaurants and golf courses.



Residence Inn – Brunswick

🌐 <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1742490658632&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>



Conveniently located off I-95 at exit #38, we are three miles from the Golden Isles Airport. Enjoy our inspiring outdoor spaces with BBQ, fire pit, and putting green so you can gather and connect. Our pet-friendly, all-suite hotel features spacious studios and one-bedroom suites with full kitchens and abundant comforts so you can stay rested and refreshed in the Peach State.



TownePlace Suites – Brunswick

🌐 <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1742490658632&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>



Located just off I-95, our extended stay hotel offers complimentary hot breakfast, 24/7 fitness center and high-speed internet. Our rooms are fit with full kitchens and living spaces perfect for business or leisure travel. Just over 30 minutes to Driftwood beach, St. Simons Island, and Sea Island.



Embassy Suites – Brunswick

🌐 Special Rates Group Code: CESGSS

☎ 912-638-7805 and mention the conference rate

Our hotel is right off I-95. We're a half hour from the Georgia coast and Golden Isles destinations like St. Simons, Sea Island, and Jekyll Island. We have an outdoor pool and serve made-to-order breakfast and a complimentary evening reception daily.



ATTRACTIONS



Lighthouse

Explore the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum in the Keeper's Dwelling and discover the fascinating history of Coastal Georgia through colorful exhibits of rare artifacts, historical photographs, period rooms, and interactives designed for the whole family. The development of lighthouse technology is also traced.

For hours, tickets, and more info, visit: <https://www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/visit/plan-your-visit/>

The World War II Home Front Museum is located in the Historic Coast Guard Station at East Beach. It brings to life Coastal Georgia's extraordinary contributions during World War II. Through immersive exhibits and interactive experiences, visitors will learn about blimps on anti-submarine patrol, radar training to direct fighter pilots, building Liberty ships to supply troops overseas, and much more.

For hours, tickets, and more info, visit: <https://www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/visit/plan-your-visit/>



WWII Museum



Beaches

Massengale Park is a nicely shaded picnic area and playground, located along Ocean Blvd on St. Simons Island, and a beach access point to East Beach. This park offers many oak-shaded picnic tables, four grills, a children's playground, public restrooms, outdoor showers and two public beach access points to East Beach. Parking is available for visitors to Massengale Park and the beach.

**...and
more!**



Golfing



Kayaking



**Horseback
Riding**



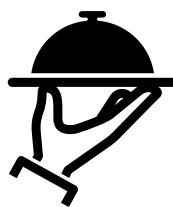
Fishing



Biking



Tours



Dining



Shopping

SHOW YOUR BADGE DISCOUNTS

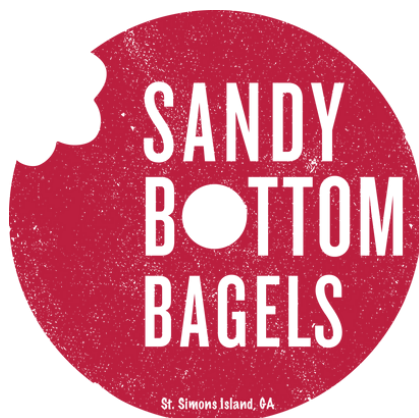


229 Mallery Street Sun-Th 10-9; F-Sat 10-10

Folks strolling down Mallery Street are often lured beneath the awning by the sights and smells of the shop. Can you blame them? Fresh confections, throwback candies, unique gifts and homemade icecream (try the pecan pie flavor) will delight you. **10% off your order!**

123 Mallery Street Everyday, 10AM-6PM

A boutique located near the pier, Tonya's specializes in trendy apparel, gifts, and personalization services. There is something here for everyone, including top brands such as Yeti, Scout, Peach State Pride, and more. Stop in for your souvenir or new staple item, and receive **10% off your order!**



242 Retreat Village Mon-Sat, 6:30AM-2PM

In June of 2015, Sandy Bottom Bagels started serving fresh baked NY bagels to locals and tourists alike. Stop by for bagels, sandwiches, wraps, salads, baked goods, plates, and more! Customize your classic breakfast, or go bold and try something new (snores bagel, anyone?)! **10% off your order!**

CONTACT US

Still have questions or concerns? Feel free to email us!



GSSHSC@gema.ga.gov



**THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING!
GSSHSC25**