



RELAY2026
EVENT DEVELOPMENT
— **DENVER** —

GUIDE TO RELAY FOR VOLUNTEERS

An overview of what to expect.

September 25-27, 2026
Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park

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Welcome to Relay 2026

Dear USMS Attendee,

Thank you for agreeing to attend the U.S. Masters Swimming Volunteer Relay at the Denver Airport Marriott, September 25-27.

You may be wondering why this event has been named "Volunteer Relay." In swimming terms, relays require teamwork and are fun. Relay also connotes receiving and passing on information and can describe a group of people engaged in a task for a fixed period and then replaced by a similar group.

The theme of this year's Relay is Event Development. This in-person meeting will feature a series of workshops and discussion topics and will be a wonderful opportunity for learning, motivation, and helping recruit new local volunteers.

Thanks, and have fun!

--

Meredith Buchanan
Coordinator, Volunteer Services
mbuchanan@usmastersswimming.org | (o) 941-556-6272

Preparing for Relay

Virtual Schedule Manager

[Our virtual calendar allows](#) attendees to explore meetings and sessions, build their own agenda, register for meetings, learn about speakers, and discover who will be attending sessions.

It is recommended that attendees [sign up for an account](#) and use it to login to Sched to bookmark your favorites, indicate your plans to attend, sync meeting details to your phone or calendar, and allow USMS to document attendance of sessions.

Hotel Reservations

USMS will be making all hotel reservations and will send out confirmation numbers to those attending, in addition to their reservation details (Room type and check in and out dates). Check in is at 3PM MDT and check out is at 12PM MDT.

We appreciate the LMSCs making reasonable efforts to submit roommate preferences that have already confirmed they are comfortable sharing a room. If an attendee feels comfortable sharing a room and needs a roommate, the National Office will help assist in pairing suitable roommates.

What to Wear

Be comfortable

- Welcome reception and daily sessions - business-casual or casual clothes
- A sweater or jacket is recommended for the meeting rooms
- Golden Goggle Awards - for those attending the event, the dress code is formal evening wear

Useful Items to Bring

A laptop, a notepad, and pens. The meeting rooms will be Wi-Fi accessible and charging stations will be available. Don't forget to bring plenty of patience and an open mind.

During your stay in Denver

The Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park

The hotel is conveniently a short shuttle ride from the Denver Airport. Exit the airport on LEVEL 5 for ground transportation. Exit the EAST side of the terminal at door 505 and go to island #3. You can track the shuttle at [TrackMyShuttle.com](https://www.trackmyshuttle.com) by entering Tracking ID: 1645 OR scan the QR for Shuttle Tracking.



Checking in with USMS and the hotel

1. Check into your hotel room at the hotel's front desk
2. Locate the USMS Registration Table to receive your name badge
 - Friday, September 25th - 11:00am-5:00pm MDT
 - OR come find Meredith Buchanan

Wi-Fi

The meeting rooms will be Wi-Fi accessible. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi will be available for [Marriot Bonvoy Members](#), otherwise a service fee is applicable at the individual's own expense.

Hospitality and Social Events

There are many sessions you'll be attending -- bring a few snacks to have on hand.

Welcome Reception

The welcome reception and networking activity is on Friday night beginning at 5:00pm MDT, there will be a cash bar and dinner for all Relay & NCC attendees.

Breakfast

Saturday, September 26 from 6:30am - 7:50am MDT and Sunday, September 27 from 7:00am - 9:00am MDT, all Relay attendees and NCC attendees with the hospitality package are invited to enjoy breakfast.

Lunch and Recognition & Awards

All Relay and NCC attendees are invited to enjoy the Recognition & Awards presentations in the ballroom on Saturday, from 11:30am - 12:45pm MDT. Lunch will be provided for all Relay attendees and NCC attendees with the hospitality package.

Golden Goggle Awards

The 23rd annual [USA Swimming Golden Goggle Awards](#) will take place on **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, at the **Denver Center for the Performing Arts** in Denver, Colorado.

For those who purchased tickets through USMS, the dress code is formal evening wear and the following is included with purchase:

- Admission to the live Golden Goggle Awards Show
- Transportation to and from the event
 - Please meet in the hotel's lobby - We'd love to have everyone on board, so please aim to arrive by 5:45 PM MDT to make sure we can head out on time.
 - Buses will leave the hotel promptly at 6:15 PM MDT.
 - Buses will return to the hotel promptly at 10:00PM MDT from the event
- Curated charcuterie boards and light desserts
- Two drink tickets per guest
- Cash bar available for additional beverage purchases

Dinner – Saturday

If you are not attending Golden Goggle Awards, there is no scheduled dinner and you're free to make your own plans.

People to Meet

In person events are a great opportunity to reconnect with swimming friends and to meet many interesting, talented, and fun-filled people with a passion for swimming. We encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity. Please make every effort to meet as many new people as you can.

We're asking all attendees to [create an account within our virtual calendar](#), which allows attendees to [discover who'll be attending](#).

Still have questions?

[Contact Meredith Buchanan](#) prior to Relay at the Marriott Denver Airport at Gateway Park, September 25-27.