

Springfield, Missouri Area Guide

BCMN National Meeting 2025 - October 6-8, 2025

Welcome to Springfield, Missouri! Whether you're arriving early or staying after the conference, here's your guide to exploring the "Queen City of the Ozarks" and the surrounding area.

Getting Around Springfield

Cherry Street Baptist Church Location: 1201 S Oak Grove Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804

Recommended Hotels:

- **Hampton Inn & Suites Springfield Southwest** - Premium location with group rates
- **Vib Hotel** - Boutique experience
- Most major chain hotels available throughout the city

Transportation:

- Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) - 20 minutes from the church
- Rental cars available from all major companies

Dining Recommendations

Breakfast & Coffee

Mudhouse Coffee Bar - Local favorite for artisan coffee and pastries

- Multiple locations, great for morning meetings

- Free WiFi, perfect for conference prep

The Coffee Ethic - Community-focused coffeehouse

- Locally roasted beans, comfortable seating
- Great for quiet conversation and Bible study

Andy's Frozen Custard - Missouri-based frozen custard chain

- Creamy, rich frozen custard made fresh daily
- Perfect dessert or afternoon treat

Lunch Favorites

Hong Kong Inn - Springfield institution since 1951

- Famous cashew chicken (Springfield's signature dish!)
- Casual family dining, large groups welcome

Black Sheep Burgers & Shakes - Gourmet burger joint

- Creative combinations, excellent milkshakes
- Modern atmosphere, quick service

Jimm's Steakhouse - Upscale dining for business lunches

- Premium steaks and seafood
- Private dining rooms available for ministry discussions

Dinner Destinations

Bambinos Cafe - Authentic Italian cuisine

- Family-owned, warm atmosphere

- Excellent for celebration dinners

Lambert's Cafe (Ozark, 20 minutes south) - "Home of Throed Rolls"

- Famous for throwing dinner rolls across the restaurant
- Southern comfort food, fun family atmosphere
- A true Missouri experience!

Hemingway's Blue Water Cafe - Seafood specialist (inside Bass Pro Shops)

- Fresh catches, creative preparations
- Relaxed upscale atmosphere

Attractions & Activities

Historical & Cultural Sites

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

- First major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi
- Visitor center, walking trails, guided tours
- 20 minutes southwest of Springfield

Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium

- World-class aquarium and wildlife museum
- Perfect for families or anyone who loves nature
- Plan 3-4 hours for full experience

Discovery Center of Springfield

- Interactive science museum
- Great for families with children

- Downtown location

Missouri Sports Hall of Fame

- Celebrating Missouri's athletic heritage
- Quick visit, sports memorabilia

Outdoor Activities

Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park

- Beautiful walking trails, fishing lake
- Perfect for morning prayer walks or jogging
- Peaceful setting for reflection

Wilson Park

- Golf course, walking trails, gardens
- Great for ministry team recreation

Springfield Nature Center

- Free admission, nature trails
- Educational programs, peaceful setting

Shopping

Battlefield Mall - Major shopping center

- Department stores, specialty shops, food court
- Everything you need for conference shopping

Historic Downtown Springfield

- Unique boutiques, antique shops
- Great for evening strolls

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World (Original location!)

- The very first Bass Pro Shop
- Massive outdoor gear selection, wildlife displays
- Even non-hunters/fishers enjoy browsing

Day Trip to Branson (45 minutes south)

Branson offers world-class entertainment and is perfect for a post-conference day trip or extended stay.

Entertainment & Shows

Silver Dollar City - Award-winning theme park

- 1880s atmosphere, thrilling rides, craftsmen demonstrations
- Christian-friendly environment, seasonal festivals
- Plan a full day

Branson Strip Shows (Highway 76)

- **Sight & Sound Theatres** - Biblical productions with spectacular staging (2025 production: "David")
- **Andy Williams Performing Arts Center** - Variety shows
- **Clay Cooper Theatre** - Country music and comedy
- **Hughes Brothers Theatre** - Family-friendly entertainment
- **Presleys' Country Jubilee** - Branson's first family show (since 1967)

Branson Dining

Dolly Parton's Stampede - Dinner show experience

- Four-course meal with horseback riding and comedy
- Family-friendly entertainment

Branson Attractions

Branson Landing - Outdoor shopping and dining

- Lake Taneycomo waterfront location
- Evening fountain shows, great for walking

Table Rock Lake - Beautiful Ozark lake

- Scenic drives, boat rentals, fishing
- Crystal-clear water, perfect for relaxation

Shepherd of the Hills - Historic outdoor drama

- Based on Harold Bell Wright's novel
- Beautiful Ozark Mountain setting

Family-Friendly Activities

For Families with Children

Fantastic Caverns - America's only ride-through cave

- Temperature-controlled cave tours
- No walking required, accessible for all ages

Wild Animal Safari - Drive-through zoo

- Feed animals from your car
- Exotic and domestic animals

For Teens and Young Adults

Big Shots Golf - High-tech driving range

- Interactive games, food and drinks
- Great for youth group activities

Escape Rooms - Several locations in Springfield

- Team-building activities
- Various themes and difficulty levels

Practical Information

Weather in October

- **Temperature:** Highs 60-70°F, Lows 40-50°F
- **What to Pack:** Light jacket, layers, comfortable walking shoes
- **Beautiful fall foliage** - perfect for outdoor activities

Tips for Conference Attendees

Arrive Early Monday?

- Wilson's Creek Battlefield for history buffs
- Wonders of Wildlife for a inspiring creation experience

Extended Stay After Wednesday?

- Branson day trip - combine entertainment with fellowship

- Outdoor activities - beautiful October weather for hiking
- Local church visits - connect with Springfield area ministries

Group Activities:

- Lambert's Cafe group dinner (first come, first served!)
- Bass Pro Shops group tour
- Wilson's Creek group historical tour

Distance & Drive Times

- **Branson:** 45 minutes south
- **St. Louis:** 3 hours northeast
- **Kansas City:** 2.5 hours northwest
- **Little Rock, AR:** 3 hours south
- **Tulsa, OK:** 2.5 hours southwest

Final Recommendations

Must-Do Springfield Experiences:

1. Try the famous Springfield cashew chicken
2. Visit Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World (the original!)
3. Take a peaceful walk through Wilson's Creek Battlefield
4. Experience Wonders of Wildlife aquarium

Perfect for Ministry Teams:

- Lambert's Cafe group dinner
- Wilson's Creek historical reflection

- Branson shows for celebration and fellowship

For Families:

- Fantastic Caverns underground adventure
 - Silver Dollar City theme park
 - Table Rock Lake scenic beauty
 - Family-friendly Branson shows
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Have questions about Springfield or need specific recommendations? Contact [Conference Coordinator] for additional local insights and group discount information.

Welcome to Springfield - we're excited to host you for BCMN 2025!