

PEARC17

Practice and Experience in Advanced Research Computing 2017
July 9–13, 2017 — New Orleans, Louisiana

Conference Guide for Attendees

We look forward to seeing you in the Big Easy later this summer for PEARC17! To help make your experience that much more enjoyable, we've assembled a few reminders and tips for getting the most out of your time in New Orleans.

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pearc17.pearc.org

GETTING READY

Preparing for PEARC17

Start planning now to get the most out of your conference experience! The best place to start is at the [PEARC17 website](https://pearc17.sched.com/). Here you will find descriptions of all the activities and a detailed [Technical Program Schedule](#) that you can use to build your own personalized agenda. Just log into, or create a new, *Sched* account and you can bookmark your favorite sessions and sync them to your phone or calendar. No need to download yet another app, but be sure to bookmark the schedule on your phone by visiting: <https://pearc17.sched.com/mobile>

If you have not already done so, we strongly encourage you to make your lodging arrangements at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, the official PEARC17 conference hotel. The number of attendees staying at the conference hotel directly affects our ability to offer special programs and keeps registration fees from rising. Staying at the conference hotel also enriches your conference experience, making it easy to attend evening social events and network with colleagues outside of formal conference sessions.

Poster printing

Order in advance at this link provided by FedEx Office at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, and have your poster waiting for you when you arrive: <https://docstore.fedex.com/hco5008b>

First-Time Attendees

Okay, technically, we're all first timers to a PEARC conference, but if you're new to this community—Welcome! Attending a professional conference for the first time can be a daunting experience, but with just a bit of preparation and some inside advice, you can navigate like a pro. Take a look at our handy [guide for first-timers](#) to get some practical tips that will up your conference game.

Registration and Information Desk

After you check in at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, please proceed to the PEARC17 Registration Desk, behind the escalators in the Empire Foyer (Level 2) to register and pick up your badge, which you need to wear at all times, as well as your pocket schedule. The registration desk will be open as follows:

- Sunday, July 9: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Monday, July 10: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 11: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 12: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 13: 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

We strongly encourage tutorial participants to register Sunday to avoid long registration lines on Monday morning.

The registration desk also serves at the general information desk for PEARC17 attendees. If you need to get a message to another attendee, want to inquire about ad hoc meeting space, are looking for a lost phone, start here. If we don't have the answer, we will help get you one!

PEARC17 Conference Store

Don't miss the chance to get your limited edition PEARC17 polo shirt! Order before June 23 and get it in time for the conference. These unique fashion statements are available only through the Land's End PEARC17 shop:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/pearc/>

GETTING SITUATED

How PEARC17 is Organized

You've told us that many of your most important interactions happen outside of formal conference sessions. We heard you loud and clear and hope that you notice a bit more breathing room in the daily schedule, from longer morning and afternoon breaks, to extended lunch breaks, and to an earlier "stop" time each day, with the Technical Program ending by 5 p.m. We encourage you to make the most of this extra time and use it to deepen and enrich your PEARC17 and New Orleans experience.

There are six main components of the PEARC17 Conference: Tutorials, Technical Program, Exhibitor Forum, the ARCC Workshop, Student Program, and co-located Workshops and Events.

- **Tutorials.** Monday is Tutorials Day. Members of the PEARC17 community are offering a slate of half-day and full-day options on a wide range of topics.
- **Technical Program:** At the heart of the conference is the [Technical Program](#), providing multiple forums for sharing research, development, discovery, and applications in high performance computing, networking, storage, and analysis, including:
 - Plenary Speakers
 - Technical Tracks
 - Posters
 - Birds of a Feather
 - Visualization Showcase
 - Awards Luncheon

Conference registration is needed for attending these sessions.

- **ARCC Workshop:** The 2017 Advanced Research Computing on Campuses (ARCC) Best Practices Workshop is co-located with PEARC17 and ARCC sessions run in parallel with other Technical Program sessions.

Your conference registration allows you attend any and all ARCC sessions.

- **Exhibitor Forum:** Our exhibitor community is a vital part of the PEARC17 conference. This year, we are offering an exciting Exhibitor Forum that includes case studies and customer stories from manufacturers, vendors, and HPC service providers. The Exhibitor Forum is a tremendous opportunity for exhibitors and attendees alike. You can find the full schedule of Exhibitor Forum presentations in the [conference schedule](#). We encourage you to attend the Forum sessions in Bolden 2 on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Exhibitor Forum is open to all registered attendees.

- **Student Program:** The PEARC17 conference strives to build and support a strong and diverse HPC student community at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, through professional development, opportunities to learn from mentors, and engagement with PEARC17's technical sessions. The [Student Program](#) includes special events, a Modeling Day activity and presentations, interactions between students, mentors and exhibitors, and provides Student Volunteers to help the conference run smoothly.

Student programs are open to registered students, mentors, and by special invitation.

- **Co-located Workshops and Events:** To broaden the impact of the PEARC17 conference, we have made possible the co-location of [workshops and special events](#) that align closely in scope and mission.

Many of these events are open to registered conference attendees, but several are by invitation-only. Please refer to the conference website for details.

Wireless Access

PEARC17 works with the hotel to eliminate typical challenges experienced with hotel wireless networks. For the best experience, we encourage attendees to use the PEARC17 wireless network. It is public, open, and unencrypted, so be sure to take the necessary precautions to protect your network traffic (e.g., use VPN connections and secure https websites).

If you experience problems with the conference network, please report it to PEARC17 staff so that we can investigate and work with the hotel to resolve the issue.

Conference Hotel and Floor Plan

First things first: Pay attention at the elevators! Scan your room key or select your floor *before* you get on—unless you don't care where you wind up.

Almost all conference activities will take place on the Level 2 of the hotel, in the Empire Ballroom and Foyer, the Strand rooms and foyer, the Bolden rooms, and—unofficially—in the Starbucks. See the [hotel floor plan](#) for detailed information.

A few events, including some Student Program activities, take place on Level 4. The Student Networking event is on Level 3 in the 8 Block Restaurant.

Presenter Needs

For presenters, PEARC17 is BYOL—Bring Your Own Laptop. Presentation rooms for the Technical Program will have standard AV set-ups with a projector, screen, and microphone. If you need anything else, ask the Student Volunteer assigned to your session or stop by the Registration Desk, and we'll do our best to get you what you need.

Student Volunteers will also be contacting you after your presentation with instructions for collecting and preserving your slides.

A Word About Sustainability

PEARC17's theme is *Sustainability, Success, and Impact*, and we've put this into practice wherever possible. We've made conscious choices to reduce our impact by eliminating unnecessary give-a-ways, using water stations instead of bottled water, and foregoing boxed lunches. And we've allowed the hotel to select locally sourced food whenever possible.

We've also opted for biodegradable name badge holders and printed a smaller-format pocket guide. And, before you leave, we want those badge holders back! PEARC18 is already planning to re-use the badge holders next year and will have a prize drawing from all returned name badges. We will also have recycling bins available outside the closing session and near the Registration Desk for your pocket guide.

Finally, the Hyatt Regency employs a progressive conservation program that extends from the front desk, to guest rooms, to the kitchen and restaurant facilities, to recycling stations throughout the building.

GETTING SOCIAL

Get Connected with PEARC17 Social Media

PEARC17 welcomes the use of social media during all sessions, keynotes, bird-of-a-feather, and social events, including live tweeting.

PEARC17 is on Twitter and Facebook to help you connect with colleagues, discuss what's going on, get the latest news from exhibitors, post videos and images about your experience, and share ideas about what to do (and where to eat!) in New Orleans.

- Twitter: Follow @PEARC_17 and use #PEARC17
- Facebook: Like the PEARC17 page, check for updates and share your own <https://www.facebook.com/PEARChpc>
- Our website: <http://pearc17.pearc.org/blog>

We ask social media users to follow these best practices:

- Treat all participants, attendees, conference and hotel staff, and exhibitors with respect and consideration, and to value a diversity of views and opinions.
- Honor requests *not* to post photos of speakers or other attendees.
- Be respectful and collaborative.
- Communicate openly with respect for others, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- Avoid personal attacks directed toward other attendees, participants, conference and hotel staff, and suppliers/vendors.

Networking and Social Events

There are two major networking and social events scheduled by the PEARC17 conference that are open to all attendees. These start early and end early, so be sure to make plans to experience New Orleans dining and nightlife afterwards. (Stop by the Registration Desk for suggestions.)

- **Posters Reception**, Tuesday, July 11, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., will be held in Strand Foyer with complimentary refreshments and appetizers. With the opening of the posters, this will be a key time to interact with poster authors and socialize with other attendees.
- **Visualization Showcase and Reception**, Wednesday, July 12, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., will feature hors d'oeuvres and live Zydeco music from T'Canaille! See the latest high-performance visualizations—vote for your favorite—and network with colleagues new and old. The Showcase reception will be held in the Empire Ballroom and Foyer. Attendees can purchase guest tickets at the Registration Desk.

The Student Program also has several other events open only to students and/or mentors, and a number of invitation-only events have been scheduled.

Monday Night Dinner Meet-Ups

While there is no formal social activity on the evening of Monday, July 10, we've secured some of the hottest tables in town for small-group dinners. Sign up at the Registration Desk to experience some of NOLA's best cuisine and meet some new friends! Attendees and their guests are welcome.

Dinner cost is not included in your conference registration. Spaces are limited and on a first-come/first-served basis.

Dietary and Special Needs

From vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options, to bilingual staff, to accessible rooms that feature audio-visual smoke detectors, closed-caption TVs, front door alerts, accessible-friendly telecommunication devices, the conference hotel is well-equipped to handle any special needs or requests. Before checking in, please alert the front desk staff of any special accommodations that you may require upon arrival.

We've included a variety of vegetarian and gluten-free options throughout the conference menus. If you indicated special dietary restrictions in your conference registration, please alert a member of the banquet staff during service. In certain cases, special items have been reserved and are not on the buffet tables for general consumption. If you don't see something you can eat, please let us know!

GETTING AROUND

Printing, Shipping, and Receiving Services

For printing, shipping, or receiving, a FedEx Office is located on the Level 2 of the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. (That's the same level as most of PEARC17.)

This FedEx location handles all shipping and receiving for the hotel. Should you need to have items delivered to the hotel, you will pick up your packages here. Packages shipped to the hotel should be addressed to:

Hyatt Regency New Orleans
Hold for guest: (Your name)
601 Loyola Ave
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Location Phone Numbers

Phone: (504) 524-6048
Fax: (504) 524-6548

Location Hours:

Mon - Fri: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat - Sun: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Express Last Pickup
Mon - Fri: 6:00 p.m.
Sat: 4:00 p.m.

Ground Last Pickup
Mon - Fri: 5:30 p.m.

Transportation Options

Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY) is located approximately 27 minutes (12 miles) from the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, the official PEARC17 conference hotel. One-way cab and Uber fares are approximately \$36. Less expensive options, such as the airport shuttle, can be arranged upon arrival at MSY for \$24/one way. If using the airport shuttle, no reservation is needed upon arrival, but return trips to the airport do require a reservation.

Located at 601 Loyola Ave, New Orleans, LA 70113, the hotel is steps away from many restaurants, sights, and museums, and a 20-minute walk from the French Quarter. Or, hop on the Loyola-UPT Streetcar (there's a stop just outside the hotel), that will take you to the French Quarter or the Garden District and back, for a just \$1.25/ride or \$3 a day. (You will need exact change for the streetcar.)

For those driving to the conference, valet parking is available at the hotel for \$40/night, and includes in-and-out privileges. Self-parking at several nearby locations is available at somewhat lower daily rates, but these locations are not affiliated with the conference hotel and do not offer in-and-out privileges.

Enjoy New Orleans — Safely!

We want all PEARC attendees to have a great conference experience, which includes enjoying all the sights, sounds, and activities New Orleans has to offer. The Central Business District and French Quarter are generally safe and have lots of pedestrian traffic, but, as with all major cities, especially those with large numbers of tourists, awareness of your surroundings and your belongings is essential.

Here are a few reminders to help make sure you have a safe and productive trip:

- DO NOT WEAR YOUR CONFERENCE BADGE outside of the conference hotel. This is often how scammers and criminals target tourists.
- Make sure to use the buddy system, traveling in groups of two or more when leaving the conference hotel. Never walk alone at night.
- Make sure to have your phone with you (and charged) at all times, in case of emergencies.
- Be sure you have at least one other attendee's contact information—and that at least one other attendee has your contact information.
- The hotel staff can provide guidance about areas that are safe (or not safe) before going out. Most importantly, use common sense and don't walk in areas that are dark, off-the-beaten-path, or deserted. Stay on well-lit, major streets.
- If you are driving, double-check that your car doors are locked when you park, and secure any valuables in your trunk.
- Exercise caution in parking structures, stairwells, and elevators.
- Don't leave your belongings unattended in or outside of the conference hotel.
- Lock your hotel door at night. Don't leave your door open or share your card key with anyone other than your roommate.

Planning your Visit to New Orleans

The PEARC17 web site has an awesome—if we do say so ourselves—page to help you plan your trip to New Orleans. Check out <http://pearc17.pearc.org/new-orleans>

If you'd like some additional links, here are a few more:

New York Times Where to Go in New Orleans

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/17/travel/where-to-go-in-new-orleans.html?_r=0

Lonely Planet 48 Hours in New Orleans:

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/new-orleans/travel-tips-and-articles/48-hours-in-new-orleans>

New York Times 36 Hours in New Orleans:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/travel/36-hours-new-orleans.html>

New York Times New Orleans is a Party for Families Too:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/05/travel/new-orleans-family-holidays.html>

Garden & Gun Classic Crescent City Eats:

<https://gardenandgun.com/articles/nola-dining-guide-classic-eats/>

Garden & Gun New Orleans at a Glance:

<http://gardenandgun.com/articles/new-orleans-glance/>

Garden & Gun More New Orleans:

<http://gardenandgun.com/tag/new-orleans/>

Eater The 38 Essential New Orleans Restaurants:

<https://nola.eater.com/maps/best-new-orleans-restaurants-38>

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