STUDENT VETERANS
SVA
OF AMERICA

18th ANNUAL
NATCON

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO GUIDE

January 8–10, 2026
Colorado Springs, CO

SEE YOU AT NATCON!

HOTEL

The Broadmoor Resort and
Convention Center
1 Lake Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

HASHTAGS

#NATCON2026
#WEARESVA
#SVALEADS
#STUDENTVETERANS

MYSVA PORTAL

studentveterans.org/mysva

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

natcon.studentveterans.org

NATCON APP

Scan the QR code
to download the
SVA NatCon
mobile app.

SVA WEBSITE

studentveterans.org

@studentvets   Student Veterans of America   @studentvets   Student Veterans of America

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW AND WHAT TO EXPECT

The Student Veterans of America® (SVA) National Conference (NatCon) is one of the largest gatherings of student veterans in the world. NatCon brings together student veterans, military-connected individuals, higher education professionals, employers, nonprofits, and government leaders.

NatCon is designed to help attendees:
- Connect with peers and partners
- Build leadership and professional skills
- Explore career and education pathways
- Engage in service, advocacy, and community building

LOCATION, TRAVEL, AND LODGING

Conference Venue: The Broadmoor Resort and Convention Center, 1 Lake Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Set against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, The Broadmoor offers a stunning, resort-style setting that makes NatCon both energizing and restorative. Beyond NatCon, attendees can enjoy the history of the venue, as well as free on-site amenities including a pool and fitness center, with options to take advantage of the Broadmoor's coffee and souvenir shops, (and bowling alley!), making it easy to relax, recharge, and connect throughout the weekend.

We're excited to once again host the 18th Annual NatCon across the entire Broadmoor in 2026, meaning everyone you see throughout the resort will be part of the NatCon community. This is your space, and you are among your people.

The Broadmoor is a large resort-style property. While most conference activities will take place on the Northeast side of the resort indoors between Bartolin Hall to Colorado Hall, expect walking from your room to sessions outdoors. Allow extra travel time, and pack for outdoor travel.

The Broadmoor does offer free shuttle services to take folks around the resort for those staying in rooms further away from the conference activities.

Time Zone: All programming is listed in Mountain Time (MT)

Airport Travel Options
- Colorado Springs Airport (**COS**): 20 minutes from the venue
- Denver International Airport (**DEN**): 90 minutes from the venue
- One way or round-trip transportation services to/from the airport and resort are available to book
- Rideshare services and rental cars also service the hotel *(pricing varies – inquiry with your preferred provider)*

Parking at The Broadmoor
- **Parking Garage**: The overnight Self-Parking Fee for hotel guests is $35 per night with full in and out privileges
- **Visitors**: For guests visiting the property, but not staying overnight, garage parking is available with daily charges beginning at $5 per half hour, and a maximum daily charge of $25
- **Valet Parking**: $45 per night

Cheyenne Mountain Resort *(overflow hotel)*
- Cheyenne Mountain Resort is a short 5-minute drive from The Broadmoor; it serves as SVA's overflow hotel for 2026, meaning many NatCon attendees will also be staying at this resort.
- Parking at Cheyenne Mountain Resort is free.
- A free shuttle will be running between Cheyenne Mountain and The Broadmoor for the duration of NatCon; shuttle locations and times will be posted, with shuttles running every 20 minutes.

Please consult the Cheynne Mountain Resort website and policy page and The Broadmoor website and FAQ page for more information on check in and check out times, incidentals, and more.

If you are unable to acquire a room at either The Broadmoor or Cheyenne Mountain, there are a multitude of lodging opportunities in the nearby town of Colorado Springs. Please check with your lodging provider on policies and transportation options to the Broadmoor for NatCon.

NATCON
EVENT OVERVIEW

REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN, AND PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Hotel check-in and NatCon registration are separate processes; please be sure to complete both.

NatCon's on-site conference check-in and registration opens **Thursday, January 8, at 7:00 AM in Broadmoor Hall D&E**. At check-in, attendees will be able to:
- Complete their check-in with conference staff
- Register or pay their outstanding balance by check or credit card (please do these prior to attending, if possible)
- Print conference badges at self-service kiosks
- Select their dining option for Friday's "Dinner at the Broadmoor: Dine Around" (student attendees only)

As capacity allows, all attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in pre-conference activities on January 8, including:
- The NatCon Service Project with the Travis Manion Foundation from 7:15 AM – 11:30 AM at Venetucci Farm (registration required)
- Hiring Our Heroes Employer Summit 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM (registration required)
- VA 1-on-1 Veterans Assistance (Claims Clinic) - Appointments are not required but are strongly encouraged. Use this link to schedule an appointment, zip code 80906, Book Now.

More details for the preconference events are accessible by clicking on the registration links for each event.

NatCon officially kicks off on Thursday, January 8, at 3:00 PM beginning with attendees' choice of breakout sessions

SCHEDULE, MOBILE APP, AND PROGRAMMING

The 18th Annual NatCon schedule is available online and the mobile app. The schedule will continue to be updated until January 5, 2026, and is subject to change.

NatCon 2026 will use the **SVA Programs** **mobile app**. Free wi-fi will be available in the conference spaces.
- 18th Annual NatCon content becomes available in the app by January 5, 2026
- A full, final schedule will be accessible in the app, where attendees will be able to build their personal NatCon agenda, receive real-time updates and notifications, see other NatCon attendees, and get access to more resources and information.

Types of Events at NatCon
- **Breakout Sessions:** Interactive, 45-minute sessions delivered by partners, chapters, SVA staff, and other VSOs focused on a variety of topics like leadership, personal development, advocacy, and career advancement. Attendees will select to attend one breakout session from multiple offerings during each breakout session timeslot.
- **Featured Panels:** Moderated discussions with experts and veteran leaders.
- **Main Stage Events:** Large plenary sessions with keynote speakers.
- **Special Events:** Celebratory and connection events like the Honors Luncheon, National Student Veteran Ball, Regional Lunch.
- **Wellness and Community Events:** Movement, mindfulness, storytelling, and connection-focused programming with partners like wear blue: run to remember, Veteran's Yoga Project, and more, including an evening movie screening.

The SVA Campus is the exhibitor and engagement hall located in Bartolin Hall where attendees will connect with employers, sponsors, and partners; explore career pathways and resources; and participate in networking and activations.

Campus Preparation Tips
- Bring multiple copies of your resume (digital and print) and/or business cards
- Practice your elevator pitch
- Research employers and organizations at NatCon beforehand
- Enroll in SVA's Professional Development series and build in-demand skills before NatCon with our Google Career Certificate program. You'll get access to 384 individual courses or full certificates in nine high-demand fields at a 100% free, self-paced, virtual experience.

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MEALS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

Provided meals at NatCon:

- **Thursday**[1]: Dinner provided during the SVA Campus Opening Reception
- **Friday**: Breakfast at the SVA Campus, Lunch at the Honors Luncheon[2] Event, Dinner[3]
- **Saturday**: Breakfast at the SVA Campus, Regional Lunch at the SVA Campus[4], Dinner at the Student Veteran Ball

[1]*Breakfast on Thursday will be provided to those participating in the service project*
[2]*For any food allergies or restrictions at the Honors Luncheon, please see the Onsite Registration Desk to receive a 'menu card' to present to your server during the plated lunch*
[3]*Friday's dinner is a "Dinner at the Broadmoor: Dine Around" student attendees will reserve seats at check-in and dine at any of a number of Broadmoor restaurants at no cost to them.*
[4]*Saturday's lunch is a networking Regional Lunch, where student and campus professionals will be seated with other SVA Chapters in their region*

Attendees should bring money for food, snacks, and beverages outside designated meals. The Broadmoor offers an outstanding variety of restaurants, cafés, and retail food options onsite.

If you have any special accommodation needs or food allergies not indicated during registration, email registration@studentveterans.org or speak to a SVA staff member onsite.

DRESS CODE AND WHAT TO PACK

Dress Code: While we offer attire guidance for some events, business casual is appropriate for all NatCon programming. No one should feel discouraged from attending based on clothing accessibility.

General Guidelines
- Casual: T-shirts, sweaters, jeans, sneakers, sandals
- Business Casual: Button-downs, blouses, blazers, khakis, closed-toe shoes
- Business Professional: Suits, ties, dresses, dress shoes
- Semi-formal: Cocktail or mid-length dresses, dressy jumpsuits, suits or dress slacks with a blazer and dress shoes (tie optional)

Dress Code By Event
- General Sessions and SVA Campus: Business casual
- Honors Luncheon: Business professional
- National Student Veteran Ball: Business Professional or Semi-formal
- Physical Activities (service project, yoga, and 5k): layered athletic wear suitable for outdoors, jacks, and closed toed shoes
- Conference After Hours Personal Time: Casual

What to Pack
- Copies of your Resume
- Business Cards (optional)
- A backpack, bag, or something else to carry your things in
- A laptop, pad of paper and pen, or other items for note-taking
- Phone charger or battery pack
- Refillable water bottle
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Warm layers and outerwear
- Spending money for additional food outside of provided meals, souvenirs, and incidentals

ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY, AND CONFERENCE POLICIES

Accessibility and Accommodations
- Service animals are welcome!
- Additional accessibility requests can be made in advance by emailing registration@studentvetrans.org

Weather Preparedness
- Colorado Springs is located at a high elevation: hydrate and pace yourself
- Check weather before you pack: the average January temperatures in Colorado Springs range from 12–47°F, with a chance of snow

General Policies and Code of Conduct
All attendees are expected to review and adhere to SVA's General Policies and Code of Conduct.

EXCUSAL
EVENT LETTER

A NatCon excusal letter is available here for attendees to download and share with employers or institutions.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXCUSAL LETTER

DATE

To:

Subject: Excusal Request: Student Veterans of America National Conference

Dear

I am writing to respectfully request excusal from class in order to attend the **Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference**, a nationally recognized professional development and leadership conference for student veterans and military-affiliated students.

Student Veterans of America is a national nonprofit dedicated to empowering student veterans to succeed in higher education and beyond. SVA supports a network of over **1,600 on-campus chapters**, representing nearly **600,000 student veterans and military-affiliated students** nationwide. Through leadership development, research, advocacy, and community-building, SVA works to ensure student veterans are equipped with the skills, resources, and support needed to thrive academically and professionally.

SVA's "NatCon" is the largest annual gathering of student veterans in the world. The conference is designed to develop leadership skills, provide training on issues impacting student veterans in higher education, and convene campus leaders, policymakers, and partners committed to veteran success. The conference will be held **January 8-10, 2026, in Colorado Springs, Colorado**.

Participation in NatCon directly benefits our chapter and campus community through:
- **75+ educational sessions** focused on leadership, advocacy, and student veteran success
- **Peer networking** with student leaders from colleges and universities worldwide
- **Roundtable discussions** with higher education stakeholders and policymakers with actionable insights on **veterans and higher education policy and practice**
- Engagement with **higher education, corporate, government, and nonprofit partners** offering resources, best practices, and career pathways.
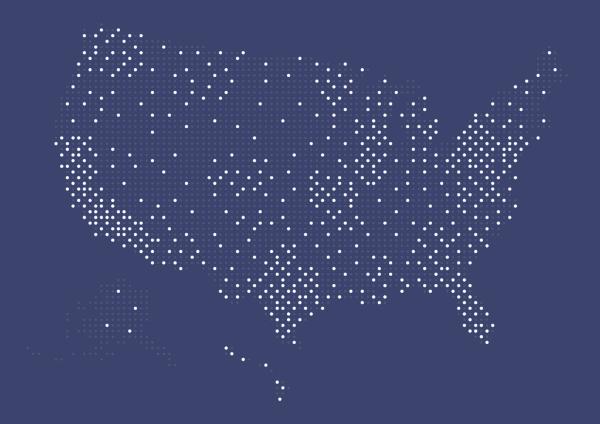
In addition, NatCon serves as a multi-day professional development opportunity, featuring career preparation workshops, resume and interview coaching, and direct engagement with employers seeking to hire student veterans. Many attendees secure internships, mentorships, or full-time employment opportunities as a result of participation.

Attendance at this conference supports my academic, professional, and leadership development while strengthening our campus's ability to serve student veterans effectively. I appreciate your consideration of this request and am happy to provide additional information if needed.

Respectfully,

Your Name
Title / Chapter Role, if applicable
Contact Information

Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders

Through a network of over 1,600 on-campus chapters, Student Veterans of America® ensures that student veterans and military-affiliated students achieve their greatest potential.

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