

Savannah Meetings Toolkit



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CITY QUICK FACTS

- 2.5 square mile Historic District makes Savannah pedestrian friendly
- 22 scenic squares
- More than 45 cultural attractions
- Coastal cuisine is a Savannah specialty
- 16 oz. “to-go” cups allowed in Historic District
- 20-minute drive to Tybee Island
- Art & architecture around every corner
- The Savannah International Trade & Convention Center:
 - 100,000 square feet of prime exhibit space
 - 21 breakout rooms
 - 13 meeting rooms
 - 25,000 square foot grand ballroom
 - 45 x 30 foot hanger door
- Additional meeting facilities downtown include the Coastal Georgia Center and the Savannah Civic Center
- 15,000 total hotel rooms in the greater Savannah area
 - 1,500 committable rooms
 - 5,000 rooms in the Historic Meetings District
 - Walking distance to shops, galleries & restaurants
- Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport is 20 minutes from downtown
 - 35 daily non-stop flights via American, Delta, jetBlue, United and US Airways from from Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington D.C.



ACCOLADES

“World’s Best Cities for Romance” (#12)

- Travel + Leisure, February 2014

“America’s Best Cities for Hipsters” (#13)

- Travel & Leisure, November 2013

“Top 10 Cities in the United States” (#9)

- Condé Nast Traveler, October 2013

“2013 Gold Service Award”

- Meetings & Conventions, September 2013

“Forsyth Park: Top 25 Parks in the World”

- Trip Advisor, August 2013

“Top Ten Friendliest City in America” (#3)

- Condé Nast Traveler, August 2013

“America’s Best Cities” (#7)

- Travel + Leisure, July 2013

“Winner of the Pinnacle Award of Excellence in Meetings and Conventions”

- Successful Meetings, June 2013

“Top 25 Destination in the World (#14)”

- Trip Advisor, May 2013

“2013 Award of Excellence”

- Corporate & Incentive Travel Magazine, May 2013

“Best City for Affordable Getaway”

- Travel + Leisure, May 2013

“America’s Top 10 Waterfronts”

- USAToday, May 2013

“America’s #1 Most Charming Accent”

- Travel + Leisure, April 2013

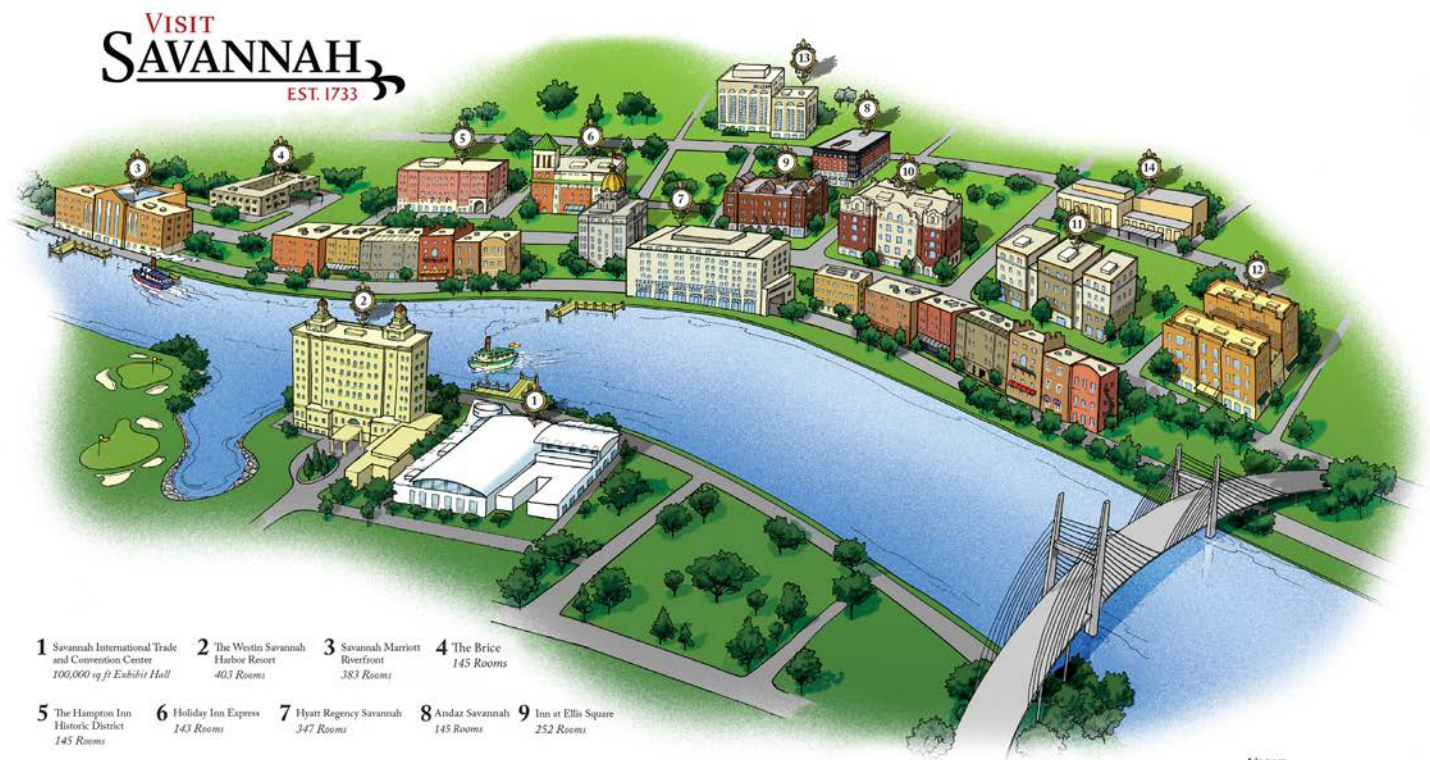
“America’s Best Cities for Pizza”

- Travel + Leisure, March 2013

“A Top Ten Romantic City”

- Livability.com, February 2013

HISTORIC DISTRICT MEETINGS MAP



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1 Savannah International Trade and Convention Centre
100,000 sq ft Exhibit Hall | 2 The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort
403 Rooms | 3 Savannah Marriott Riverfront
383 Rooms | 4 The Brice
145 Rooms |
| 5 The Hampton Inn Historic District
145 Rooms | 6 Holiday Inn Express
143 Rooms | 7 Hyatt Regency Savannah
347 Rooms | 8 Andaz Savannah
145 Rooms |
| | | 9 Inn at Ellis Square
252 Rooms | |
| 10 Hilton Garden Inn
134 Rooms | 11 Doubletree Hotel
150 Rooms | 12 Sheraton Four Points
127 Rooms | 13 Hilton Savannah DeSoto
246 Rooms |
| | | | 14 Savannah Civic Center
50,000 sq. ft. |

VISIT
SAVANNAH
EST. 1733

Note: Map is not to scale. Does not include all hotels, inns and bed & breakfasts located within the Historic Meetings District

CITY PHOTOS



City Hall



Forsyth Park Fountain



Lafayette Square



City Market



Skyline from Hutchinson Island



Historic River Street



Hamilton Turner Inn

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Savannah Film Festival



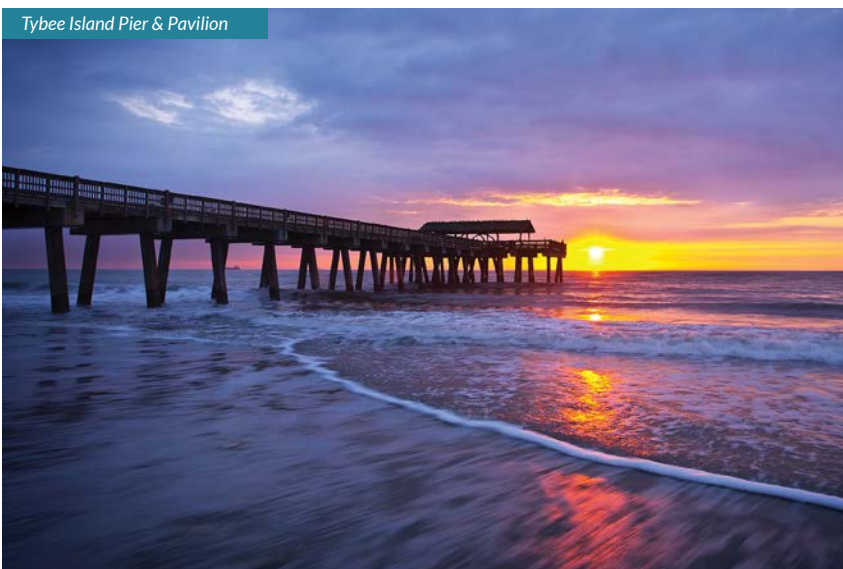
Westin Harbor Golf Resort & Spa



Haunted Pub Crawl



Shopping on Broughton Street



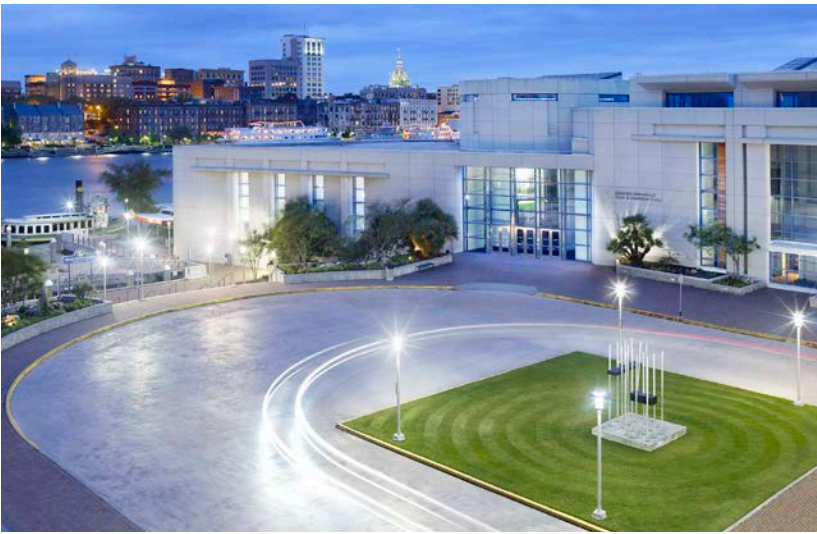
Tybee Island Pier & Pavilion



Fort Pulaski Reenactment

MEETINGS FACILITIES PHOTOS

Savannah International Trade & Convention Center



MEETINGS FACILITIES PHOTOS

Savannah Civic Center



Coastal Georgia Center



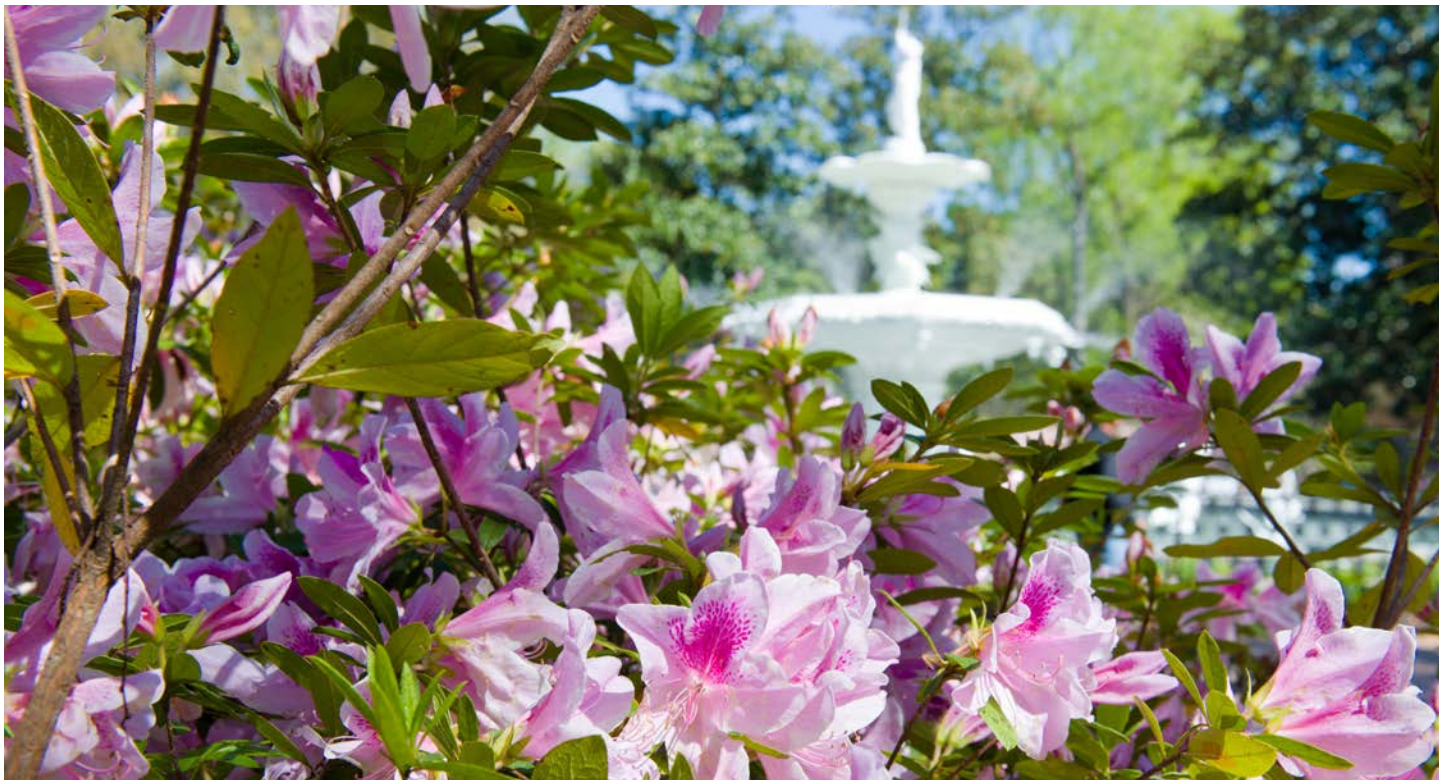
WEATHER TRENDS & FORECAST

Check out our seasonal weather trends that may be helpful in planning and packing for your trip to Savannah:

Yearly Averages

MONTH	HIGH	LOW
January	63.3	37.9
February	63.1	40
March	69.9	46.8
April	77.8	54.1
May	84.2	62.3
June	88.6	68.5
July	90.8	71.5
August	90.1	71.4
September	85.6	67.6
October	77.8	55.9
November	69.5	45.5
December	62.5	39.4

Source: Weather Underground



TESTIMONIALS

Every year, we receive letters and emails from meeting planners and attendees who want to share their positive experiences in Savannah. We'd like to share a few of these with you.

Let us add your name to our long list of satisfied customers. Call **1.877.SAVANNAH**.

"Coming to Savannah was the best conference we've had in memory. Thanks so much for a wonderful experience! I would highly recommend Savannah." - Carla Battle, Account Executive, Courtesy Associates, Inc.

"We had a great experience in Savannah and were provided with exceptional service by Visit Savannah and the Hilton Hotel. Yours is a beautiful city with friendly and welcoming people. We especially enjoyed an overdose of great southern cooking. Our members left Savannah pleased that we had chosen your city for our meeting. Thank you for your hospitality and attention to detail."

- John E. Saunders, III, CAE, Executive Director, National Forum for Black Public Administrators

"Great venue for us- one of our biggest meetings because everyone wanted to come to Savannah"

- Kathy Votow, Executive Director of the Radiation Research Society

"From everything we've heard Savannah really knocked the socks off our attendees! All comments indicated the convention center was made for us."

- Amy Storm-Carter, Director of Meetings and Conventions, National Home Infusion Association

"Thank you for giving us all the opportunity to see just how perfect Savannah would be for meetings. It is perfect for the nurses." - Pam Ballinger, CMP, Vice President of Meetings, Exhibits and Trade Shows, Association Headquarters

"Our conference was very successful and everyone raved about Savannah. I hope we can do it again!"

- Stephen Ingley, Executive Director of the Airborne Law Enforcement Association

"Our dealers and management were most happy with the location and the meeting overall. From all comments this meeting was the best we have ever had. One dealer said his favorite thing about the meeting was "THE CITY OF SAVANNAH. AWESOME!" Many others said they enjoyed the city greatly; being on the river made it very special. The Savannah Marriott Riverfront and the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center had fantastic service. We look forward to returning!"

- Caron Bennett, Meeting Planner, Badcock Home Furnishings

"Visit Savannah is there to help Reunion Coordinators in all circumstances in planning their event in your town" - Marc D. Cline, President of the USS Sarsfield Association

"Thanks again for the wonderful hospitality. We're big Savannah fans and will be coming your way more in the future." - Roger A. Sherwood, CAE, Executive Director, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

DESTINATION SERVICES

Social Responsibility Program

Our Social Responsibility program enables your organization to get involved with volunteer activities that benefit Savannah's local community and environment.

1. America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia: Mary Jane Crouch at MCrouch@HelpEndHunger.org or **912.721.1790**.

- a. It depends on the size of the group and the time they are looking for but they can always offer:
 - i. Sort food and stock the shelves (Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
 - ii. Brown Bag for the Elderly: One Saturday a month we pack 1,700 bags of food for seniors.
 - iii. Senior Emergency Food Assistance: We have a group opportunity once a month where we pack 750 boxes of food that are then delivered to seniors. This is a group-only project and one that groups must sign up for in advance. We do it any day they want to come and they are the only group here.
 - iv. They are very good about developing a project pertaining to a specific group based on size of group, date, etc.

2. American Diabetes Association: Molly Knox, MKnox@Diabetes.org or Maria Center, MCenter@diabetes.org.

- a. Special Projects:
 - i. Media Research
 - Collect information on media outlets in 23 surrounding counties.
 - Calculate impressions and value for potential sponsors under staff direction.
 - ii. Media Relations/Cause Marketing Problems
 - Write public service announcements, news releases, media advisories.
 - Work with local radio stations, television stations and print outlets to organize various promotions.
 - Social media
 - iii. Diabetes Awareness and Educational Activities
 - Under staff supervision, compile materials for health fairs and other community events, possibly attend these events to represent ADA.
 - Other work related to this.
 - iv. Special Event Support
 - Under staff supervision, help coordinate activities for the 2 signature events of ADA: Step Out to Fight Diabetes (Fall) and Kiss-a-Pig.

**Please note most organizations have various volunteer opportunities throughout the year and you may contact them directly to find an activity that best meets your needs.*

- 3. Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity:** Florence Hale at **912.353.8122** or Admin@HabitatSavannah.org.
- a. Construction: our build days are Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Thursday & Fridays by appointment. Volunteers must be over 18.
 - b. ReStore: They need help on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Volunteers must be over 16.
 - c. Various Fundraisers (contact for more info).

4. West Broad Street YMCA: Norman Joyner, Interim Executive Director, at wbsymca@gmail.com.

- a. For volunteers they have the following options:
 - i. Early learning center - time with children, reading, group activities, and special projects
 - ii. Before/after school and summer - field trips, tutorials, homework assistance, mentoring
 - iii. Adult education - mentoring, literacy assistance
 - iv. Garden - planting, harvesting, maintenance
 - v. Kitchen - meal preparation and service
 - vi. They also have periodic work days and community events that require volunteers.

5. The Salvation Army - Savannah, GA: Jessica Munch-Dittmar at Volunteer4Sally@Hotmail.com or **912.651.7420**.

- a. Please visit www.SalvationArmySavannah.org for further information.
- b. Volunteer opportunities include:
 - i. Creative and Performing Arts Program
 - ii. Sports and Recreation
 - Flag Football
 - Cheerleading
 - Baseball
 - Fast Pitch
 - Basketball
 - Volleyball
 - Taekwondo Assistant
 - Mom & Tot Fitness Instructors
 - Field & maintenance personnel
 - Concession workers for games
 - iii. After School Tutorial Program
 - Volunteer tutors and life coaches needed for The Salvation Army of Savannah Tutorial After School Program. We are looking for those who feel they are capable of educating within various subjects. Please contact for more info.
 - iv. Warehouse / Thrift Stores
 - Help with sorting clothing sizes
 - Sort and tag items in the warehouse
 - Help in marketing the thrift store
 - Help in arranging window displays
 - Help organizing a thrift store fashion show
 - v. Various General Needs that are available year round-contact for more info

**Please note most organizations have various volunteer opportunities throughout the year and you may contact them directly to find an activity that best meets your needs.*

6. United Way - HandsOn Savannah: Rebecca Pierson at RPierson@uwce.org or **912.651.7727**.

a. Hands on Savannah

i. www.HandsOnSavannah.org

ii. The United Way Program, HandsOn Savannah, works with companies and groups (universities, family reunions, etc.) who plan vacations and/or conventions in our area, but also want to incorporate service projects during their stay. In the process we actually act as the conduit between the groups and the non-profits in making the introductions. We coordinate with a specific impact area that the group is most interested in volunteering with; i.e., youth, homeless, seniors, animals, environmental, etc., and with our knowledge of the various entities we can usually offer them several options.

7. Savannah Ocean Exchange: Milly Pitts at **912.598.8962** or Millicent.Pitts@OceanExchange.org.

a. We are currently looking for a volunteer to mentor interns in the area of marketing and branding.

b. We have a big event in the fall for which we could use various volunteers to prepare for our delegates and our solutions providers i.e. pre-event work and to be ambassadors.

8. Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens: Liz Lubrani at **912.921.5460** or ELubrani@UGA.edu.

a. Volunteer opportunities to work in the various gardens on site as well as Educational sessions and children's activities. They put on various seasonal events and always need volunteers to assist in set up and working events.

b. This site is a part of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences department. More information can be found at www.CoastalGeorgiaBG.org.

9. Savannah/Chatham CASA, Inc. - Court Appointed Special Advocates: ZaDonna Slay at **912.447.8908** or Info@SavannahCASA.org.

a. Host a drive to collect and donate school supplies for children in Pre-K through 12th grade. Our program strives to equip a child in need of a book bag with school supplies at the time of their placement in the child welfare system or in the event of an unexpected transition. School supplies of any item and quantity will gladly be accepted year around.

b. Host a clothing drive and donate gently worn clothes, school uniforms and toiletries for our children. Often times children are removed from their homes without the opportunity to pack essential items that they need day-to-day. Donations also accepted year around.

c. Sponsor a child during the holiday season by granting their Christmas wishes! You can sponsor our children by making a financial donation to cover the expenses of their Christmas wish list or you can adopt a family by becoming their Secret Santa!

d. Become a CASA Volunteer! We are committed to fulfill the National CASA goal of, by 2020, enabling every child in the child welfare system to benefit from the dedicated, one-on-one advocacy of a CASA volunteer. Complete an application to join our next class by visiting www.SavannahCASA.org or contacting our office.

**Please note most organizations have various volunteer opportunities throughout the year and you may contact them directly to find an activity that best meets your needs.*

- 10. Union Mission, Inc.:** Gerri Ann Robbins at **912.236.7423** or GRobbins@UnionMission.org.
a. Volunteers can assist residents and staff in the effort to end homelessness in Savannah.
b. Everyone is welcome to become a volunteer and can assist in many ways, such as: Planting a tree, tutoring a child, providing meals, fixing a fence or other projects, painting facilities, arts and crafts for the families and children, and many more activities.
- 11. Lutheran Services of Georgia:** Linda Larson at LLarson@lsga.org or **912.353.8875**. www.lsga.org
- 12. Rape Crisis Center:** Brenda Lewis at Volunteers@rccsav.org or **912.233.3000**. www.rccsav.org
- 13. Senior Citizens, Inc.:** Lauren Cruickshank at **912.236.0363** or LCruickshank@SeniorCitizens-inc.org.
www.SeniorCitizens-Inc.org
- 14. Savannah Speech and Hearing Center:** Ann Curry, Volunteer Coordinator at **912.355.4601**.
SpeechandHearingSAV.org

**Please note most organizations have various volunteer opportunities throughout the year and you may contact them directly to find an activity that best meets your needs.*

Group Welcome Program

Groups with 600 rooms on peak or more:

This would be categorized as a citywide and they would receive the following as a part of the Savannah Welcome Program:

- Banner call-outs with group acronym and logo to hang below welcome banners on Hutchinson Island
- Welcome ribbons with group's acronym or message to be worn by all contracted hotel staff and Trade Center staff
- Logo and group name displayed on the welcome screen at the airport during conference dates
- Logo and group name printed on monthly convention welcome posters that are distributed to businesses along River Street, Broughton Street and City Market area
- Complimentary motor coach transportation and extended water ferry service between contracted hotels and the Savannah International Trade Center
- Attendance builder trips for groups meeting in Savannah for the first time (must be approved by Visit Savannah management)
- Savannah information (visitor guides, maps and transportation flyers) to be provided for the group with an information table at the Trade Center as well as all contracted hotels

Groups with 599-250 rooms on peak:

- Logo and name displayed on the welcome screen at the airport during conference dates
- Logo and group name printed on monthly convention welcome posters that are distributed to businesses along River Street, Broughton Street and City Market area
- Brown Visit Savannah logo paper bags for attendees per meeting planners request
- Savannah information (visitor guides and maps) can be delivered to the conference hotel

Groups with 249-100 rooms on peak:

- Brown Visit Savannah logo paper bags available for attendees per meeting planners request
- Savannah information (visitor guides and maps) can be delivered to the conference hotel

Groups with 99 rooms on peak or less:

- White Visit Savannah logo plastic bags and smaller promotional items available
- Savannah information (visitor guides and maps) can be delivered to the conference hotel

Groups that did not book through Visit Savannah will receive:

- Savannah information (visitor guides and maps) can be delivered to the conference hotel

**Guidelines are applicable to change based on various needs and requests from certain groups and/or Visit Savannah staff.*