

Planning for the Denver Conference: Start Now!

There are many of us who want to attend the NCSS conference in Denver, but finding the funding in our limited budgets can be a challenge. When you see the list of speakers and read about the Mile High City at www.denver.org/visitDenver/ncss, excitement begins to build. But so do the concerns about credit card payments. So here are a few tips to make your planning easier:

- Make your hotel reservation immediately. Use the NCSS conference website, www.socialstudies.org/conference/travel. Usually, a deposit equivalent to one night's charge appears on your credit card, and you can pay that as soon as it appears on your monthly statement. Also, share your room with a friend to save on costs.
- Check with your principal or department chair to see if there is any professional development money available in the budget. You may be pleasantly surprised. Attending a national conference with all its sessions, workshops, and many other opportunities for education often qualifies as professional development training.
- In June, make your plane reservation. United Airlines is the official airline of the 2010 NCSS Annual Conference, offering nonstop flights to Denver from over 100 cities nationwide. The United MeetingsPlus program offers NCSS attendee discounts up to 10 percent off published fares to Denver. Go to www.united.com and enter your dates and departure city, then enter meeting ID 5860F in the promotion code box. Again, as soon as the charge appears on your credit card, pay it off.
- In July or August, register for the conference, and—you guessed it—as soon as the charge appears on your credit card, pay it off.
- In September or October, when these bills are paid, put aside some cash for conference expenses so that it will be available when you arrive in Denver.
- After the conference, the only bill to pay will be the remaining nights at the hotel. Yes, it will be December and you will have holiday expenses to consider, but you will be smiling because you planned ahead and have already paid for the airline, the registration, and most conference expenses. You will have been part of the greatest social studies professional development program available and still be financially sound as you prepare for the New Year.

See you in Denver!

National Council for the Social Studies

