



IMPORTANT! CONFIRMATION MATERIAL ENCLOSED

GEMS
GIRLS' CLUBS

annual counselors'
Leadership

Conference

Wheaton College
Chicago, Illinois
JULY 12 - 15, 2012





Dear **GEMS** Conference Attendee,

Hello!

We recently received your registration for the 2012 GEMS Girls' Clubs Annual Counselors' Leadership Conference, and we're thrilled you're coming! After months of planning, we are praying that the Spirit of God will indeed be hovering over our event and working in the hearts of everyone who attends!

This booklet contains the information you will need to start planning for an amazing weekend at Wheaton. *Please read it carefully.* The answers to several important questions are included and will help you prepare for your Conference experience.

You are also receiving your *Travel Confirmation Card*. **Please complete the card and mail it to the GEMS Service Center before May 31, 2012 to finalize your registration.**

Thank you for responding to the challenge to *Think Right and Win the Fight!* as we learn what it means to fight wrong thinking and win the battle that wages in our minds. Please join us in praying that the Conference will honor God and minister to the heart of each woman who attends.

See you in July!

—The **GEMS Staff** and the **2012 Local Conference Committee**

FINALIZING YOUR REGISTRATION

Q. Is there anything I need to do to finalize my Conference registration?

A. YES! ALL registrations and transportation arrangements **must be** confirmed! Included with this confirmation booklet, you received a *Travel Confirmation Card* that must be returned to the GEMS Service Center **before May 31, 2012.**

Q. How can I confirm my registration and travel?

A. There are three ways you can confirm your registration and travel plans:

1. Mail the enclosed *Travel Confirmation Card* to the GEMS Service Center.
2. Visit the GEMS Conference website (www.gemsgc.org/conference) and check out the Travel Info to confirm electronically.
3. Email your plans to 2012gemschicagofun@gmail.com.

Failure to notify the committee of your arrival time, **whether flying or driving**, could result in the inability to move into your room in a timely manner.

Q. If I have opted to make multiple payments on my registration fee, what do I need to do?

A. If you registered online, your credit card will automatically be charged for each of the additional installments due on **February 25 and April 2.** If you mailed or faxed in your registration and paid with a credit card your credit card will also be automatically charged by **February 25 and April 2.** However, if you mailed or faxed in your registration and paid with a check, you will need to manually send in your additional payments by **February 25 and April 2.**

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Q. What do I need to do to check-in at Conference?

A. Check-in will take place on Wednesday and Thursday in the Lobby of Fischer Hall. On Wednesday check-in times will be from 4:00pm – 11:00pm and on Thursday from 8:00am – 6:30pm and from 9:00pm – 10:30pm. On Friday and Saturday single day registrants can check in at the Parmalee Room in the Beamer Student Center from 7:30am – 8:15am. See the campus map on the back page for check-in locations.

Q. Where do I park for check-in?

A. You may park in the lot just south of Fischer Hall. You may want to leave your luggage in your car until after you check-in.

Q. Where can I park on campus?

A. Parking on campus is available free of charge at Fischer or McMannis Halls which are adjacent to the Residence Halls. Please respect designated reserved and bus parking spaces.

Q. Do I need a parking pass to park on campus?

A. Yes. You need a parking pass to leave your vehicle on campus. You will receive this at check-in.

Q. What will I receive at check-in?

A. Check-in will take place in two phases—checking in at the GEMS registration where you will receive your welcome bag, campus map, program book, conference t-shirt (if ordered), workshop assignments, roommate assignment, meal cards, and name tag. You will also check-in with the Wheaton Conference Services where you will receive your room assignment, room key, and parking pass (if needed).

Q. What time do I need to check out on Sunday?

A. All guests must be checked out of their guestrooms by 12:30pm on Sunday.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Q. Which airport would be best to fly into?

A. Conference attendees flying to the Conference have the option of flying into either O'Hare International Airport or Midway International Airport. Shuttles will be provided from both airports. Estimated travel time from each airport is approximately 45-60 minutes.

Q. Is GEMS providing shuttle service to or from the Airport?

A. Yes! The Local Conference Committee will be providing shuttles.

Q. How much does the Conference airport shuttle cost?

A. A one-way shuttle fee of \$25.00 US per person, per way will be charged and collected as you depart the shuttle.

Q. What are the shuttle pickup times?

A. Conference airport shuttles will be available on both Wednesday and Thursday. Upon receipt of your travel confirmation you will be assigned to a shuttle for pickup from the airport. By late-June, 2012 you will receive communication with your shuttle time, pickup location, and any additional information you may need.

Q. Where will I meet my hostess/airport shuttle driver?

A. This information will be sent to you by late-June, 2012. Due to the size of O'Hare and Midway Airports it is difficult to give specific shuttle information at this time. After the Local Conference Committee has received your *Travel Confirmation Card* you will be contacted with more specific travel information including a detailed plan of pickup, where to meet your hostess, a map of the airport terminal, directions to get your baggage, and all appropriate details for getting you from the airport to Wheaton College.

Q. Are there other airport shuttles available in addition to those offered by the Local Conference Committee?

A. Yes, there are taxis, shuttle services, and car rental options. The negotiated, special shuttle rate of \$25.00/trip that the Local Conference Committee is offering is a significant discount compared to typical transportation fees of \$50.00-\$60.00/way.

Q. Why do I need to return my *Travel Confirmation Card*?

A. Knowing the arrival time of each attendee and whether guests are arriving by car or air assists Conference planners and the College in our arrangements. GEMS is also concerned about the travel safety of all our guests and wants to be aware of any extended delays.

Q. Are there options for arriving by Amtrak, and will the Local Conference Committee shuttle me?

A. Yes! The Local Conference Committee will provide transportation from the AMTRAK Station in Naperville if you are coming in from the West and Union Station if you are coming in from anywhere else in the US or Canada. Shuttle service will be available for \$10.00 each way and will be collected when you depart the shuttle.

Q. What if my flight is delayed or canceled on the day of travel?

A. In case of unexpected flight delays, please notify Kim Krygsheld at (708) 259-9692.

Q. Do I need a passport?

A. If you are a Canadian citizen you will be required to have a passport or secure document when entering the United States by air. If you are driving across the border there are several options for required documents: passport, enhanced drivers license, NEXUS, FAST/Express and SENTRI enrollment cards. For more information go to: www.getyouhome.gov

Q. Are there any airline restrictions I should know about?

A. Yes, there are several:

1. Be prepared for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CTASA) staff to enforce the "1+1" rule. That means you are allowed one carry-on bag and one personal item – such as a purse, briefcase, laptop computer, or diaper bag – through the security screening and onto the aircraft.
2. **Remember the 3-1-1 rule for carry-on's:** All liquids, gels, and aerosols must be 3 ounces or less, placed in one quart sized, zip-top, clear plastic bag with a limit of one bag per traveler. Certain prescription and over-the-counter medicines, baby formula, and breast milk have exceptions. If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.
3. **Pack an organized carry-on bag using layers** – a layer of clothes, then electronic, more clothes, and then any heavier items. This will help transportation security officers see what's in your bag. Innocent items can actually appear to be potential threats in an X-ray image simply by the way they're packed.
4. **Simplify the Airport Screening Process:** Take metal items such as keys, loose change, mobile phones, pagers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) out of your pockets. Put these in your carry-on, or in a plastic bag. This keeps lines moving and your experience more pleasant.
5. **Dress appropriately** and avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, or other accessories that contain metal such as: heavy jewelry, clothing with metal.

6. All passengers will be required to remove their shoes for inspection at the screening checkpoints.

7. **Pack your jacket** in your baggage when possible. Any jacket that you carry must go through the X-ray machine for inspection. If you choose to wear a jacket to the checkpoint, you will need to either pack it in your carry-on baggage or put it in one of the X-ray bins provided.
8. If in doubt about travel requirement or for additional tips, please check the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) web site at <http://www.TSATravelTips.US> or the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority website at <http://www.catsa-acsta.gc.ca/english/>.

CAMPUS TOUR

Q. What is the best way to familiarize myself with Wheaton's campus?

A. Campus tours will be offered on Wednesday, July 11 at 5:00pm and 7:00pm and on Thursday, July 12 at 10:00am, 2:00pm, and 5:15pm. The tours should last no longer than 30 minutes. They will begin outside the front entrance of Fischer Hall. Look for the "shoe" sign.

PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR QUESTIONS

Q. Where do I depart for my Pre-Conference tour?

A. Pre-Conference tours will depart from the sidewalk in front of Fischer Hall.

Q. Is breakfast provided on my Pre-Conference Tour?

A. No. However, breakfast will be available in the dining hall for \$6.50. You do not have to pre-register and you can pay cash upon arrival at the dining hall.

Q. Is lunch provided on my Pre-Conference Tour?

A. Lunch is included in the tour price for those going on the Cantigny Gardens Tour. Those on Hands and Feet Tour will be dropped off at Portillo's Restaurant but will pay for lunch on their own. Those going to downtown Chicago will also pay for lunch on their own.

WORSHIP SESSIONS / BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE

Q. Where should I go for the general session and what should I bring?

A. All general sessions will be held in the Edman Chapel. Please bring a pen or pencil to the morning general sessions.

Q. What time does the Conference begin?

A. The Conference will begin on Thursday, July 12 at 5:00pm with dinner. The Women's Night of Worship starts at 7:00pm.

Q. What do I need to do to prepare for Conference?

A. Prepare your heart! Can true communion with God occur if there is unresolved sin in your life? You are challenged to make a commitment to confront disobedience, sin, and reconciliation that needs to be

addressed within your life. This process will enable you to discover deeper satisfaction of being in an intimate relationship with the Lover of your soul. Attendees are also encouraged to find two prayer partners who commit to praying for you leading up to and during the Conference experience.

Q. Is communion a part of the Conference?

A. Yes! A special communion service will occur during the Women's Night of Worship on Thursday evening.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Q. Where are our workshops located?

A. Workshops will be located in a variety of classroom buildings around Wheaton's campus. The campus is easy to navigate and all buildings are within a 5-7 minute walk of the Edman Chapel and the dining hall area.

Q. I registered for a workshop that charges a fee. When do I find out if I need to bring money for this workshop?

A. For workshops requiring payment, supplies, or special clothing attire you will be notified by June 15 if you are registered for that session. Fees for craft workshops will be collected at the beginning of each sectional. **Please be sure to have the correct change in US currency** for any craft workshop you are attending. Leaders will be prepared for a specific number of attendees and only those assigned to that workshop will be admitted.

CHICAGO LOCAL INFORMATION

Q. What's the temperature like?

A. Seasons in Chicago are fairly unpredictable. During the summer expect moderately high humidity and occasional thunderstorms. Daily high temperatures usually stay between 78°F and 92°F (26°C to 33°C).

Q. How can I prepare for Chicago weather?

A. July is typically the hottest month in Chicago but can be chilly with the infamous wind. Make sure to pack summer clothes but don't forget a pair of pants and a light jacket, just in case. July is also known to have severe thunderstorms—so bring an umbrella, especially if you're scheduled for a pre-conference tour. Don't forget sun block, shade hats, and sunglasses. We also suggest bringing a water bottle to stay hydrated as you will not be provided with one this year!

Q. I'd like to plan a vacation around the GEMS Conference, any helpful tips?

A. Visit this website for hotels, attractions, and events that may interest you and your family: http://www.explorechicago.org/city/en/things_see_do.html

Interested in camping? Although you will not find camping directly in the city of Chicago, there are plenty of camping options in Northern Illinois. Visit some of these websites for a variety of options:

- <http://www.illinoisgocamping.com/northern.html>
- <http://www.tedvillaire.com/the-best-small-campgrounds-in-northern-illinois/>
- <http://www.gocampingamerica.com/stateOverview.aspx?id=IL&state=Illinois>
- <http://www.northernillinois.worldweb.com/Wheretostay/Campgrounds/>

Q. How can I stay informed about Conference information, changes, or updates?

A. Be sure to check out the GEMS website (www.gemsgc.org/conference) for useful travel information as well as important Conference news and updates. Many updates are also communicated via the monthly GEMS E-Newsletter—contact the Service Center if you're not currently receiving it!

CAMPUS INFORMATION

Q. What are the guestrooms like?

A. Attendees will be staying in Fischer and McMannis Halls. All guestrooms have two single beds and are air-conditioned. Fischer Hall has private bathrooms that are shared between two rooms (four people) while McMannis Hall has community bathrooms on each floor. All accommodations are within a 5-7 minute walk of Edman Chapel and the dining hall and a short walk to all the meeting spaces.

Q. What is included in my guestroom?

A. Your guestroom includes two single beds with sheets, a pillow with pillowcase, and a blanket. You will also be provided with 1 bath towel, hand towel, wash cloth, plastic cup, and soap.

Q. Can I exchange my towels?

A. Yes. There is a designated towel exchange area in the lobby of Fischer and McMannis Hall(s). The cost is \$2.00 for a bath towel and \$1.00 wash cloth exchange.

Q. Is Internet access available?

A. All of the guestrooms and meeting spaces are equipped with wireless internet access if you wish to bring along your laptop computer. There is a one-time access fee of \$25.00 for wireless internet which you can request, pay for, and receive access to at the Wheaton Conference Services registration in Fischer Hall.

Q. Are there snacks available for purchase on site?

A. Yes, there are vending machines on the lower level of the residence halls as well as in Sam's Coffee Shop which is on the lower level of the Beamer Student Center. There are also some snacks available in the Wheaton Bookstore.

Q. Is there an ATM Machine on campus?

A. Yes, there is an ATM machine available on the lower level of the Beamer Student Center.

Q. I'm arriving early, what are the dining options?

A. There are many options! You may eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner in Wheaton's Anderson Commons dining hall. You do not need to pre-register for these meals, and you will need cash. The cost for breakfast is \$6.50, lunch \$9.00, and dinner \$11.50. There is also a coffee shop below the dining hall. Or, there are several dining spots within 3-5 blocks of Wheaton College.

Q. Is lunch available on Sunday prior to my departure?

A. No. Lunch will be on your own. You may choose to eat in the dining hall for \$9.00 or any of the options mentioned above.

Q. Can my cell phone be used on campus?

A. Most cellular services can be used at Wheaton College. You may want to check with your service provider to determine if service is available in that area. Also, for Canadian citizens, you may want to let your provider know you will be in the U.S. in order to access lower rates during the time you are there.

Q. Are there any exercise possibilities available on campus?

A. Yes, the Sports and Recreation Center will be open every day. You can purchase a daily pass at the Conference check-in for \$5.00 or you can pay \$7.00 at the front desk of the Sports Center.

FIRST TIMER/SOLO TRAVELER INFORMATION

Q. This is my first GEMS Conference—what should I expect?

A. A wonderful time! Join us for the First Time Conference Attendee's Reception. This will be a brief but informative gathering following the Women's Night of Worship at 9:00pm on Thursday. You will meet lots of new friends and have your questions about the next three days answered. Don't miss it!

Q. I'm traveling alone but this is not my first Conference, should I attend the First Timers Reception?

A. Yes, please come! You are welcome to join us for the First Time Conference Attendee's Reception and meet others!

Q. Are there any special meeting opportunities for Solo Travelers?

A. Yes, you are welcome to sit with other solo travelers during each Conference meal. Meet in the dining hall and look for the signs and tables indicated as the meeting location.

GEMS CONFERENCE SPECIFICS

Q. Is there anything I need to keep with me throughout Conference?

A. Yes. Your nametag should be readily accessible at all times! The back of your nametag lists the workshops you have been assigned to. You will also want to keep your room key and building access card as well as your dining hall meal cards. And, of course, your Conference Program Book is ALWAYS a must to take with you!

Q. Is there anything specific I need to bring with me?

A. Yes: your Bible, pen, paper/notepad, hangers if desired, personal toiletry items, sunglasses, sunscreen, swimsuit, workout clothes, your modest pajamas for the Theme Night Experience, a small flashlight, umbrella, a light jacket or sweater, good walking shoes, an alarm clock, additional bath towels if desired, your water bottle, and any other items you find yourself unable to live without!

Q. What if I lose my room key or keycard or forget to turn it back in?

A. A fee of \$50.00 US will be charged for any room key or keycard that is lost or not returned.

Q. What is the Conference Supply Center and where is it located?

A. The Conference Supply Center contains GEMS merchandise, NEW materials, curriculum, clothing, and gift items. It will be located in the Phelps Room on the lower level of the Beamer Student Center. Look for the signs! All sales will be in US currency (checks/cash). Discover, Visa, and MasterCard accepted. Debit cards are also accepted.

Q. What if I forget something?

A. Forgotten items or toiletries can be purchased on-site at the Wheaton Bookstore. The Bookstore is located in the Student Services Building, across from the Beamer Student Center, and is open from 8:30am – 5:30pm.

Q. Is there a bookstore on campus?

A. Yes, the Wheaton Bookstore contains Wheaton college gear as well as a nice selection of Christian books.

Q. Where do I go if I lose an item at Conference?

A. You can check the GEMS Conference Supply Center in the Phelps Room.

LOCAL FLAVOR NIGHT

Q. Is there anything I should know about the Local Flavor Night?

A. You may want to wear comfortable pants because we are going to be celebrating foods that are all Chicago! Once we're full, we'll be enjoying some improv that will surely make you 'bust a gut.'

Q. What should I wear?

A. Comfortable, casual clothing would be best.

WARDROBE

Q. What is the dress code for Conference?

- A.** Please dress appropriately and modestly—representing your King and the GEMS ministry in all your clothing choices. You are encouraged to dress in business casual clothing—skirts, dress pants or dress capris, dress shirts. You may want to bring a lightweight sweater for air conditioned classrooms and don't forget to bring comfortable walking shoes. Here are a few special events to consider:
- On Friday, Theme Day, you are invited to wear your counselor uniform.
 - On Friday evening for the Theme Night Experience you are invited to wear your (appropriate) pajamas, slippers, and maybe even curlers to the GEMS Slumber Party!
 - If you need to wear any required apparel for any workshops you will be notified by June 15.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Q. Where is the closest medical facility?

- A.** Central DuPage hospital is the closest major hospital in the Wheaton vicinity. You can reach the hospital at 630-933-1600.

Q. What number can I leave with my family in case of emergency?

- A.** To leave emergency messages, day or evening, contact public safety at (630) 752-5911. You can also call Linda Fink, Local Conference Committee chairperson, at (815) 210-2754. Conference attendees will be notified of any messages. The Wheaton Police Department phone number is (630) 260-2161.

Q. Are there telephones in our guestrooms?

- A.** No, there are not.

DEPARTURE

Q. When do I need to be out of my guestroom?

- A.** You must be checked out of your guestroom by 12:30pm on Sunday, July 15. You will want to ensure that you turn in your room key prior to checking out otherwise you will be subject to the \$50.00 lost key charge.

Q. What if I'm on the 12:30pm departure shuttle and need to leave immediately after the Sunday mass meeting?

- A.** The closing worship service will end by 11:30am. If you are packed prior to the worship service you should have time to return to your room and check out before departure. If you wish to grab lunch from the dining hall before departing it is recommended you check out prior to the worship service. A luggage storage area will be provided.

Departure information continued on the next page...

Q. Who do I contact if I forget items at Wheaton College following the Conference?

- A.** If you leave items behind at Wheaton, please contact Wheaton Conference Services at (630) 752-5112 they will be glad to help locate and ship the forgotten items to you.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Q. What if I have additional questions that have not been covered?

- A.** Please contact Alecia Van Hulzen, GEMS Girls' Clubs Conference Coordinator, at 616-241-5616 ext. 3065 or by email: alecia@gemsgc.org

Q. Who do I contact with travel questions/travel confirmation/itinerary changes?

- A.** Questions, Travel Confirmation or Itinerary Changes Contact: Kim Krygsheld (708) 259-9692 or 2012gemschicagofun@gmail.com

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO WHEATON COLLEGE

Wheaton College
501 College Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630)752-5000

Q. What is the recommended route?

- A.** There are many different routes into the college from each direction. Please be sure you locate the correct route for you.

From O'Hare International Airport

Cars leaving the airport exit to the east. Keep in the right lane to turn south on I-294. *Stay on I-294 south some distance to I-88, also called the East-West Tollway. Take I-88 to I-355 North. Exit I-355 north on Roosevelt Road. Go through Glen Ellyn. When you get to Wheaton, go to Presidents Street. Turn right (north) on Presidents Street, and follow the directions on the next page.

From the North:

Take I-94 south and follow the signs for I-294 south, past O'Hare airport. Continue with directions From O'Hare International Airport.*

From the South

Approaching Chicago from the southwest on I-55, just beyond Bolingbrook, take I-355 north. Exit at Roosevelt Road to the west. Stay on Roosevelt through Glen Ellyn. When you get to Wheaton, go to Presidents Street. Turn right (north) on Presidents Street, and follow the directions from Presidents Street.

From Midway Airport

Leaving the airport, turn north onto Cicero Avenue and proceed to the I-55 South on-ramp. Continue by following directs From the South.

From the Northwest

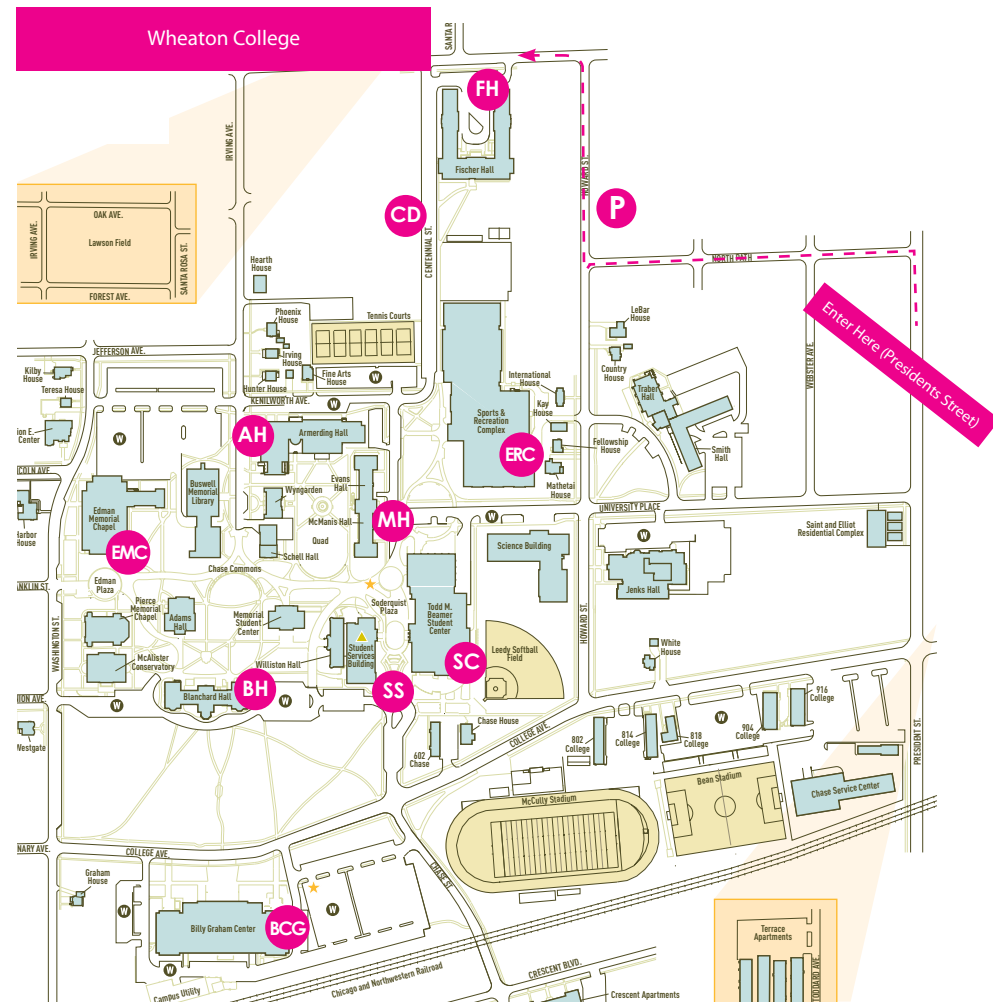
Approaching Wheaton from the northwest on I-90, turn south on I-355 at Schaumburg. A few miles south, exit west on Roosevelt Road. Stay on Roosevelt through Glen Ellyn. When you get to Wheaton, go to Presidents Street. Turn right (north) on Presidents Street and follow the directions from Presidents Street.

From the East

East-West I-80/90 becomes I 80/94 as you cross from Indiana into Illinois. Continue on I-80 West to I-355 North. Exit I-355 at Roosevelt Road west (which is a left run at the bottom of the exit ramp). Stay on Roosevelt through the town of Glen Ellyn; when you get to Wheaton, go to Presidents Street. Turn right (north) on Presidents Street and follow the directions from Presidents Street.

From Presidents Street:

Turn (north) on Presidents Street to Harrison Ave. Turn left (west) to Fischer Hall. Follow the signs to Registration.



- FH: Fischer Hall: Check-in / Guest Lodging / Workshops
- P: Parking Lot Behind Fischer Hall: Guest Parking
- CD: Centennial Drive (in front of Fischer Hall): Pre-Conference Tour Departure
- MH: McManis Hall: Guest Lodging
- EMC: Edman Memorial Chapel: General Session Events / Workshops
- ERC: Eckert Recreation Center: Fitness Center / Theme Event
- SC: Todd M. Beamer Student Center: Dining Hall / Supply Center / Workshops
- SS: Student Services Building: Campus Bookstore
- AH: Armerding Hall / BH: Blanchard Hall / BGC: Billy Graham Center: Workshops

Whatever is
honorable
right true praiseworthy
admirable
excellent pure lovely

think on these things.
Philippians 4:8