

# 2026 SPAAMFAA Winter Conference

March 3-7, 2026  
San Antonio, Texas

The San Antonio Fire Museum is pleased to welcome and thank you for joining us for the 2026 SPAAMFAA winter conference in San Antonio. We are thrilled to host you in one of the most historic and culturally vibrant cities in the United States. With its rich heritage, iconic landmarks, and unmatched hospitality, San Antonio provides the perfect setting for a meaningful and memorable gathering.

Throughout your time here, you'll experience a carefully curated schedule of events designed to inform, inspire, and connect. From keynote presentations to tours, social events, and networking opportunities, the conference offers something for everyone. Whether you're a longtime attendee or attending for the first time, we hope you'll find value in the shared knowledge and camaraderie that define this event.

Outside the conference, we encourage you to explore all that San Antonio has to offer—from the world-famous River Walk and the historic Alamo to local markets, museums, and award-winning dining. This conference offers several scheduled tours to help you make the most of your visit. We're excited to have you with us and look forward to an engaging and unforgettable experience together in the heart of Texas.



## Host Hotel The Menger Hotel



With tradition and style befitting the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi, the elegant Menger Hotel welcomes guests with a nod to San Antonio's colorful past intermingled with its cosmopolitan present—all just steps from famous World Heritage Site—the Alamo. The beautiful tree-lined River Walk is just a one-block stroll away, and from there you can discover dozens of restaurants and art galleries.

Step into our exquisite Victorian lobby and be transported back to a time when Theodore Roosevelt gathered his Rough Riders in our very own Menger Bar. This long-rooted landmark is renowned for its refined architecture, museum-worthy mementos, and esteemed history—including a long line of honored guests.

Room rate is \$159.00 per night and will be available until February 20th, 2026. Reservation can be made by clicking the reservation button above, Accessing through the QR code, or calling 1-800-345-9285.



The San Antonio International Airport is 10 minutes from the hotel. The hotel does not provide a shuttle service. Rideshare, Taxi, Pay Shuttle services, and rental car options are available.

**When making your reservation, the rooms in the historic section of the hotel have a step up into the bathroom. If this is a mobility issue for you, please request a room in the non-historic section of the hotel.**

## Agenda:

**Tuesday:** 12:00 to 7:00 pm: Registration Hotel Lobby

7:00 to 10:00 pm: Welcome Mixer and Registration at the Fire Museum

**Wednesday:** 8:00 am to 7:00 pm: Registration Hotel Lobby

Executive board meeting and luncheon at Fire Museum

9:30 am to 1 pm: World Heritage Mission Tour

7:00 pm: Seminar Ballroom AB

8:00 to 11:00 pm: Hospitality Room Teddy Roosevelt Suite



River Boat Cruise

**Thursday:** 8:00 am to 7:00 pm: Registration Hotel Lobby

10:00 am to 3:00 pm: Alamo Tour, Lunch on your own at food court, and boat tour of the River Walk

7:00 pm: Seminar Ballroom AB

8:00 to 11:00 pm: Hospitality Room Teddy Roosevelt Suite



The Alamo

**Friday:** 8:00 am to 7:00 pm: Registration Hotel Lobby

9:30 am to 2:30 pm Option 1: Witte Museum Tour, then to El Mercado for shopping and lunch on your own

9 am to 2:30 pm Option 2: SAFD Vehicle Repair Shops and Fire Station Tour, then to El Mercado for shopping and lunch on your own

7:00 pm: Presidents/Member Mtg Ballroom AB

8:00 to 11:00 pm: Hospitality Room Teddy Roosevelt Suite



El Mercado

**Saturday:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Static muster fire vehicle show.

6:00 to 9 pm: Banquet in Ballroom ABC

8:00 to 11:00 pm: Hospitality Room Teddy Roosevelt Suite



World Heritage Missions

# Event Descriptions

## The Alamo

The Alamo was originally a Spanish mission church (1755-1793), it later played a vital role in the 1836 Battle of the Alamo. Some traces from the battle still exist but changes to the structure reflect its later role as a U.S. Army Quartermaster Depot warehouse and eventually a memorial to the Alamo Defenders. Visiting The Alamo in San Antonio is a powerful journey into Texas history. Located in the heart of downtown, this historic mission and fortress is the site of the famous 1836 battle where a small group of Texan defenders—including figures like Davy Crockett and James Bowie—fought for independence from Mexico.

## River Tour

A Go Rio barge tour of the San Antonio River offers a unique and scenic way to experience the heart of downtown San Antonio. As you glide along the famous River Walk on a colorful, eco-friendly electric barge, a knowledgeable guide shares engaging stories about the city's rich history, architecture, culture, and local landmarks. The Go Rio tour brings new perspective to this vibrant and historic part of the city. You'll pass under historic stone bridges, float beside lush landscapes, and see iconic spots like the Arneson River Theatre, La Villita, and the towering restaurants and shops of the Rivercenter Mall.

## Missions Tour

Visiting the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park offers a deep and immersive look into the early Spanish colonial history of Texas. This UNESCO World Heritage Site includes four beautifully preserved 18th-century missions—Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada—all connected by the scenic Mission Reach Trail along the San Antonio River. Expect to walk through centuries-old churches, stone walls, and historic farmlands as you learn about the daily lives of Indigenous peoples and Spanish missionaries who lived and worked in these communities. Each mission has its own unique character, with Mission San José known as the "Queen of the Missions" for its size and restored structures, including a working grain mill and original defensive walls. The park offers a peaceful and reflective experience, blending natural beauty with rich cultural history—a perfect combination of education, architecture, and the enduring spirit of early Texas.

## El Mercado

A visit to El Mercado in San Antonio—also known as Historic Market Square—is a vibrant, immersive experience that captures the rich Mexican heritage of the city. As the largest Mexican market in the United States, El Mercado offers three city blocks of colorful sights, festive sounds, and tantalizing smells. Expect to find a bustling marketplace filled with handcrafted goods, folk art, embroidered clothing, leather goods, pottery, jewelry, and souvenirs from Mexico and Latin America. Vendors often set up both indoors and outdoors, with many speaking Spanish, adding to the authentic atmosphere. Local restaurants like Mi Tierra Café y Padería, open 24 hours, serve up classic Tex-Mex dishes, fresh pan dulce, and margaritas under festive papel picado and Christmas lights year-round.

## Witte Museum

A visit to the Witte Museum in San Antonio is an engaging and family-friendly adventure through Texas history, science, and natural heritage. Located along the banks of the San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park, the Witte blends state-of-the-art exhibits with hands-on learning and stunning outdoor spaces. Inside, you'll find exhibits ranging from prehistoric dinosaurs and ancient rock art to South Texas ranching culture, Native American history, and early Texan pioneers. The Naylor Family Dinosaur Gallery features life-size skeletons and interactive displays, while the Texas Wild Gallery explores the state's diverse ecosystems and wildlife.



# REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2026

## SPAAMFAA

Winter Convention & Membership Meeting  
March 3-7, 2026  
Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/club/affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

## Tours-Banquet Tickets-Souvenirs

**2025 SPAAMFAA Summer Conference Registration Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_ Attending @ \$25.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday March 4, 2026, 9:30 am to 1 pm:

**World Heritage Mission Tour**, Lunch on your own after drop-off at Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$40.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday March 5, 2026, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm:

**Alamo Tour**, Lunch on your own at River Center Mall food court, and boat tour of the River Walk \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$40.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday March 6, 2026, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm **Option 1:**

**Witte Museum Tour**, then to El Mercado for shopping and lunch on your own \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$40.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday March 6, 2026, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm **Option 2:**

**SAFD Vehicle Repair Shops** and Fire Stations Tour, then to El Mercado for shopping and lunch on your own \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$30.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday March 7, 2025, 6 to 9 pm Dinner begins at 7 pm

BANQUET at Menger Hotel (cash bar) Sit down dinner– three choices of meals.

**GRILLED CHICKEN** with Lemon Caper Butter Sauce \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$65.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
With 1 Vegetable and 1 Starch

**12 OUNCE NEW YORK STRIP** \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$65.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
With 1 Vegetable and 1 Starch

**PASTA PRIMAVERA** Linguini Pasta with Sundried \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$65.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tomato, Kalamata Olives, Capers & Artichoke in  
Extra Virgin Olive Oil With 1 Vegetable and 1 Starch

ALL ENTRÉES ARE SERVED WITH SALAD, CHEF'S CHOICE ASSORTED VEGETABLES & STARCH, WARM PETIT ROLLS, BUTTER, ICED TEA & COFFEE, AND DESSERT

Do you have any dietary requests or allergies: \_\_\_\_Y \_\_\_\_N

If yes, what are they? Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

## Souvenirs for the 2025 SPAAMFAA Summer Convention

T-shirts/Challenge Coins/Patch/History Book Challenge coin (front & back) Embroidered Patch (Conference items are only available through presale registration)



Challenge Coin (San Antonio Fire Museum)

\_\_\_ Coins @ \$8.95 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_



Challenge Coin (2026 Winter Conference)

\_\_\_ Coins @ \$10.00 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_



Embroidered Patch \$5 each (San Antonio Fire Department)

\_\_\_ Patches @ \$5.00 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_



Conference T-shirts \_\_\_SM \_\_\_MED \_\_\_LG \_\_\_XLG \_\_\_XX \_\_\_XXX \_\_\_XXXX \_\_\_ Shirts @ \$25.00 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total due with registration form \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Please send pages 4 & 5 of this form and make check payable to:

**San Antonio Fire Museum  
c/o Hector Cardenas  
801 East Houston  
San Antonio, TX 78205**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2026**