

WELCOME TO KNOXVILLE!

We are looking forward to demographers converging on Knoxville for the 50th anniversary meeting of the Southern Demographic Association. For those who couldn't attend the 2009 meeting when we last met in Knoxville, please know that Knoxville has an active and vibrant downtown with many restaurants, shops, activities, and historic sites all within walking distance to the hotel. There is also a [trolley stop](#) right outside of the front door of the hotel for those who want to look around effortlessly; the trolley is free. If you can't find something fun to do, there's no pleasing you!

When you walk out of the front door of the conference hotel, you can walk across the street and between the twin TVA towers. There you will find [Market Square](#). Market Square has shops, restaurants, and a park. On Wednesday, Market Square hosts a massive farmer's market where you can find a little bit of everything. Adjacent and north of the conference hotel is the [Old City](#), Knoxville's original red-light district and immigrant ghetto. While not older than the downtown, the Old City is so-named because many of the buildings reflect the mid-nineteenth century era when they were erected. The Old City is an excellent dining location. Adjacent and just south of the conference hotel is the downtown, centered around [Gay Street](#). The American Planning Association lists Gay Street among its Great Places of America. Chances are, you will find yourself on Gay Street at least once while at SDA.



This year's group dinner will be held at the [Jig and Reel Whiskey Bar](#), a pub that celebrates the heritage of the Scots-Irish immigrants who settled East Tennessee. The chef is exceptional, and the bar sells more than 1,000 kinds of whiskey. The owner also happens to be the President of the University of Tennessee.

Just a half a block from the conference hotel is the [Knoxville Visitor's Center](#). Look up at their reader board, and you will see a welcome specifically for us! The Visitor's Center is a nice resource for all things Knoxville; they also sell good coffee, and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays they host a live radio music show known as the "[Blue Plate Special](#)."

At SDA registration, be sure to pickup a Visit Knoxville! bag which will have a map of downtown, a trolley map, and a dining guide. Also scan a QR code with your smartphone for the [Experience Knoxville Savings Pass](#). This pass (which is actually just a text to your phone) provides discounts and freebies at local restaurants and attractions, like free chips and salsa at [Babalu](#) or free shoe rental at the [Maple Hall](#) bowling alley. One notable item on the savings pass is a \$10 discount for the [Knoxville Food Tour](#), a 3-hour history and eating tour of downtown Knoxville. Some of the historic places you might visit are the [Blount Mansion](#), [James White's Fort](#), and the [Museum of East Tennessee History](#). All are within walking distance of the hotel for most people and have discounts through the Savings Pass.



Knoxville is increasingly gaining a reputation as a beer town, with many local breweries. The Knoxville Area Brewers Association welcomes SDA. At our registration desk they will provide a QR code to the [Knoxville Ale Trail](#). Visit some of the 26 local breweries (not all are walking distance to the hotel, but many are), get a virtual “stamp” (a code) from the bartender and add it to your virtual passport. Once you have four stamps, you can redeem them at the [Knox Brew Hub](#) for a prize. Right now, with ten stamps, you get a free glass from the [Pretentious Glass Company](#).

Finally, the Crowne Plaza is one of the few conference hotels that allows you to bring pets, and the [PetSafe Downtown Dog Park](#) is just an easy block and a half walk from the hotel. There are separate fenced areas for large and small dogs. The Crowne Plaza allows you to have two pets of any size in your room for an additional fee of \$35 per stay. Please note that both dogs and cats are allowed but cannot be left unattended in the rooms.

