



Hello from your ASP 2026 Local Hosts!

We are so excited to welcome you to Arlington, VA in a few short weeks for ASP 2026! Located in the heart of the DMV (not the Department of Motor Vehicles!) Arlington is the perfect jumping off point for exploring DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia! As residents of DC for 5+ years, we love being able to call this area home. There are always fun and free things to do, new restaurants to try, and nature to enjoy! The conference hotel is located just a quick metro ride from the capital city and a couple hours' drive from Shenandoah National Park. Feel free to ask us for food and activity suggestions throughout the conference. We love sharing all our city has to offer!

In preparation for your arrival, we've put together a quick guide to transportation, meeting info, and things to do, eat, and explore in the region.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to us!

Cheers,

Abby McClain and Sims Patton

ASP 2026 Local Hosts

amcclain@gwu.edu

smpatton@gwu.edu

Arrivals and Transportation

The Metro system offers an easy public transit option to reach the conference venue. A map of the lines referenced below can be viewed here: <https://www.wmata.com/content/dam/wmata-com/maps/system-map-rail.pdf>

Arriving from DCA (suggested): follow the airport signs for the metro station in the arrivals hall. You can pay for your metro ticket as you go through the turnstile with any tap enabled major credit card or Apple/Google Pay device. If you'd prefer to have a physical card, you can purchase a physical SmarTrip card from several kiosks at the metro entrance. Once you're through the turnstiles, board the train headed Downtown **Yellow Line** to Greenbelt/Mt Vernon or **Blue Line** to Downtown Largo. You will disembark just one stop later at the **Crystal City Metro station**. The station has signs for the Shops at Crystal City and Marriott hotel. Follow these signs down the hallways and you will arrive in the lobby of the conference hotel!

Arriving from IAD: follow the airport signs for the metro station located in the parking lot of the airport. You can pay for your metro ticket as you go through the turnstile with any tap enabled major credit card or Apple/Google Pay device. If you'd prefer to have a physical card, you can purchase a physical SmarTrip card from several kiosks at the metro entrance. Board the **Silver Line** train towards Largo or New Carrollton and disembark at the Foggy Bottom-GWU stop. At Foggy bottom, board a **Blue Line** train towards Franconia-Springfield and ride 4 stops to the **Crystal City Metro station**, disembark and follow signs for the Shops at Crystal City and Marriott hotel and you will arrive in the lobby of the conference hotel!

Arriving from BWI: Board the free airport Amtrak/MARC Rail Station shuttle. At the rail station, take MARC Train southbound to Washington Union Station. At Union Station, follow the signs down the escalators to the metro platform. You can pay for your metro ticket as you go through the turnstile with any tap enabled major credit card or Apple/Google Pay device. If you'd prefer to have a physical card, you can purchase a physical SmarTrip card from several kiosks at the metro entrance. Board the **Red Line** train towards Shady Grove. Ride two stops to Gallery Place-Chinatown and disembark. At Gallery Place, take the escalators down to the **Yellow** and Green Line trains. Board the **Yellow Line** train towards Huntington and ride five stops to the **Crystal City Metro station**, disembark and follow signs for the Shops at Crystal City and Marriott hotel and you will arrive in the lobby of the conference hotel!

Train

Arriving on **Amtrak**: disembark the Amtrak at **Washington Union Station**. Follow the WAMTA signs down the escalators to the metro platform. You can pay for your metro ticket as you go through the turnstile with any tap enabled major credit card or Apple/Google Pay device. If you'd prefer to have a physical card, you can purchase a physical SmarTrip card from several kiosks at the metro entrance. Board the **Red Line** train towards Shady Grove. Ride two stops to Gallery Place-Chinatown and disembark. At Gallery Place, take the escalators down to the **Yellow** and Green Line trains. Board the **Yellow Line** train towards Huntington and ride five

stops to the **Crystal City Metro station**, disembark and follow signs for the Shops at Crystal City and Marriott hotel and you will arrive in the lobby of the conference hotel!

Ride Share Services

Taxi or Uber services available directly to the Crystal Gateway Marriott hotel.

Driving and Parking

Parking is available at the Crystal Gateway Marriott hotel for \$51.00 per day, but ASP attendees are eligible for a discounted parking rate at the hotel of \$38.00 per vehicle per day. The vouchers that will be provided by the parking company will already include the discount. Please note that the discount is applicable solely to self-parking (not valet service). For guests who are **driving** and **staying** at the hotel, the discount will be noted on their reservation; they simply need to inform the Front Desk associate that they parked with us for them to activate their room key.

If driving, consider using SpotHero or a similar service to find overnight parking nearby at cheaper rates!

Important: Metro Construction & Weekend Closures

WMATA has recently announced station upgrades that will affect metro travel during the conference:

- June 15–18 (Arrivals): Airport and Crystal City stations will operate normally.
- June 19–21 (Departures): Both the DCA Airport and Crystal City stations will be closed for construction.

Impact on your departure: If you are leaving on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, you will be unable to take the Metro to the airport. However, the hotel operates a regular airport shuttle, and a taxi or rideshare to DCA takes less than 10 minutes. We are sorry for the closure inconvenience over the weekend but the supplemental options should still provide convenient low-cost transport back to the airport.

Sightseeing: If you plan to explore DC over the weekend, the **Pentagon City Metro station** (a 10-minute walk from the hotel) will remain open and provides direct access to the city. Detailed construction info can be found at

<https://www.wmata.com/about/news/Crystal-City-construction-update-Shuttles-replace-trains-to-airport-and-nearby-stations-for-10-weekends.cfm>

Google and Apple Maps are both fairly reliable for Metro Transit planning, but Abby finds the [City Mapper app](#) to be the best option for planning metro and bus routes if you plan to use the system a lot while you are here.

Meeting Info

If you are staying at the conference venue hotel, the **Crystal Gateway Marriott**, all conference sessions will be located on the lobby floor or first floor of the hotel. Speaker Ready, Quiet, and Lactation rooms will all be on the lobby floor with main sessions on the first floor in the Grand and Arlington Ballrooms. The opening reception and poster session will be in the Skyview space adjacent to the Grand Ballrooms. The registration and information desk will be located in the hallway space outside of the Arlington Ballrooms. Stop by and chat with our team of awesome volunteers if you have any questions!

Food and Dining

The Hotel is smack dab in the middle of a part of Crystal City with lots of food and grocery options. We've highlighted a couple below for reference.

In Hotel

15th & Eads: Start your day on the right foot with a full American breakfast and unwind in the evening with handcrafted cocktails and a savory selection of dinner entrees made from fresh locally sourced ingredients sure to satisfy. Open 6:30 AM-10:30 AM; 11:30 AM-2:00 PM; 4:00 PM-11:00 PM.

15th & Eads Bar: Join us in the evening for a drink and a bite to eat featuring a full bar and American food in a casual relaxed atmosphere. Watch the game on an array of TVs or relax and connect with friends after an eventful day in our Crystal City, VA bar. Open 4:00 PM-11:00 PM.

Groceries

Whole Foods Market: 0.3 mile walk

Quick Bites - all within a 3 block radius

Tatte Bakery & Cafe, Call Your Mother Bagels, Toastique, Good Stuff Eatery, Chick-fil-a, Chipotle, Starbucks, Taqueria Xochi, South Block Smoothies & Bowls, Maman Cafe

Dining Out, VA - all metro accessible

King St. - Old Town: blue line, 4 stops

Thompson Italian (\$\$)

King & Rye (\$\$)

La Fromagerie (\$\$)

Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant & Bar (\$\$)

Dining Out, DC - all metro accessible

Gallery Place - Chinatown: yellow line, 5 stops

Zaytina (\$\$) *our personal favorite.

Boqueria (\$\$)

Oyamel (\$\$)

Carmine's (\$\$)

Reren Lamens & Bar (\$)
Rice Bar Market Place (\$)

Metro Center: blue line, 8 stops
Moon Rabbit (\$\$\$), one of the 50 best restaurants in the US! Reservations required.
Old Ebbitt Grill (\$\$\$)

DuPont Circle: One Transfer at Metro Center to Red Line
Compliments Only Sandwiches (\$)
Gemini and Happy Ice Cream (\$\$)

Eastern Market: Blue Line
Peregrine Espresso (\$)
The Eastern Wine Bar (\$\$)

Things To Do

Activities, VA

- Old Town Alexandria: blue line, 4 stops
 - Shopping, dining, and waterfront views! The Alexandria Farmers Market is the oldest continually running farmers market in the Country - George Washington sold his produce there (allegedly!). This is a great place to spend a morning walking around.
- Arlington National Cemetery: blue line, 3 stops
- Shenandoah National Park: 2.5 hour drive
- Annendale, Falls Church, Eden Center
 - Northern Virginia has some of the BEST Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese cuisine in the country. Highly recommend making time to check out a KBBQ or Hotpot spot if you have the time. Will probably require a car or careful public transit planning.
- Theodore Roosevelt Island
 - Metro accessible and one of the lesser visited monuments in the area
- Mt. Vernon
- The Torpedo Factory Artists Spaces and Gallery

Activities, DC

- Smithsonian Museums on the National Mall: blue line, 10 stops - FREE!
 - National Museum of Natural History
 - National Museum of African American History and Culture, the food here is also excellent
 - National Gallery of Art & Modern Art
- Monuments & Memorials: blue line, 10 stops
 - Lincoln Memorial
 - Washington Monument
 - Tidal Basin

- National Zoo: yellow line → red line, 10 stops
 - Take the yellow line to Gallery Place - Chinatown (5 stops). Take the escalator upstairs to the red line and board the train towards Shady Grove. Ride 5 stops to Cleveland Park and disembark. Pro-tip, if you ride the train to Cleveland Park and walk to the zoo, it is a downhill walk! However, if you take the Woodley Park - Zoo stop, the walk is uphill but passes by an excellent bakery, Rose Ave.
- National's Park MLB Stadium: yellow line → green line, 5 stops
 - Take the yellow line to L'Enfant Plaza (3 stops). Disembark and take a green line train towards Branch Ave 2 stops to the Navy - Yard Ballpark station. Walk 2 blocks to the stadium! Nats are playing a series against the KC Royals during ASP!
- Walking around:
 - DC has a rich history of arts, music, history and culture beyond the obvious political and national historical sightseeing points. Neighborhoods like DuPont Circle, Eastern Market, Mount Pleasant, Logan Circle, Shaw and Woodley Park all offer distinct microcosms of the City's History. If you're looking for a lowkey walk about you can't go wrong.

As a note, if you choose to go into DC, the District is experiencing a noticeable summer uptick in National Guard and other Federal Agencies leading up to America 250 events and the World Cup and some neighborhoods have seen a resurgence in ICE activity that you may have seen in news coverage of last summer. These agencies are not authorized to conduct activity in Virginia but please be aware of their presence in the District. Despite the federal presence, the DMV area is a vibrant and tolerant place with friendly locals and we hope you get a chance to experience a bit of the sparkle that lives here between talks and presentations.