

# International Master Gardener Conference

## June 18–22, 2023

**Overland Park Convention Center**  
**6000 College Blvd.**  
**Overland Park, Kansas 66211**



# Know Before You Go

This go-to guide is packed with information you'll find useful before and during the conference. If you have further questions prior to your arrival, email us at [info@imgc2023.com](mailto:info@imgc2023.com). Please note: Information is subject to change.

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## Getting Ready for the Conference

### The Weather

Overland Park, Kansas, June temperatures range from highs in the mid to high 80s F (mid 20s to low 30s C) to lows in the mid 60s F (mid teens C).

### What to Pack

- Our recommendation is casual attire and comfortable shoes.
- An umbrella or rain jacket always comes in handy.
- The convention center tends to be on the cool side, so bring along a sweater or jacket.
- Visit [imgc2023.com](https://imgc2023.com) **Conference Overview** and scan the workshops and tours you are attending for specific attire and gear recommendations.

### No Need to Pack a Water Bottle

One of the items in your conference Welcome Bag is a sustainable 20 oz. stainless steel Camelbak water bottle. It's perfect for eco-minded gardeners on the go.

### Two Ways to Find Your Agenda

#### 1. Confirmation Email

Locate the confirmation email you received after registering. (Subject: Registration Confirmed - IMGC 2023 Conference.) It lists your schedule and confirmation number.

#### 2. IMGC 2023 Registration Page

([imgc2023.com/registration](https://imgc2023.com/registration))

- Scroll down and click **Register Now** (under the word GO).
- Scroll down and click the second **Register Now**. Note there will be a sunflower picture on this page. Click on **Already Registered?**
- Enter your confirmation number.
- Scroll down to **My Agenda**.

Email questions about modifying your registration to [registration@imgc2023.com](mailto:registration@imgc2023.com).

### Conference App

The Conference app is available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. It's convenient and paperless. Use it to view your personal schedule, download handouts, receive real-time announcements and so much more. [Click here for instructions](#).

### Open to the Public

It's true meals and keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, and workshops and tours are for registrants only. But everyone can attend the following events.

**Tour six private gardens** on Saturday and Sunday (\$45 for all six). For more information and to register visit, [Tour of Private Gardens](#).

**Evening speakers** are on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. (\$49 for one or \$109 for all three). They start with a social from 6 to 7 p.m., which includes a cash bar and light snacks. For more information and to register, visit [Evening Featured Speakers](#).

**Garden Thyme Marketplace Trade Show** (free admission)

Monday, June 19: noon to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shop more than 90 vendors offering one-of-a-kind garden-related merchandise, nature-inspired art, and a variety of plants. Onsite UPS makes it easy to ship your purchases. View the list of vendors at [imgc2023.com/garden-thyme-marketplace-trade-show](https://imgc2023.com/garden-thyme-marketplace-trade-show)



## How to Get to the Conference



Drive time from Kansas City International Airport to Overland Park Convention Center is approximately 45 minutes.

Selected shuttle services can also be found on the IMGC website at [imgc2023.com/getting-here-2](https://imgc2023.com/getting-here-2). We recommend you book your transportation to and from the airport prior to arrival.

### Addresses for Your GPS

**Kansas City International Airport**  
1 International Square, Kansas City, MO 64153

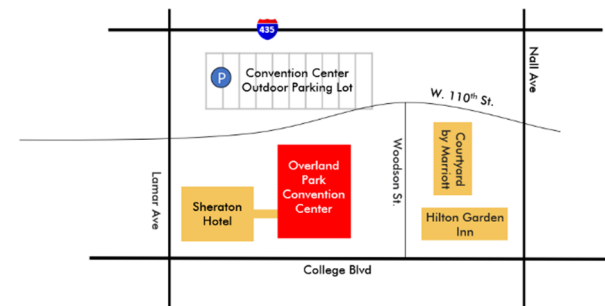
**Overland Park Convention Center**  
6000 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66211

**Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center**  
6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas, USA, 66211

**Courtyard by Marriott Kansas City Overland Park/Convention Center**  
11001 Woodson St, Overland Park, KS 66211

**Hilton Garden Inn Overland Park**  
5800 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66211

**Holiday Inn and Suites**  
10920 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66211



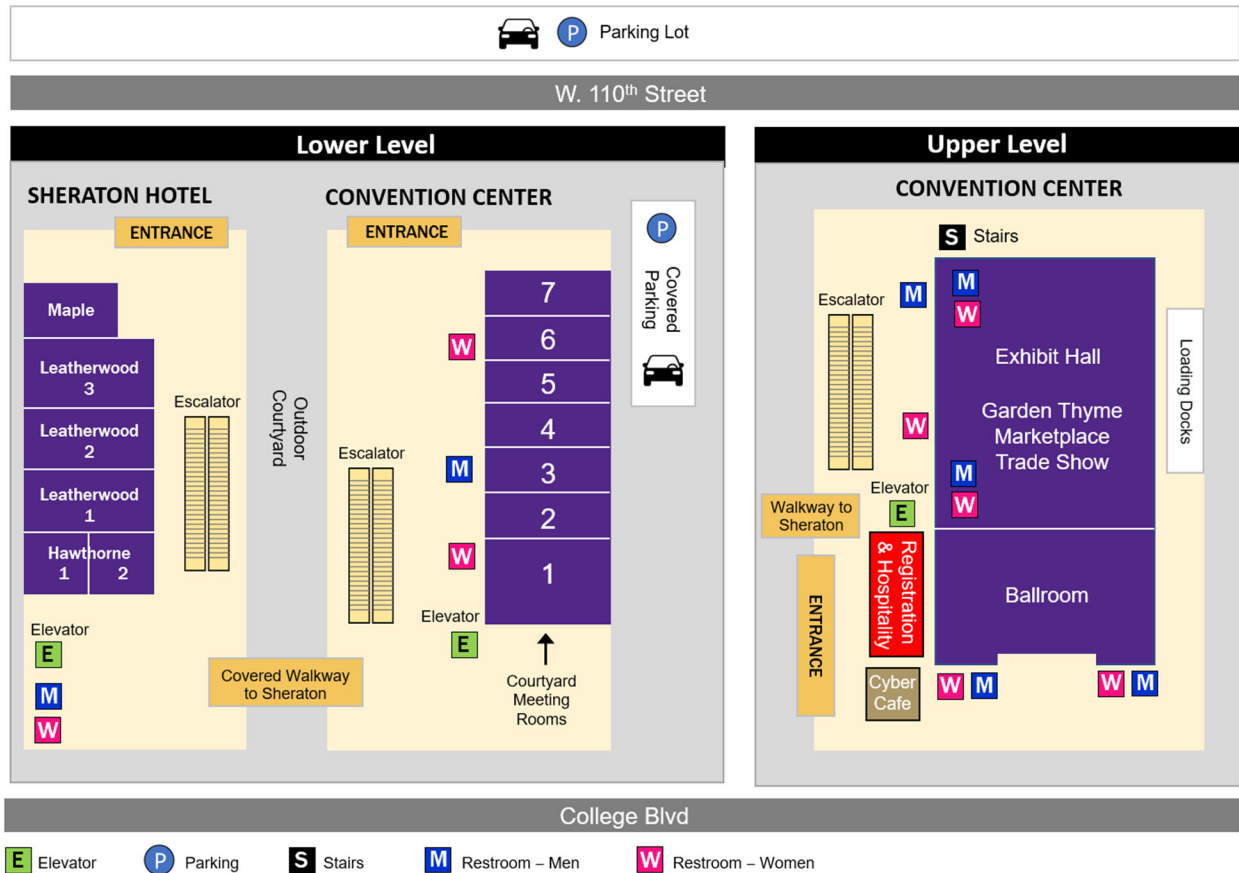
### Kansas City International Airport Ground Transportation

Visit [flykc.com/getting-to-and-from](https://flykc.com/getting-to-and-from) to view your choices for ground transportation services via Destination Shuttle, Rental Car, Limousine, App-Based Ride, and Taxi.



# Welcome to IMGC 2023

## Convention Center Map



Overland Park Convention Center has been named the Best Small Convention Center in North America.

### Ample Free Parking

There are approximately 1,000 convention center parking spaces. Over 200 of those spaces are located in a covered garage. All hotels have free and ample parking.

### Accessibility

Covered handicap parking is located near entrances and an elevator provides easy access to both floors of the convention center.

### Conference Registration Hours

- Saturday, 5 to 7 p.m.  
(Sheraton Hotel Lobby)
- Sunday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (convention center, Upper Level)
- Monday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (convention center, Upper Level)
- Tuesday and Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then between sessions (convention center, Upper Level)



## **Security**

The Overland Park Convention Center is equipped with 24-hour surveillance cameras and on-site security personnel. Entrances are secured with restricted access electronic locks.

## **Welcome Bag/Nametag**

You will receive a Welcome Bag and your ID badge and lanyard. Always wear your badge. It's your "ticket" for admittance to events included in your registration and a great way to meet new people.

## **Fill 'er Up**

It's easy to refill the Camelbak water bottle you'll receive in your Welcome Bag. Water stations are located throughout the convention center to keep you refreshed and hydrated.

## **IMGC Merchandise**

After checking in, be sure to visit the IMGC 2023 merchandise table to claim your apparel order. Didn't order conference merchandise? A limited amount will be available in the Johnson County Extension Master Gardener trade show booth.

## **Share Table**

Unused, unopened and unwanted items from your Welcome Bag can be taken to the Share Table. Attendees are welcome to take merchandise and discount coupons they can use.

## **Hospitality**

Hospitality on the upper level next to the Registration Desk is your go-to for assistance and support during the conference. Clarifications, navigating the conference, nearby restaurants and shopping, things to do... anything at all.

## **Hospitality Rovers**

Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners will be posted throughout the convention center to give directions and answer questions to help you get where you're going.

## **Silent Auction**

Place bids on a wide variety of merchandise. Spirit Poles designed by Kansas EMGs will be on display during the conference and will be included in the auction. Truly a sight to behold and definitely "bid worthy". The silent auction will be held in the ballroom.

## **Poster Session**

View informative and educational posters to get programming ideas. These ideas can be taken back to help your local programs. Posters are presented by various Extension professionals and showcase the Search for Excellence Award winners.

Visit with poster creators on Tuesday, June 20, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Posters are located within the Garden Thyme Marketplace.



## Good to Know

### Environmental Stewardship

You might wonder how you're going to implement your usual sustainability practices from inside a convention center.

Here are just a few examples.

- Your Welcome Bag includes a reusable water bottle to fill and carry with you every day.
- Stop by the Share Table to return unwanted items from your Welcome Bag and take ones you can use.
- Instead of paper, the conference app enables you to reference all things IMGc from your phone.
- Conference hotels are close enough to the convention center so you can walk and not drive.

We also have the support of the Overland Park Convention Center. You'll appreciate easy access to bins for compostable and recyclable materials. The convention center has several water stations and follows a lighting and energy conservation program.

Share your thoughts on sustainability at our Environmental Stewardship booth in the Garden Thyme Marketplace Trade Show.

### Wi-Fi

Free high-speed Wi-Fi is available throughout the entire convention center.

### Meals and Dietary Concerns

Conference meals and keynote speakers will be located in the Upper Level Ballroom.

Please note that all food buffets and stations will be labeled. Attendees who are vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free and gluten free should be able to find something from each offering to accommodate your food

restrictions. If you have questions about food choices, ask an attendant at the buffet.

Attendees who have contacted us about unique dietary needs will be provided a ticket in the registration packet and will use this ticket to alert an attendant to receive your meal.

### Meals included with registration:

#### Monday, June 19

- **Dinner:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (BBQ Buffet)  
Keynote speaker: Jim Richardson,  
*National Geographic* photojournalist

#### Tuesday, June 20

- **Breakfast:** 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. (Buffet)  
Keynote speaker: 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.  
Abra Lee, author and historian
- **Lunch:** 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. (Buffet)  
Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the EMG Program by Washington State University

#### Wednesday, June 21

- **Breakfast:** 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. (Buffet)  
Keynote speaker: 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.  
Dr. Charles Rice, Nobel Peace Prize winner on climate change
- **Lunch:** 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. (Buffet)

#### Thursday, June 22

- **Breakfast:** 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. (Buffet)  
Keynote speaker: 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.  
Jessica Walliser, horticulturist and award-winning author.
- Closing session and keynote speaker: 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.  
Scott Beuerlein, horticulture speaker, writer, and humorist



### **Walking Distance Restaurants**

- OP1906 Bar & Grille and Link Café: Sheraton Hotel (access from walkway between convention center and Sheraton)
- The Garden Grille: Hilton Garden Inn
- The Bistro and Starbucks: Courtyard by Marriott
- Concession stand within the Garden Thyme Marketplace Trade Show

### **Dining on Your Own**

Stop by the IMGC Hospitality desk and ask for a recommended restaurants list. Or go to [visitoverlandpark.com](http://visitoverlandpark.com) for even more choices.

### **Take in the Town**

There's so much to do and see in Kansas City. Visit the Hospitality desk for information on museums, Kansas City Royals baseball, Union Station and Science City, Swope Park Zoo, and other attractions.

### **Onsite Medical and First Aid**

An EMT is on duty during the conference hours.

### **Sensory Room Available**

Need a break from the crowd and a quiet place to escape? There is a sensory room available at the convention center outside Entrance A to the Exhibit Hall. Simply go to the room, scan the code, and call the phone number to receive access.

As we prepare to gather for the IMGC 2023, we are mindful of the continuing spread of COVID-19 variants. The conference relies on federal, state, and local guidelines, as well as those of Kansas State University for guidance. Currently, there are no COVID restrictions that impact the conference. Even though face coverings are not required at the conference, all attendees are responsible for their own health and retain the option of personally deciding to wear a face covering.

### **Recording Presentations**

We ask that you not record keynote or classroom presentations. Speakers own all rights to their presentations.

### **We're Here to Help**

If you have a question, email [information@imgc2023.com](mailto:information@imgc2023.com) or call 913-715-7034.

## **COVID Guidelines**





## At-a-Glance Schedule

Trade Show	
	
Monday, June 19	Noon – 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 20	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 21	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 17	
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>\$ Tour:</b> Private Gardens (self-driving tour)
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	<b>Registration</b> (Sheraton Lobby)
Sunday, June 18	
7 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Registration</b> (Convention Center)
7:15 a.m. – 10 p.m.	<b>\$ Tours:</b> Metro KC and regional tours
7:30 a.m. Sun – 5 p.m. Mon	<b>\$ Tour:</b> Amber Waves: Two Days in the Kansas Heartland (overnight tour)
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>\$ Tour:</b> Private Gardens (self-driving tour)
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	<b>\$ Workshops</b>
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>\$ Evening Event</b> Networking, cash bar, snacks   Leigh Hunt, Royal Horticultural Society, <i>Making the United Kingdom a Greener and More Beautiful Place</i>
Monday, June 19	
7 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Registration</b> (Convention Center)
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	<b>\$ Tours:</b> Metro KC and regional tours
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>\$ Workshops</b>
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>EMG Coordinator Session</b>
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Social Hour</b> (cash bar)
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Dinner and Keynote</b> Jim Richardson, National Geographic Photojournalist, <i>Feeding Planet Earth</i>

Tuesday, June 20	
7 a.m. – 9 a.m.	<b>Registration</b> (Convention Center)
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
9:45 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.	<b>\$ Tour:</b> KC Arts and Architecture Tour
8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<b>General Session and Keynote</b> Announcements and Search for Excellence Awards Abra Lee, author and historian, <i>Conquer the Soil: Legendary Stories in American Horticulture</i>
9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
11 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> 50th anniversary celebration of EMG program
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Poster Session: Meet the Creators</b>
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>\$ Evening Event</b> Networking, cash bar, snacks   Sara Dykman, <i>Bicycling with Butterflies</i>

Wednesday, June 21	
7 a.m. – 9 a.m.	<b>Registration</b> (Convention Center)
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<b>General Session and Keynote</b> Announcements and Search for Excellence Awards Dr. Charles Rice, Nobel Peace Prize winner, <i>Challenges of Gardening in a Changing Climate</i>
9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
11 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Classroom Sessions</b>
3 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<b>\$ Tour:</b> A Relaxing Outing: Behind the Scenes at Boulevard Brewery
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>\$ Evening Event</b> Networking, cash bar, snacks   Dan Hinkley, Herronswood Gardens in Kingston, Washington, <i>The Forgotten Elements of Good Design</i>
Thursday, June 22	
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<b>General Session and Keynote</b> Recognitions Jessica Walliser, Horticulturist and award-winning author, <i>Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden</i>
10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Closing Session and Keynote</b> Scott Beuerlein, Horticulture speaker, writer, and humorist, <i>Why Gardens and Gardening Matter</i>
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Farewell</b>

Sessions
  Tours
  Workshops
  Evening Events & General Sessions
 \$ Advance purchase