

# 13<sup>TH</sup> NORTH AMERICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION

May 22-26, 2028



## *First Circular*

Conference website: <https://napc2028.sites.utk.edu/>

The organizing committee of the 13th North American Paleontological Convention (#NAPC2028) is pleased to announce that the meeting will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee from May 22-26, 2028. The meeting will be hosted by the Department of Earth, Environmental & Planetary Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The meeting will include four days of talks and posters, a mid-conference day trips and workshops, and pre-conference and post-conference field trips.

The North American Paleontological Convention is a major international paleontological event administered by the Paleontological Society under the auspices of the Association of North American Paleontological Societies. Initiated in 1969, NAPC brings together the international paleontology community every four to five years. The 13<sup>th</sup> North American Paleontological Convention celebrates *all* aspects and disciplines within paleontology to bring together our entire community within an inclusive, dynamic, and engaging conference.

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## Venue

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is the flagship institution of the University of Tennessee system. As a university on the rise, it is an exciting place to host the next NAPC. Located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Knoxville is a vibrant city with an outstanding array of restaurants, microbreweries, and cultural activities. Its location in the valley and ridge ideally places it centrally to several field trip areas including numerous classic Paleozoic fossil localities as well as the Gray Fossil Site famed for its vertebrate and plant fossils. Tourist opportunities abound with the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park and adjacent Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

The 13<sup>th</sup> NAPC meeting will be held in the UT Student Union, the heart of student life at the University of Tennessee, and the adjacent Strong Hall, the home of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences.



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## The meeting

Conference sessions will be held in The University of Tennessee Student Union, a newly opened facility with ample space for concurrent sessions, posters, meals (registration fee includes breakfast and lunch and the conference banquet), and small and group discussion. The conference venue is an accessible space which includes areas for quiet reflection and lactation space.

The five-day schedule, comprises two days of technical sessions, a mid-conference activities day for workshops and mid conference field trips, and two final meeting days. In addition, pre and post meeting field trips are being planned to some of the area's premier fossil localities.

### ***Schedule:***

**May 21:** Pre-conference field trips conclude, Registration and Opening Reception

**May 22:** Scientific sessions

**May 23:** Scientific sessions

**May 24:** Mid-conference Field Trip and Workshops

**May 25:** Scientific sessions and Conference Banquet

**May 26:** Scientific sessions

**May 27:** Post-conference field trips depart

## Field trip and workshop opportunities

A mid-conference field trip and workshop day is planned for Wednesday, May 24th. Day trip options will include visits to the Grey Fossil Site, a biodiversity exploration of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Cambro-Ordovician of eastern Tennessee, and more. A variety of workshops will be offered this day as well.

A range of pre- and post-conference field trips are planned including the Cretaceous Coon Creek of Western Tennessee, the Ordovician of Tennessee and Kentucky, and more.

We welcome contributions from the community to enhance these programs and we are accepting proposals for workshops and field trips at this time! See below for contacts.



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## Registration and Abstracts

Registration is expected to open in late 2027. Abstract submission will open in late 2027 and close ~March 2028.

Anticipated registration fees (subject to change, final rates will be announced in 2027):

| Registration Type                                | Early Registration<br>(prior to ~March 2028) | Late Registration<br>(after ~March 2028) |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Student/Early<br>Career/Avocational/K-12 teacher | ~\$300                                       | ~\$375                                   |
| Professional                                     | ~\$550                                       | ~\$675                                   |
| Middle to low HDI nation                         | reduced rates                                |                                          |

*\*Registration fees will include scientific sessions, opening reception, conference banquet, and breakfast/lunch/coffee breaks on scientific session days*

NAPC 2028 delegates will agree to follow the [Paleontological Society Code of Conduct](#) to ensure a positive and respectful environment for all attendees.

Funding to offset registration costs for students and other groups is being actively pursued.

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## Travel to Knoxville

Knoxville is easy to reach, sitting at the crossroads of I-40 and I-75. Via air, the [Knoxville McGhee Tyson Airport](#) is located only 15 minutes from campus. TYS offers non-stop service to more than 30 destinations and is well connected to major airline hubs.

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## Housing

There are a number of large hotels in downtown Knoxville that are adjacent to the University of Tennessee campus and the conference venue. Furthermore, there are opportunities for dormitory housing for conference attendees as a low-cost alternative. Several campus dorms recently have been built or updated, making this option highly attractive.

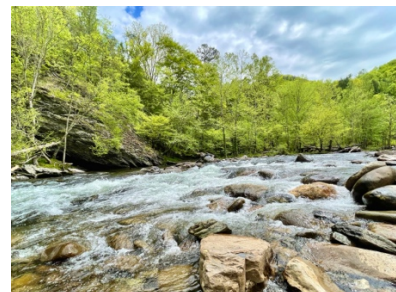
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## Family and tourist opportunities

Knoxville and the surrounding area offer many opportunities for family fun and tourism. Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg offer numerous opportunities for vacation.

Downtown Knoxville has numerous historical museums and landmarks that speak to the early days of Tennessee as well as local art and history museums. Vibrant and diverse dining options are available throughout the downtown and surrounding areas. Locations of particular note include the Sunsphere (centerpiece of the 1982 World's Fair) and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Zoo Knoxville features a recently renovated reptile house and a world-class red panda breeding program. Learn more about visiting Knoxville at [visitknoxville.com](http://visitknoxville.com).

Further afield venues include the [Dollywood](#) theme park (discount tickets available), Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokeys, and a variety of family-oriented game and entertainment venues in [Gatlinburg](#), [Pigeon Forge](#), and [Sevierville](#). The [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) is a biodiversity hot spot and offers thousands of miles of hiking and includes a large section of the Appalachian trail. Various points throughout the Tennessee River watershed provide world class opportunities for white water kayaking/rafting as well as other boating related recreational activities.





## Solicitation of proposals

We are soliciting calls for field trips, symposia, and workshops. Proposals should be sent to the following by November 15, 2026.

**Symposia:** Stephanie Drumheller, [sdrumhel@utk.edu](mailto:sdrumhel@utk.edu)

**Workshops:** Adriane Lam, [alam@binghamton.edu](mailto:alam@binghamton.edu)

**Field trips:** Pedro Monarrez, [pmonarrez@vt.edu](mailto:pmonarrez@vt.edu)

**Other inquiries:** Colin D. Sumrall, [csumrall@utk.edu](mailto:csumrall@utk.edu) or visit the 13th North American Paleontological Convention website <https://napc2028.sites.utk.edu> for other information.

*On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we look forward to welcoming you to Rocky Top!*

Local organizing committee:

**Colin D. Sumrall, Chair**

Jacob Benner

Stephanie Drumheller

Jacob Suissa

**Alycia Stigall, Co-chair**

Kat Jordan-Burmeister

Dan Hembree

