



2018 Washington Policy Seminar Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: Where and when is the 2018 Washington Policy Seminar taking place?

A: The 2018 WPS will begin on Sunday, March 18 at 1:00pm and will conclude on Wednesday, March 21 at 12:00pm. WPS will take place at the [Washington Marriott Wardman Park](#) located at 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20008. The hotel is located right next to the [Woodley Park Metro station \(red line\)](#), which also has a bus stop for both [WMATA busses](#) and the [DC Circulator](#).

Q: What if I have dietary restrictions or require special accommodations?

A: You will be able to note dietary restrictions and/or special accommodations on the WPS registration form. If you did not disclose this information on the registration form, please email entwistleg@iel.org to describe your needs. Our National EPFP Staff will be in touch regarding any logistical arrangements to help you access and enjoy the conference!

Q: When do I check-in for WPS?

A: Fellows can check in for WPS on the Mezzanine level of the [Washington Marriott Wardman Park](#), outside of the Thurgood Marshall Ballroom, on Sunday, March 18 between 10:00am and 1:00pm to receive their nametags, conference program, and other materials. Check-in will likely be busiest between 12:30-1:00pm, so we encourage Fellows to check in as early as possible during this period. Please note that all Fellows must check in for their hotel reservations separately at the front desk in the lobby. There is luggage storage in the lobby and early check-in depending on availability.

If you are arriving after WPS check-in time or on a later date, you can still receive your materials at the registration/information desk, which will be located outside of the Thurgood Marshall Ballroom, on the Mezzanine level, throughout the conference. Please email entwistleg@iel.org if you have last minute change of travel plans.



Q: Who are this year's speakers?

A: [Click here to see the bios of all the speakers at WPS2018!](#)

Q: Do we need to sign up for Breakout Sessions in advance?

A: No, all Breakout Sessions are on a first come, first serve basis, depending on the capacity of the session's room.

Q: What meals will be served throughout WPS?

A: Sunday, March 18th there will be a reception from 5:30-6:30pm with light hors d'oeuvres served. Monday March 19th, a breakfast buffet will be served from 7:30am to 8:30am, and plated lunch will be served at 12:15pm. Tuesday a breakfast buffet will be served from 7:30am to 8:30am. Finally, Wednesday, March 21st, a breakfast buffet will be served from 8:00am to 8:30am.

Q: What is the dress code?

A: The dress code for WPS is business casual. Please keep in mind that the meeting rooms are often kept cooler than normal room temperature.

Q: What is the Wi-Fi Password?

A: You should receive complimentary internet access in hotel sleeping rooms and meeting rooms. The password is: EPFP1718WPS

Q: What is the EPFP Twitter handle and event hashtag?

A: Follow us @epfp_iel and join the conversation using #epfpWPS

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Q: How can I reserve a hotel room at the Marriott Wardman Park for WPS?

A: Our room block is now closed, if you are still looking for hotel reservations, there are many hotel options in the Woodley Park area that may be able to accommodate you.



Q: What are my payment options for hotel reservations?

A: Credit Card or Debit Card. Please note: at time of check in a hold will be placed on the given method of payment for Room, Tax and incidentals for all nights.

Cash or Personal Check to cover Room and Tax. Please note: an additional deposit of \$25 per day will be required for incidentals of which whatever is not utilized will be returned/credited back at checkout.

Company Check. Mailed to the hotel prior to arrival to allow enough time for the check to clear. Check can be made payable to *Washington Marriott Wardman Park* and sent to the following address: 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington DC, 20008 Attn: Accounting Dept. (it is strongly suggested to use a mailing service that provides a tracking number, such as certified mail via USPS, UPS, FedEx)

Third-Party Credit Card Authorization. A Company or Personal Credit Card/Debit Card can be utilized as a method of payment if the cardholder/authorized signer will not be present with the card during the check in process. The card holder can fill out the authorization form and for security reasons it can **ONLY** be **FAXED** in to the hotel at the following fax number **(202) 387-5386**. To obtain a blank credit card authorization form please send a request to louise.owino@marriott.com.

OPTIONAL WPS ACTIVITIES

Q: What are the pre- and post-conference activities?

A: Read this [activities information document](#) for more details about each activity.

We will be offering optional pre-conference tours on Sunday, March 18, from 10:30am-12pm, and post-conference site visits on Wednesday, March 21, from 1:00-3pm. We will be offering the following pre- and post-conference activities.

Sunday, March 18, 10:30am-12pm
Pre Conference Tours

- [Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)
 - [Enter our Twitter Contest to win a ticket!](#)
- [Kennedy Center](#)
- [Monuments and Memorials Tours](#)
- [Smithsonian National Zoo](#) (self-guided)

Wednesday, March 21, 1:00-3 pm
Post Conference Site Visits

- [American Enterprise Institute](#) (Education Think Tank)
- [Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)



VISITING WASHINGTON, DC

Q: What restaurants and bars are near the Marriott Wardman?

A: You can find a list of restaurants and bars within walking distance of the Marriott Wardman [here](#).

Q: What is public transportation like in DC?

A: The [Metro](#) is the subway system in DC and is perhaps the best way to get around the city efficiently and inexpensively. If you will be using the Metro, it's recommended that you purchase a refillable SmarTrip card at any Metro station. Metro fares vary depending on your destination. The closest Metro station to the Marriott Wardman Park is Woodley Park (red line).

The [DC Circulator](#) is a bus service with routes to many popular areas around the city, including the National Mall, Georgetown, Union Station, Capitol Hill, and Nationals Park. You can use a SmarTrip card or cash to pay the \$1 fare. The Woodley Park-McPherson Square route stops right outside the Woodley Park Metro Station.

Taxis are very common in DC and tend to be easily hailed on most main streets and at hotels, Union Station, and airports. Most DC taxis are red. Ridesharing programs like [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) are also widely used in DC.

Q: What will the weather be like in March?

A: March weather in DC is typically Spring-like but will still have colder days. Daytime temperatures tend to be in the low 50s and 60s. Overnight temperatures can drop below freezing. It is recommended that you bring a warm jacket, prepare for the possibility of rain, and consider dressing in layers, especially if you will be out and about for extended periods of time. Please check the weather forecast prior to arrival.

Q: I'm interested in sightseeing around DC. Where can I find information about tours and landmarks?

A: Visit [Washington.org](#), DC's official visitor website, for more information about sightseeing. Please note that Spring is prime tourist season in DC, and the city is very busy throughout the month, particularly if the cherry blossoms are in bloom. Activities requiring reservations or tickets may have limited availability and/or higher prices during this time of year, so it is recommended to plan activities early.



If you are interested in scheduling a tour of the U.S. Capitol, please contact the office of your local U.S. Representative.

Q: Will the cherry blossoms be in bloom during WPS?

A: The peak bloom for the cherry blossoms that line the Tidal Basin changes each year depending on weather, but peak bloom is typically in early April. To find out when peak bloom for cherry blossoms is expected this year, please visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival's [Bloom Watch page](#).