

2021 CONFERENCE FAQs

What will happen if the Coronavirus makes it unsafe to attend?

We will only proceed with a face-to-face conference if it is safe to do so according to public health officials. The SCWA board will monitor the situation. If we cannot meet in person, we will hold a digital conference with the same faculty. A more detailed contingency plan is forthcoming.

Will there be registration on Saturday morning?

Yes, we will have a manned registration desk on Saturday morning beginning at 8 a.m.

What if workshops sell out?

The lowest capacity room we have is 35 people, the maximum capacity room is 180. We will assign rooms based on expected attendance as predicted by a survey sent to registered attendees ahead of time. It's not a firm registration for the session, but a chance for us to gauge space needed. We do not expect any one session to have a higher capacity than the space will allow. In addition, attendees can vote on the "Best of Saturday" session and have it reprised on Sunday so if they missed it Saturday, they can catch it when it repeats.

How long are critique sessions?

Each writer meets for 15 minutes with the assigned critique provider. Work submitted ahead of time means the critique provider will have reviewed the material and provided written notes in addition to the 15 minute chat.

Can I choose who I want to provide the critique?

We have assembled a highly qualified cadre of critique providers. Assignments will be made based on the type of work submitted, matching the writer with the best possible fit for feedback.

Is my registration fee refundable if I decide to cancel?

Registration fees are fully refundable up to 14 days before the event.

When is the last date to register?

You are encouraged to register as soon as possible to save a place before the conference is full. Registration will remain open through 3/31/21, however, a space is not guaranteed.

Am I able to order special dietary food?

Please identify your dietary requirements by 4/01 and we will do our best to accommodate all needs by working with the caterers.

Is there free parking at the Convention Center?

*The Convention has free parking on a first come-first served basis
<https://www.columbiaconventioncenter.com/parking-directions>*

I am an author. Can I bring and sell my books?

Authors who purchase full registration are eligible for space to sell their books. You should indicate on your registration that you wish to exhibit. Exhibitor tables will be available for attendees to peruse all day Saturday. Sales are fully processed by individual authors. The conference team will provide volunteer supervision to ensure the security of tables and marketing materials during workshops should authors step away to attend sessions.

I am traveling with a friend or spouse; are there events s/he can attend?

Friday evening's welcome reception and Open Mic and all book signings are available for companions and friends.

Will there be agents and publishers in attendance?

Yes, we have invited agents to participate as panelists and critique reviewers. We have publishers attending as panelists, critique reviewers, and exhibitors.

I am not a published author. Should I attend?

Yes! The workshops and panels are built to help writers of all experience and abilities learn about the industry, the craft, and the opportunities for a writing life in South Carolina.

Is any of the conference registration fee tax deductible?

Yes, a portion of the fee is eligible as a tax deductible charitable donation. Receipts will be issued upon request after the conference.