



# FIRST-TIME Attendee Guide



## Welcome, First-Time Attendees!

This first-time attendee guide was created to assist first-time convention attendees with making their time at The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition as productive and stress-free as possible. The ACI Convention is packed full of committee meetings, sessions, special events, and networking opportunities, and we want to make sure you have the necessary tools and information to maximize your experience, make connections, learn, and have fun.

# PLANNING FOR THE CONVENTION



## Registration:

Register early and you can save over \$100 off your registration. The registration fee includes access to committee meetings, sessions, exhibits, and networking events including the Opening Reception and Concrete Mixer. Select special events, tours, and lunches are available to attendees for an additional fee.



## Hotel Accommodations:

The ACI group hotel typically sells out early. We recommend you book your hotel accommodations early, so that you can take advantage of after-hours networking and easy accessibility to meetings and sessions.



## Length of Stay:

For your first convention, we recommend you arrive Saturday and depart Wednesday. You'll be able to attend all the "must-see" events and have the greatest exposure to committee meetings, sessions, and networking events.



## Plan Your Days:

Review the full program, committee meeting schedule, and list of exhibitors in advance, so you'll know what you would like to attend and who you would like to meet. You can even create a personalized schedule using the MySchedule feature on our website or in our Convention App.



## Download the Convention App:

The ACI Convention App has all the information you need for the week ahead, right at your fingertips. Updated session and committee schedules, exhibitor and sponsor information, floorplans, and more are all available through the app.



## How to Dress and What to Pack:

There isn't an official dress code for the ACI Convention, though most attendees dress in either business or business casual attire. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers—you'll be walking a lot and the temperatures in meeting rooms can fluctuate.

Plan on bringing with you plenty of business cards—you will meet lots of new people. You'll also want to have copies of your resume on hand if you're looking for employment opportunities—you'll never know who you'll meet. Plus, don't forget your phone/tablet/laptop chargers, so you can stay connected to work and home.

# CONVENTION OVERVIEW



## Committee Meetings:

Committees meet to develop the standards, reports, and other documents necessary to keep up with the changing world of concrete technology. All ACI attendees can attend and participate in any of the 300+ open committee meetings that take place throughout the convention week. All committee meetings are listed on the ACI website, in the Convention Program Book, and in the Convention App.

Committees are organized by the following system:

100s = General

200s = Materials and Properties

300s = Design and Construction

400s = Concrete Reinforcement and Structural Analysis

500s = Specialized Applications and Repair

C = Certification Committees

E = Educational Committees

S = Student and Young Professional Committees

For committees that you attend and are not a member of, you are welcome to sit in the perimeter seats, as the chairs at the table are typically reserved for members of the committee.

## Sessions and Mini-Sessions:

Technical and educational sessions/mini-sessions provide attendees with the latest research, case studies, best practices, and the opportunity to earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and/or Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Sessions are 2 hours in length and typically feature six to eight presentations. Mini-sessions are 1 hour in length with up to four presentations. Both types of sessions are eligible for CEU credit. To earn credit, you must attend the entire session and record the CEU codes distributed by the moderator.

All attendees are encouraged to attend any of the 50+ technical and educational sessions/mini-sessions held during each convention.



## Networking Events:

The ACI Convention offers numerous networking events where you can expect to meet with many of the industry's top engineers, architects, contractors, educators, manufacturers, and material representatives from around the world. Networking events include the Opening Reception, Faculty Network Reception, Women in ACI Reception, Young Professional Networking Event, Student Networking Event, Concrete Mixer, and President's Reception.



## Exhibit Area:

The exhibit area is the central meeting spot for the convention: a great place to get to know exhibitors, meet up with colleagues, or introduce yourself to someone new. The exhibit area also features the ACI Store, Cyber Café, Career Center, exhibitor demonstrations, Student Competition, daily refreshments, and more.



# IDEAS FOR NETWORKING



## **Convention Orientation Breakfast:**

All first-time attendees are invited to attend the First-Time Attendee Networking Event. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet other first-time attendees, connect with convention mentors, and learn about what the ACI Convention week has to offer.



## **Colleagues:**

Talk with your colleagues and peers beforehand to see who else will be going to the convention. Be sure to connect with them during the convention, as they can introduce you to their colleagues. But resist the urge to stick with your familiar colleagues for the entire week.



## **Social Media:**

Consider using the #ACIConvention hashtag on your social media platforms, which allows you to connect with others at the convention and participate in the backchannel discussions.



## **Don't Overschedule Yourself:**

It's okay to skip a session block or take a break from committee meetings. This is a great time to walk the exhibit show floor, browse the ACI Store, or setup one-on-one networking.



## **Conversation Starters:**

Waiting in line? Ask the person next to you "How are you enjoying the conference?" Or "What session did you just come from?" Sitting next to someone? Introduce yourself.



## **Mentors**

Several attendees have volunteered to be convention mentors. Designated by their pink "Mentor" ribbons, don't hesitate to reach out to these convention veterans to ask questions, gain insight into ACI, or just strike up a conversation.



## **ACI Staff**

Look for any attendee with a staff badge. ACI Staff are available to answer any questions you may have during the convention.

# “MUST-DO” EVENTS



You definitely want to participate in the numerous committee meetings, sessions, and networking events that make up the ACI Convention, but these are the one-time special events you don't want to miss (and they are included with your registration fee).



## **Opening Session**

This kick-off session features a keynote presentation that will motivate, inspire, and jump-start the week ahead.



## **Opening Reception**

Immediately following the Opening Session, this reception is the perfect place to network with new acquaintances and learn about the products and services offered by the exhibitors.



## **Concrete Mixer**

Join ACI attendees and guests for an evening of networking, entertainment, and great food. Don't forget your drink tickets!

# ABOUT THE ACI CONVENTION

The ACI Convention is dedicated to bringing together the leaders in the concrete industry. These individuals work to improve the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of concrete projects. Conventions provide a forum for networking and education and an opportunity to provide input on the concrete industry's codes, specifications, and guides. For more information, visit [www.aciconvention.org](http://www.aciconvention.org).

If you have any suggestions for making this guide more useful in the future, please forward them to Lauren Mentz, Director, Event Services, at [lauren.mentz@concrete.org](mailto:lauren.mentz@concrete.org).

