**SMCR 2017 ATLANTA CONFERENCE LOGISTICS**

1. **CONFERENCE LOCATION:**

The SMCR 2017 Conference is being held in Kennesaw, Georgia which is about 40 minutes north of Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson Airport and downtown Atlanta. Kennesaw State University is located directly off I-75 at Exit 271, Chastain Road. The conference center—the KSU Center—is less than one mile from the main campus. The full address of the conference venue is:

 KSU Center

(at Kennesaw State University)

3333 Busbee Dr, NW

Kennesaw, GA 30144

(470) 578-6765

1. **ABOUT KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY:**

Kennesaw State University is located in Kennesaw, Georgia, a suburban city in Cobb County, Georgia which is within the greater Atlanta metropolitan area. Kennesaw State University is a large public research university which is part of the University System of Georgia. Current enrollment is about 36,000 and includes both undergraduate and graduate students.

*Local attractions:* The KSU Center is also the home of the Museum of History and Holocaust Education with several onsite exhibitions. The award-winning Zuckerman Museum of Art (where SMCR will be holding its Friday night dinner event) is also located on campus at Kennesaw State University. The Southern Museum (part of the Smithsonian Institution), Kennesaw Mountain, and historic Marietta Square are all close by. Within greater Atlanta, there is a wide range of attractions, including the High Museum of Art, Atlanta History Center, Georgia Aquarium, and the Center for Civil and Human Rights.

1. **WEATHER IN ATLANTA:**

Overall, summer is Atlanta is hot and humid. Average temperatures for June are about 87 degrees. Also, you might want to expect a few pop up thunderstorms in the afternoons.

1. **AIRPORT:**

Atlanta is serviced by *Hartsfield-Jackson Airport*, one of the largest and busiest airports in the world. Atlanta is also the primary hub for Delta Air Lines, ExpressJet, Frontier Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Spirit Airlines.

1. **TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT:**

Unfortunately, given our vast suburban sprawl, Atlanta lacks a strong public transportation system. Kennesaw is about 20 miles northwest of downtown Atlanta. Cabs are available at the airport, as well as Uber <https://www.uber.com/airports/atl/>

One-way transportation from the Atlanta Airport to Kennesaw-area hotels starts from $65 for a taxi and $45 for a shared-ride van. Some hotels offer local shuttles to shopping, restaurants, and etc., but many do not. To make a reservation, please contact the taxi company directly. Some local companies are listed below…

* [EconoRides](http://www.econorides.com/) Best Rate!
678-218-7170
* [AAA Taxi & Services, LLC](http://www.localtaxiga.com/)
770-926-1600
taxi@aaataxiga.com
* [Airport Metro](http://www.airportmetro.com/)
404-766-6666
info@airportmetro.com
* [Atlanta Perimeter Connection, Inc.](http://www.airportperimeterconnection.com/index.html)
404-761-0260
info@airportperimeterconnection.com
* Atlanta Hotel Connections
404-641-0962
service@atlantashuttle.net
* [Greater Atlanta Airport Shuttle](http://www.gaairportshuttle.com/)
678-851-7063
* [Reliable Limousine](http://www.reliablelimo.net/index.html)
678-368-2043
* Victory Cab
770-428-2626

For possible public transportation options (bus and/or MARTA), check here: <https://martaguide.com/2015/08/27/marta-to-kennesaw/> The Busbee Park and Ride is within walking distance of the KSU Center as well as most of the conference hotels.

Renting a car at the airport is also an option as Kennesaw State University is a direct drive up I-75, Exit 271 Chastain Rd.

***Please make sure you investigate availability and pricing for airport transportation beforehand. The hotels may also be able to provide you with more information about their recommendations. Also, you might want to consider sharing rides with other attendees if possible to reduce costs.***

For getting around Kennesaw once you arrive, most things should be within walking distance of the hotels and conference center. Also, most of the hotels to offer a local shuttle for guests. Cabs are limited, but Uber is very popular and accessible.

1. **LODGING:**

All of these hotels are within walking distance of the KSU Center (about ½ mile or closer), and several provide a free local shuttle for guests. All of these hotels also provide a free breakfast and high speed internet access. Many are suites which is ideal for room sharing if needed. Please plan to make your hotel reservations as early as possible, particularly if you want to receive any discounted rates (for which there are a limited number available). Prices range between $70 and $130 per night. Please call the hotels directly instead of trying to book via the internet as they will have special availability and rates not included on the internet. Summer time is a busy time for our sports programs so hotels may book up quickly.

**Comfort Inn Suites** (This is our designated conference hotel and is directly across the street from the KSU Center)

3366 Busbee Drive NW, Kennesaw, GA, 30144, Tel. (678) 275-2090

<https://www.choicehotels.com/georgia/kennesaw/comfort-suites-hotels/ga539?source=gyxt>

*Please call the hotel directly and identify yourself as an SMCR Conference Attendee for discounted rates.*

**Kennesaw Inn** (directly next door to the KSU Center)

3375 Busbee Drive NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Tel. 770-424-7666

<https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-kennesaw/best-western-kennesaw-inn/propertyCode.11131.html>

*Please call the hotel directly and inquire about the KSU discounted rate by stating that you are attending the SMCR conference at the KSU Center.*

**Fairfield Inn by Marriott**

1. George Busbee Parkway, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Tel. 770-427-9700

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlnc-fairfield-inn-and-suites-atlanta-kennesaw/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

**Residence Inn by Marriott**

3443 Busbee Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Tel. 770-218-1018 <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atltc-residence-inn-atlanta-kennesaw-town-center/>

**Extended Stay America**

3316Busbee Dr., Kennesaw,  GA  30144, Tel. 770-425-6101 <http://www.extendedstayamerica.com/hotels/ga/atlanta/kennesaw>

*(Make sure you verify the address since there are several different Extended Stay America’s in the area).*

**Embassy Suites**

620 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Tel. 770-420-2505 <http://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/georgia/embassy-suites-by-hilton-atlanta-kennesaw-town-center-ATLKSES/index.html>

**Hampton Inn**

*New hotel opening Spring 2017*

3405 Busbee Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Tel. 770-427-2002

Please call directly for availability.

**SpringHill Suites by Marriott**

3399 Town Point Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Tel. 770-218-5550

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/fact-sheet/travel/atlkn-springhill-suites-atlanta-kennesaw/>

*(This is the furthest hotel listed at about 1 mile from the KSU Center).*

For a few other local lodging ideas, please visit: <http://dga.kennesaw.edu/isss/travel.php>

1. **DINING OPTIONS:**

Given we are a small college town, there are many low and reasonably priced restaurant options within walking distance of the hotels and conference center including: Marlow’s Tavern, Mellow Mushroom, Papi’s Cuban and Caribbean Grill, Panara, Waffle House, California Dreaming, Tin Lizzy’s Cantina, Taco Mac, Five Guy’s, Chipotle, Taziki’s Mediterranean Café, and new ones opening all the time!

However, a free breakfast should be included with your hotel, SMCR is including all lunches and snacks as part of the conference registration fee, and we are also planning group dinner outings for both Friday and Saturday nights of the conference.

1. **VISAS:**

If you are traveling internationally and require a Visa to attend the conference, our KSU’s Department of Global Affairs can help you obtain the appropriate documentation. Please contact Dr. Evelina Sterling at esterlin@kennesaw.edu before April 15th in order to allow enough time to complete any necessary paperwork. Please make sure you check on your end as well to determine how long it takes to obtain a Visa as the requirements vary based on your country of origination.