

IAATO Operational Update 2019.03

Polar Field Staff Conference

June 4, 2019

The 2019 Polar Field Staff Conference will take place in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, USA at the Publick House Historic Inn. It will begin with an icebreaker event the evening of Sunday September 22nd 2019 and will end mid-day Wednesday, September 25th 2019.

The theme of this year's Field Staff Conference is Responsible Field Leadership and will discuss topics such as industry updates, a look at the 'tourist of tomorrow' with focus on guest expectations, cultural sensitivity, risk assessment and crisis management, as well as citizen science and new tools for field staff. The intensive 2 1/2-day program aims to provide field staff with an opportunity to network, discuss and exchange experiences with counterparts and invited experts.

1. Registration

As of May 19th, registration for the Field Staff Conference is open to additional (more than two) representatives from each IAATO/AECO member.

Registration for the PFSC can be found [here](#).

Hotel Reservation at the Publick House can be found [here](#). (Use code IAATO)

Please note there will not be a confirmation email sent via Survey Monkey but IAATO will be in touch with registrants shortly.

2. Transportation

We will coordinate shuttle transportation on Sunday, September 22nd, and Wednesday, September 25th between Boston Logan Airport and the Publick House. To better accommodate the shuttle service, please send your flight information to Erin Delaney (edelaney@iaato.org). IAATO will be in touch with the exact shuttle times by August 5th.

There are other nearby airports which can be used, however no transportation will be provided by IAATO from these locations.

The following are airports near Sturbridge, MA:

Bradley International Airport, Hartford, CT

Manchester-Boston International Airport, Manchester, NH

T.F. Green Airport, Providence/Warwick, RI (US Domestic & Ireland)

3. Agenda for the Meeting

The agenda for the meeting is being finalized by the IAATO and AECO Secretariats, and will be sent out to members in July.

4. IAATO Field Operations Committee Meeting

As we have done in the past, there will be an IAATO Field Operations Committee meeting held immediately after the conference on September 25th. The meeting will be held from 14:00 to 18:00. Depending on return flight time, this may require those on the FOC to book an extra night at the Publick House.

There will be additional transportation scheduled for committee members on Thursday, September 26th. (Please send flight details to Erin Delaney (edelaney@iaato.org) for better transportation accommodations.)

5. Green Mission

As presented at our annual meeting in Cape Town, we are continuing to do our part to reduce waste and 'green' our meetings. This includes efforts such as reducing the printed materials for our meetings by offering electronic copies to be available prior, stopping the use of single-use plastics, and locally sourcing materials as much as possible. When preparing for the meeting, consider what you can bring with you to help reduce your personal waste. This could include, packing a reusable water bottle or bringing your own eco-friendly toiletries instead of using the hotel's. We have asked the hotel not to provide toiletries except on request.

If you have any suggestions on other ways to move forward with mission, we would love to hear. You can send any feedback to Erin Delaney at (edelaney@iaato.org)