

A NOTE TO FIRST TIME ATTENDEES

Poster Sessions versus Talks

If this is your first conference, SEGSA (and most conferences) are broken down into poster sessions and talks. For every time slot (morning and afternoon) there will be both poster sessions and talks occurring. Talks are 15-20 minutes in length with time for questions at the end. Poster sessions are normally 2 hours long, and offer time to interact with the poster presenters during their presentations.

Take Advantage of the Poster Session

Poster sessions are a great opportunity to network. Don't be afraid to walk up to a poster, and say "Hi, I'd like to hear about your poster!" That is all you need to break the ice and hear about some interesting science! Conferences are busy and it can be tough to talk to people right after their talks, so if you want to talk to someone who you heard talk earlier in the day, the poster session is a great chance to do that.

Read the Conference Program Beforehand and Download the Conference App

There are lots of exciting talks and events occurring at SEGSA and it can be hard to keep track of everything. I find it helpful, a week or so before the conference, to look up the schedule of sessions and talks and mark the ones that I want to attend. You can even download the app for the conference, which lets you star any presentations you don't want to miss and create your own personal program!

Make Sure You Account for Time

Between talks, poster sessions, and other events, SEGSA can be hectic. Make sure you leave enough time to get to the conference center in the mornings, and account for time if you are moving between talks and poster sessions.

Take the Opportunity to Learn Something New

One of the cool things about SEGSA is the diversity of geoscience research- from coastal storms to igneous rocks to geoscience education there is something interesting for everyone! It is always fun to attend a session in an area that you are unfamiliar with- you will definitely learn something new!

Attend A Career Workshop

SEGSA offers an opportunity to explore different careers as a geoscientist! There are four different events:

1. Career Planning and Informational Interviewing
2. Geoscience Career Exploration
3. Cover Letters, Resumes, and CVs
4. Professional Geologist Licensure

Each of these 1 hour workshops (spread out over Thursday and Friday) will give different insights on job searches, career options, and what employers are looking for! I highly recommend attending at least one of these. These do not require pre-registration.

Free Lunch!

Now that I got your attention, there are two mentoring lunches. On Thursday, the Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience Luncheon and on Friday, the John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program Luncheon, are both opportunities to talk about careers in the geosciences with professionals. Don't miss out! There is no required pre-registration, but lunch is served on a first come, first served basis.

Attend A Special Event

In addition to poster sessions and talks, SEGSA offers some awesome events to connect with your friends and make new ones! One of the great things about attending a Section Meeting is the community that exists between geoscientists, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the Opening Mixer Wednesday night, special lectures, and the mentoring program.

Need Help Getting There? Apply for a Travel Grant!

The Southeast Section offers some support to GSA Student Members to help defray the cost of travel to the meeting. Funds are limited, but every bit helps! Deadline to apply: February 19. Visit the meeting website to apply.

Last Thoughts:

- Wear comfortable shoes!
- Make sure your name badge is facing out.
- If you have a free hour or two, go out and explore Charleston!