



NCOS Fall Congress Relocation Announcement

October 11, 2024

Due to the impact of Hurricane Helene on Asheville and the entire western North Carolina area, the NCOS has made the difficult decision to relocate Fall Congress. The NCDOT continues to urge only essential travel to the areas impacted by the storm since ongoing response efforts remain the priority and non-essential traffic hinders recovery. Most areas of Asheville, including downtown, are still without water service and some areas remain without power. Cellular service also continues to be spotty. The Renaissance hotel suffered both exterior and interior damage and is currently providing lodging and meals for 200 FEMA workers. Downtown restaurants and businesses are closed and nearby attractions like the River Arts District and Biltmore Village have experienced significant flood damage. We know the community is resilient and the city will bounce back, but relief efforts and infrastructure repair will take time.

Any progress made between now and the meeting should be dedicated to meet the needs of the residents and relief workers. The NCOS does not feel it would be appropriate for our group to consume resources that could otherwise go to those who need it most. It doesn't feel right.

With that said we are excited to announce that Fall Congress will take place at the [Marriott hotel](#) and [Benton Convention Center](#) in downtown Winston-Salem, NC. Conveniently located in the center of the state, the Marriott hotel and Benton Convention Center promises to provide a great meeting destination in a charming and vibrant city. The hotel is within easy walking distance to more than 45 restaurants, craft breweries, shops, galleries, and entertainment venues. Check out [things to do](#) and [food and drink](#) options.

The dates and agenda for the meeting will remain the same. All continuing education and meetings will take place at the Marriott hotel. The Friday and Saturday Partner lunches and Saturday evening event will take place directly across the street at the Benton Convention Center.

The room block rate at the Marriott hotel is \$174/night ([click here](#) to view location and parking guide). To make your room reservation [click here](#) or call (336) 725-3500. The room block closes on Thursday, October 31 or when it is full, whichever comes first.

If you've made a room reservation at the Renaissance Downtown Hotel in Asheville you will need to cancel it either online or by calling (828) 252-8211.

For those already registered we hope you will continue to support the NCOS by attending our meeting in Winston-Salem. If for whatever reason you choose to cancel your registration, the deadline to do so and still receive a full refund is Friday, October 18. Please contact Christy Santacana at christy@nceyes.org to request a refund.

For those in Western NC that were impacted by the storm and therefore unable to register by the early bird deadline, we have extended the early bird deadline for you to Friday, October 18. Please contact Christy Santacana at christy@nceyes.org for details.

We continue to be heartbroken by the loss suffered by those in Western NC. While we are saddened to not be able to host Fall Congress in Asheville, we are grateful for the hospitality of the Winston-Salem Marriott and their ability to accommodate our group's needs on such short notice. We look forward to gathering with you there next month!

NCOS Leadership and Staff