

Safety and Security Information

The safety and health of all conference attendees is the top priority of SkillsUSA. While no city can guarantee complete safety at all times for its visitors, SkillsUSA has worked closely with the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, Georgia World Congress Center Police Department and Security, Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta Ambassador Force, MARTA Police Department as well as other public safety stakeholders and security specialists to ensure the safest experience for attendees.

Unlike our convention centers in Louisville and Kansas City, the GWCC uses a secure badge system for all attendees. No one is allowed into the building without the proper badge and identification. This provides a level of event security that SkillsUSA has not been able to obtain during past conferences. The city of Atlanta also incorporates a high-end surveillance system that is constantly monitored.

Atlanta Police Department

The Atlanta Police Department (APD) is divided into zones with dedicated officers and a zone commander. Most conference will take place in Zone 5. This zone covers most of Downtown Atlanta and has a long history of working with major events and conferences, including Super Bowl LIII and the Atlanta Pride parade. Each week the department evaluates zone wide crime reports and allocates additional resources to areas needing a public safety focus.

Atlanta Ambassador Program

Whether you need a helping hand to figure out where to go and what to do in downtown Atlanta, or you need assistance locating a business or your rental vehicle, or you're concerned about a safety issue, Atlanta has you covered with its Atlanta Ambassador program. The city of Atlanta has members of its helpful Ambassador Force stationed throughout the downtown to assure public safety and provide tourists and residents with information. They're the ones in the red and blue uniforms riding Segways or All-Terrain Public Safety Bikes.

Beyond the ambassadors you see on the streets, there are also ambassadors who monitor the downtown surveillance cameras in addition to the police department's monitoring station. During large-scale special events, ambassadors communicate with public safety officials directly from the Joint Operations Command Center.

Ambassador Services:

- <u>Welcome and Information Booths:</u> Located at the intersection of Peachtree St. and Andrew Young International Blvd. these are staffed 7:15 a.m.-11:45 p.m.
- <u>Travel Help:</u> Ambassadors know every inch of downtown and can tell you the best route (by foot, car or MARTA) to any location. They can also pre-screen attendee walking routes for conferences and events.
- <u>Activity Suggestions:</u> Ambassadors can recommend the perfect attractions, to enjoy the sights and sounds of downtown,
- <u>Medical Assistance:</u> Ambassadors are trained to assist in medical emergencies and have direct radio contact with emergency responders. They can also guide people to the nearest 24-hour pharmacy or healthcare.
- <u>Maps:</u> Ambassadors can offer one of the most useful tools in any city: a detailed map, marked with major attractions, hotels, restaurants and roadways.
- <u>Safety:</u> Downtown Atlanta is extremely safe. However, should visitors ever feel uncomfortable, they can approach the nearest ambassador who will be happy to escort them to their downtown destination