

CHART YE COURSE
FOR



Tampa



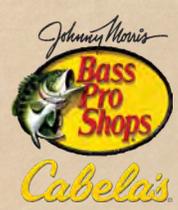
DUCKS UNLIMITED
89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
TAMPA2026

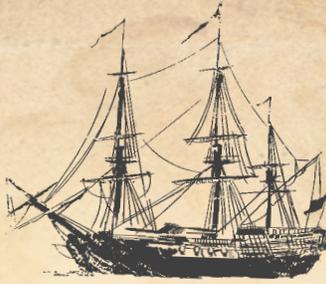
MAY 27 – 30, 2026

JW MARRIOTT TAMPA AND TAMPA MARRIOTT WATER STREET

THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS:

RAYMOND JAMES





DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DUCKS,

As your president, I encourage you to join your Ducks Unlimited friends at our 89th National Convention in historic downtown Tampa. Whether you are an event volunteer or DU supporter, this is DU's largest celebration—and it's all about you!

The festivities begin Wednesday evening with our pirate-themed Opening Night Party at The Florida Aquarium, one of the nation's premier aquariums. You'll enjoy an unforgettable experience featuring aquatic and wetland habitats of sea turtles, lemurs, ducks, and otters while supporting conservation awareness. Thursday evening offers the opportunity to explore Tampa's culinary scene on your own or, if you are a member of the President's Council, you may attend the President's Council Dinner at an off-site event. Friday night brings our lively Wings Over Wetlands Volunteer Celebration Dinner, complete with dueling pianos. Finally, Saturday concludes with our elegant Gala Reception, Dinner, and Live Auction.

Our business sessions will take place Friday and Saturday mornings. Expect interactive discussions, timely updates, and engaging presentations designed to inform and inspire. We will also celebrate our successful campaign, *Conservation For A Continent!* Tampa also offers unique experiences beyond the Convention. From our Pre-Convention Fishing Tournament to the J.C. Newman Cigar Factory Tour and a walking tour of historic Ybor City, there's something for everyone. With Florida's Emerald Coast nearby, a day trip to the beach is a relaxing option. Our host hotels, the JW Marriott and the Marriott Tampa Water Street, are ideally located along Tampa Bay in the city's vibrant downtown district. With stunning water and city views, award-winning restaurants, upscale shopping, and easy access to water taxis, you'll be steps away from Tampa's top attractions.

Reserve your spot today and be part of this incredible celebration!

FOR THE DUCKS,

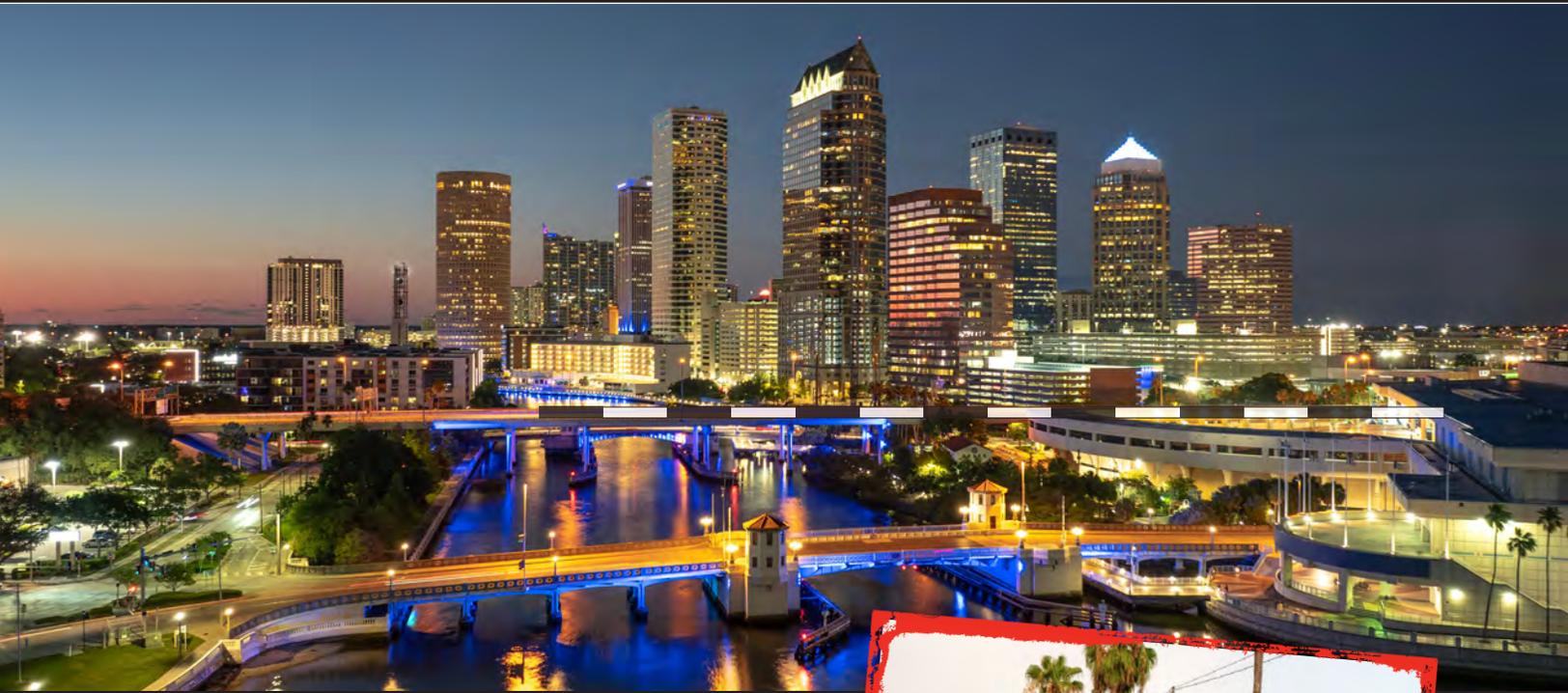
Bob Spoerl

**BOB SPOERL
PRESIDENT AND CAPTAIN,
DUCKS UNLIMITED**





MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY 27-30, 2026,
AND JOIN YOUR DU FRIENDS IN TAMPA!

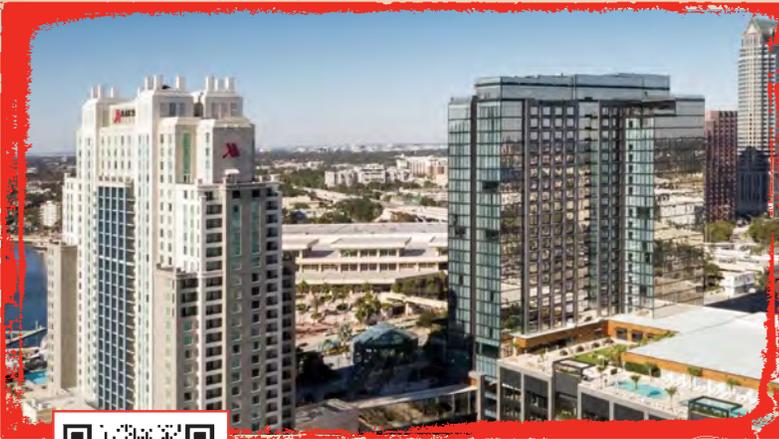


We are excited to welcome you to Tampa at the JW Marriott and Tampa Marriott Water Street! We have secured two amazing properties, connected by a skybridge, to host DU's 89th National Convention. With miles of dazzling waterfront, authentic culture, and cuisine, Tampa has something for everyone. And Tampa is rolling out the red carpet for DU! This will truly be a convention not to be missed. We have many surprises in store and look forward to seeing you!

Pattie Kempka
DU's Managing Director of
National Meetings and Conferences
pkempka@ducks.org



HOTEL INFORMATION



HOST HOTELS

**JW Marriott Tampa and
Tampa Marriott Water Street**
510 Water Street , Tampa, FL 33602

Room rate:

Tampa Marriott Water Street: \$234

JW Tampa Marriott: \$264

Self parking: \$35 per day

Valet parking: \$37.50 per day
(at time of printing)

Cancellation Policy: Reservations must be cancelled at least 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid a one night's room and tax charge.

Reservations must be received by Friday, May 1, 2026

Tampa Marriott Water Street will host most committee meetings and hospitality, and the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street will host the business sessions and meal functions. Both hotels have been recently renovated and boast commanding views of the city or water. It does not matter which hotel you reserve because you have access to both properties. Amenities include a luxurious spa, rooftop pools with water views, fitness center, and multiple restaurants. Whether you enjoy a poolside cabana, a spa experience, or elevated dining, you will find it all during your Convention week.

And, to help you get to where you need to be, the Pirate Water Taxi offers a stop just outside of Marriott Water Street. This hop-on/hop-off boat gives you flexibility and provides a convenient way to explore the waterfront attractions.

Operating every 30 minutes, the Tampa Trolley provides free rides with a stop across the street from our hotel. It also stops at The Florida Aquarium, home to our Wednesday Opening Night Party Pirate Palooza, and also on to Ybor City.

Should you want to rent a car, Hertz Car Rental has an on-site counter on the 3rd floor of the Tampa Marriott Water Street.



Visit convention.ducks.org for hotel booking link or call 1-888-511-7809

Group Code: Ducks Unlimited 89th National Convention

For all hotel and air questions, contact: Savannah Duncan at sduncan@ducks.org or 901-378-5476

AIR TRAVEL

Ducks Unlimited is proud to partner with Delta for flights to our National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Fly into Tampa (TPA) or Orlando (MCO) and take advantage of a 3-8% discount on Delta main cabin or higher. Go to [Delta.com](https://www.delta.com), enter your travel destination and date and select Advance Search to enter DU's Meeting Event Code, **NY4FA**. You may also call Delta Conferences and Events® at 1.800.328.1111* Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EST) and refer to Meeting Event Code **NY4FA**. 

*Please note there is not a service fee for reservations booked and ticketed via our reservation 800 number.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Tampa International Airport is only a 15-minute ride from the hotel. Uber, Lyft, and taxis are readily available from TPA.

ACTIVITIES NEAR TAMPA

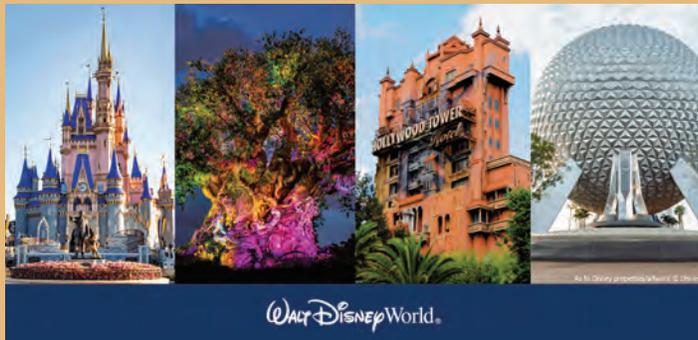
Only an hour's drive from Tampa, **Walt Disney World** offers something for everyone. From Epcot, Animal Kingdom, ESPN Wide World of Sports and, of course, the Magic Kingdom, there's plenty to do for the whole family. Disney is teaming up with DU offering discounted tickets. Visit [convention.ducks.org](https://www.convention.ducks.org) for more details.

Busch Gardens combines the thrill of roller coasters with incredible animal encounters, making it perfect for adventure seekers and nature lovers alike. Busch Gardens is only 30 minutes away. For those craving sun and sand, **Clearwater Beach**, only 30 minutes from the hotel, boasts pristine white shores with crystal-clear waters. A great way to unwind under the Florida sun.

Ducks Unlimited guests have been offered specially priced tickets to Walt Disney World.

To purchase specially priced Walt Disney World® Meeting/Convention Theme Park tickets you can **call 407-566-5600**. Tickets are valid 7 days before, during, and 7 days after the meeting dates. To enter a park, both a park reservation and valid ticket on the same day are required. To make park reservations, you will need to sign-in to an existing Disney® account or create a new one and link each ticket. Park reservations are subject to availability –

please check the Park Availability Calendar. For details on making a park reservation, please visit Disney Park Pass Experience Updates. [disneyevent.com/ducksunlim2026](https://www.disneyevent.com/ducksunlim2026)



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 26

Pre-Convention Fishing Tournament
Gathering & DU pin trading – cash bar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Tours
Committee Meetings
Opening Night Party Pirate Palooza!
In partnership with The Florida Aquarium
Dress in your best pirate wear -
at The Florida Aquarium
Hospitality

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Tours
Committee Meetings
DU Board Luncheon*
DU Board of Directors Meeting
Presidents Council Reception and Dinner* /
Dinner on your own/Dinner with your state
Hospitality

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Morning Coffee and Pastries
General Business Session I
Tours
Committee Meetings
Wings Over Wetlands Celebration
Reception & Dinner -
Presented by Bird Dog Whiskey
Hospitality

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Morning Coffee and Pastries
General Business Session II
89th National Convention Reception, Gala,
and Live Auction

*by invitation only





PRE-CONVENTION FISHING TOURNAMENT



TAMPA BAY FISHING FOR THE DUCKS

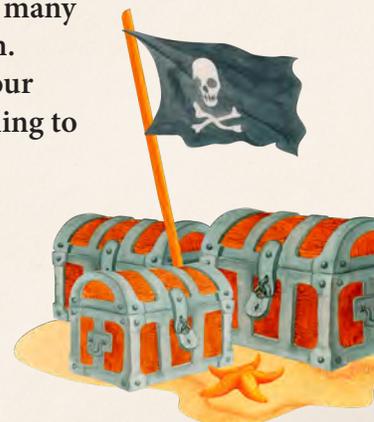
TUESDAY, MAY 26
7:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Kick your Convention week off with the pre-Convention fishing tournament, Tampa Bay Fishing for the Ducks. This inshore tournament has two inshore divisions: redfish, trout, and snook, or tarpon. Late May in Tampa Bay is prime fishing for these fish, with the tarpon migration in full swing. Come with your team of four anglers, or let us team you up. This is a fun way to start your Convention week! Rods, reels and tackle will be provided. Boats will also be stocked with beer, soft drinks, and snacks.

This is a lively tournament, with team and individual prizes awarded in many categories. It is a catch-and-release tournament with photo documentation. Don't miss this chance to experience prime Tampa Bay fishing and start your Convention week on the water! Don't forget your sunscreen! Before returning to the hotel we will provide lunch at the weigh-in.

PLEASE NOTE: The guide's gratuity is the fisherman's responsibility.



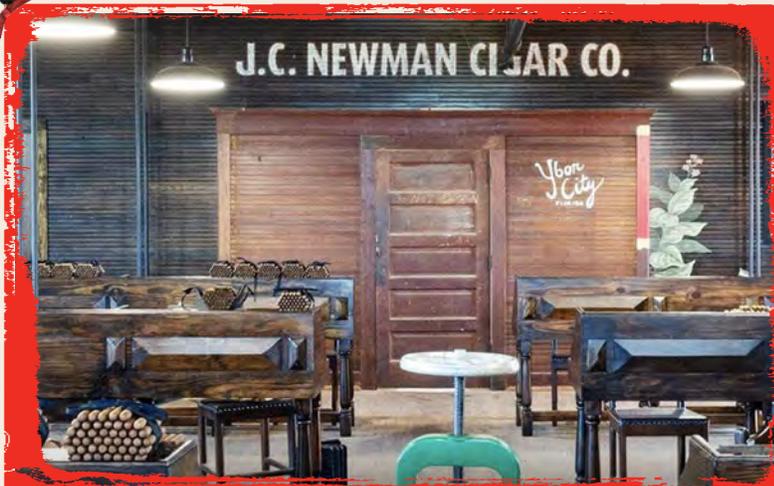
TOURS



J.C. NEWMAN CIGAR FACTORY TOUR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: 1:30 – 4:00 PM
THURSDAY, MAY 28: 1:30 – 4:00 PM

\$85 PER PERSON



Some things never change. This is truly a step back in time. In 1895, Julius Caesar Newman opened his family-owned cigar factory in Ybor City. Using the same techniques today as they did over 100 years ago, the J.C. Newman Cigar Company is the oldest family-owned premium cigar maker in America. This tour is a top to bottom exploration of El Reloj factory. This tour takes guests through the process

of cigar making, both by hand and on antique cigar machines, as well as the Newman family legacy, the history of Cigar City, and much more. Three stories high and one city block long, this historic cigar factory will appeal to cigar enthusiasts, history buffs, and those with an interest in manufacturing and technology.

DOWNWARD DUCK YOGA

THURSDAY, MAY 28: 7:00 AM FRIDAY, MAY 29: 7:00 AM
SATURDAY, MAY 30: 7:00 AM

\$10 PER PERSON



Start your day with serenity and strength! Join us for yoga sessions on the stunning rooftop pool deck, where fresh air and breathtaking views set the tone for relaxation and renewal. Bring your own mat or elevate your experience with a DU-branded yoga mat, available for purchase at the DU Merchandise booth. Don't miss this chance to stretch, breathe, and recharge in a beautiful setting at the pool deck on the 6th floor of the JW Marriott Tampa. Space is limited.



KAYAKING AND BIRDWATCHING IN MANGROVE FOREST

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: 9:15 AM – 2:15 PM

\$80 PER PERSON

Nestled along Florida's Gulf Coast is a vibrant ecosystem rich in biodiversity. Enjoy your day as you are guided through the mangrove forest and tunnels of the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center. A partnership between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tampa Electric Company, the University of Florida, and The Florida Aquarium, this campus was established as an educational center for youth and families. Expect to see a wide variety of birds and wildlife. This rich and healthy ecosystem is also home to manatees during cooler weather. After your journey through the mangroves, you will have time to visit the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center. *For those who don't want to paddle but still want to experience nature, we will have a naturalist guide you through the mangroves on the walking paths.* Lunch will be provided. Kayaking space is limited. Sign up early. *For those kayaking, please wear loose-fitting clothes that can get wet. Closed toe and closed heel shoes that can get wet are required.



YBOR CITY WALKING TOUR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: 9:30 – 11:30 AM
THURSDAY, MAY 28: 9:30 – 11:30 AM
FRIDAY, MAY 29: 12:30 – 2:30 PM

\$90 PER PERSON



Explore the historic district of Ybor City, a neighborhood with a history deeply rooted in cigars and a home to immigrants from Spain, Cuba, and Italy. With a need for highly skilled labor, the Ybor City cigar companies created a community where laborers could purchase small houses, enjoy a rich social life centered around social clubs, and receive cradle-to-grave healthcare. Cigar City changed the entire world. Enter buildings preserved in time that only this tour has access to. Hear the stories of the immigrants who built social clubs of ornate stature to show off their

culture and celebrate their traditions. Then, step foot on Cuban-owned land where Cuban patriot José Martí sparked his revolution. *This is a walking tour. There will be some uneven pavement.

CONVENTION MERCHANDISE



**MORE SELECTIONS
ARE AVAILABLE.**

**PREORDERS CLOSE
MARCH 3, 2026.**

**ORDERS SHIP STARTING
APRIL 5, 2026.**

FRESHWESTERN.COM/PAGES/DU-CONVENTION-2026



BUSINESS SESSION OVERVIEW

One of the most anticipated elements of DU's National Convention is our powerful business sessions, held on Friday and Saturday mornings. More than an annual meeting, this gathering brings together like-minded people with a shared passion for waterfowl conservation. Attendees will leave the business sessions with a deeper understanding of the science and techniques DU uses to conserve habitat, and a renewed passion for our conservation mission. Focusing on timely topics from across the continent and purposeful calls to action, these sessions are designed to equip you to champion the DU mission. Here are a few things you can expect:

Timely waterfowl updates – Fresh insights featuring the science, technology, policy, and techniques of waterfowl conservation.

The health of the Atlantic Flyway – A look at one of the lifelines of North America's waterfowl and the work shaping its future.

Reports from DU's volunteer and staff leaders – Inspiring stories of success, impact, and conservation delivery across the organization.

Inspirational keynote speakers – Voices that motivate us with their stories, and connect with our mission.

Conservation For A Continent celebration – Witness the finale of the most ambitious fundraising effort in DU history. Join us as we reveal the final campaign numbers and celebrate a monumental volunteer-led conservation achievement!

This assembly also marks an important moment for DU leadership and legacy. It is where officers and directors are elected, and where we honor Chuck Smith and Bob Spoerl as they conclude their exceptional service as Chairman of the Board and President.

Throughout the session, you'll hear from influential leaders in conservation, celebrate the extraordinary success of the Conservation For A Continent campaign, and look ahead to what's next for the world leader in wetlands conservation. The unrivaled commitment and passion of DU's volunteers, members, and staff have reshaped what's possible for wetlands, waterfowl, and wildlife across North America. Together, we'll celebrate these milestones and provide a first look ahead to what's next. You don't want to miss it!

HEADSET AVAILABILITY

We want everyone to enjoy the Convention comfortably! If you have difficulty hearing and would like to use a headset during the business sessions or at the Friday and Saturday evening events, we will have a limited number available. Simply let us know when you complete your Convention registration if you would like this extra assistance. There is no cost for using a headset, and we are happy to help make your experience enjoyable.



CONVENTION REGISTRATION

ONLINE

Scan QR code to the right or submit Convention registration form with credit card information at: convention.ducks.org



MAIL

Send Convention Registration Form with payment information to:
Savannah Duncan, Ducks Unlimited, One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120-2351

CANCELLATION POLICY

A full refund of registration and tours will be given with written notice received by Monday, May 18, 2026. Please contact Pattie Kempka, pkempka@ducks.org with additional questions.

FULL ACCESS

A full Convention registration (\$450.00/adult, \$200.00/young adult) grants you access to:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Wednesday Opening Night Pirate Palozza at The Florida Aquarium – Reception and Dinner - *In partnership with The Florida Aquarium Hospitality*

THURSDAY, MAY 28

President's Council Reception & Dinner* or dinner on your own Hospitality

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Morning Coffee & Pastries
General Business Session I
Coffee Break – *Sponsored by The Mosaic Company*
Wings Over Wetlands Celebration Reception, Dinner & Entertainment - *Presented by Bird Dog Whiskey & Cocktails*
Hospitality

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Morning Coffee & Pastries
General Business Session II
Coffee Break
89th National Convention Reception, Gala, Live Auction & After Party



\$325 WEEKEND PACKAGE (Friday & Saturday) grants you access to:

Friday's Wings Over Wetlands Celebration Dinner
Saturday's 89th Annual Reception, Gala, Live Auction and After Party *featuring live music and dancing*
Continental breakfast Friday and Saturday mornings
Business Sessions Friday and Saturday mornings

* by invitation only

FLYWAY FRENZY

Back by popular demand, our "Flyway Frenzy" Raffle features trips and experiences along with quality regional items gathered from the four flyways. It will consist of 12 outstanding Benelli firearms for our daily **Benelli Bonanza** gun giveaway. The Flyway Frenzy includes the 2027 Louisville Convention Raffle (for two people- airfare, registration, suite at the convention hotel, tours, and more). Lastly, we will be offering a chance to win two Grand Prize packages for those purchasing the \$500 and \$1,000 packages.

\$300 PACKAGE

- ★ Tickets to the Flyway Frenzy lower & upper tiers
- ★ 1 ticket – 2027 Louisville Convention Raffle
- ★ 1 ticket daily for **Benelli Bonanza** (4 guns given away Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

\$500 PACKAGE

- ★ More tickets to Flyway Frenzy lower & upper tiers
- ★ 3 tickets – 2027 Louisville Convention Raffle
- ★ 3 tickets daily for **Benelli Bonanza** (4 guns given away Thursday, Friday, & Saturday)
- ★ 1 ticket to the Grand Prize – One of 2 bonus packages valued at over \$5,000 each.

\$1,000 PACKAGE



ONLY 65 AVAILABLE!

- ★ Even more tickets to Flyway Frenzy lower & upper tiers!
- ★ 9 tickets – 2027 Louisville Convention Raffle
- ★ 7 tickets daily for **Benelli Bonanza** (4 guns given away Thursday, Friday, & Saturday)
- ★ 3 tickets to the Grand Prize – One of 2 bonus packages valued at over \$5,000 each.
- ★ **Plus, a gift for you! Yeti Cayo 25 L All-Weather Backpack with DU logo, valued at over \$250!**



**FREE
GIFT!**

Benelli **YETI**



PELICAN

DEMERBOX



WOODLEY CO
EST. 1922





REGISTRATION FORM

89TH ANNUAL DUCKS UNLIMITED NATIONAL CONVENTION

Registrant Information

First Convention

First _____

Last _____

Nickname _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Current DU Position(s) or Contribution Level
(Maximum of two, for your name badge)

1. _____
2. _____

Spouse, Guest, or Child Information

First Convention

Spouse Guest Child

First _____

Last _____

Nickname _____

Cell Phone _____

Age (if child) _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Current DU Position(s) or Contribution Level
(Maximum of two, for your name badge)

1. _____
2. _____

**NOTE: For children 14 years of age and younger, convention registration is complimentary. Fees for tours are the same as adults and are listed below. Gala meal options are \$125 for a child or \$35 for a kid's meal.*

Guest or Child Information

First Convention

Guest Child

First _____

Last _____

Nickname _____

Cell Phone _____

Age (if child) _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Current DU Position(s) or Contribution Level
(Maximum of two, for your name badge)

1. _____
2. _____

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION WITH CREDENTIALS INCLUDES

All scheduled meals, social events, hospitality, Convention reception, and gala. Gala-only credentials will be available Saturday.

Adult Registration \$450

I plan to attend the:

- Opening Night Reception & Dinner (Wed., May 27) . Y / N
Wings Over Wetlands Dinner (Fri., May 29) Y / N
Gala (Sat., May 30) Y / N

Weekend Package (Fri., May 29 & Sat., May 30) . . \$325
Saturday Gala Only (not registering for convention) \$175

Young Adult Registration (ages 15-24)
D.O.B. _____ \$200

Children's Gala Meal (14 and under) \$125

Children's Meal (14 and under) \$35

Flyway Frenzy Raffle Package \$300 \$500 \$1,000

Pre-Convention Fishing Tournament (all day) \$300

Tuesday, May 26

J.C. Newman Cigar Factory Tour. \$85

Wednesday, May 27 (pm) Thursday, May 28 (pm)

Kayaking and Birdwatching in Mangrove Forest \$80

Wed., May 27 (7:30am) Wed., May 27 (9:15am)

Ybor City Walking Tour \$90

Wed., May 27 (am) Thurs., May 28 (am) Fri., May 29 (pm)

Downward Duck Yoga. \$10

Thurs., May 28 Fri., May 29 Sat., May 30

Will you need a hearing assistance headset during the Convention? Yes or No

Total for Registrant \$

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Total for Registrant \$

CHECK PAYABLE TO: Ducks Unlimited-Convention 2026

CHARGE: Discover Visa MC AMEX

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____

Signature: _____ Security Code _____

Total for Entire Party (USD) \$



DUCKS
UNLIMITED



DUCKS UNLIMITED
89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
TAMPA2026



CONVENTION.DUCKS.ORG

