Meet Us in St. Louie

Prepare for good company and an engaging Spring Education Meeting, and don’t forget to wish St. Louis a happy 250th birthday.

St. Louis, Missouri, is a vibrant, historic, and iconic city, made even more so by its breathtaking monument to westward expansion, the elegant Gateway Arch. It is here, in the city called the “Gateway to the West,” that we will gather for the annual ASWB Spring Education Meeting, May 8–11.

Although our focus will be on the exciting business at hand, it pays to be prepared to optimize your free time by getting to know the city of St. Louis. ASWB is offering an optional tour on Friday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., which includes a visit to the Anheuser-Busch Brewery and beer tasting. If you want to do something on your own, you have plenty of options to explore.

A little history

St. Louis was founded in February 1764 by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau and is named for King Louis IX of France. After the 1803 Louisiana Purchase from France, St. Louis became a major port at the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers. Today, the economy of St. Louis relies on service, manufacturing, trade, transportation of goods, and tourism.

Once famous for one of the nation’s first skyscrapers, St. Louis is now recognized for its beautiful stainless steel Gateway Arch, the nation’s tallest manmade monument. The arch was completed in 1965 as part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. If you’re not too claustrophobic, take the tram 630 feet up the Arch to the observation room for spectacular views. Or, go underground to the vast visitor’s center.

Here, in no particular order, are more of the sights and tastes of St. Louis.

Points of interest

If you cannot get enough height in your day, enjoy a fantastic 360-degree view of the city from the top of the Compton Hill Water Tower, one of seven such towers remaining in the country.

The millions of mosaics lining the New Cathedral are a sight not to be missed. With approximately 41.5 million glass pieces, this is the largest mosaic collection in the world.

Go way back in time with a visit to Mastodon State Historic Site. Here, archaeologists unearthed Clovis arrowheads and mammoth bones, proving humans and prehistoric creatures existed side by side. Marvel at the reconstructed woolly giants.

Forest Park was the site of the 1904 World’s Fair and is home to some of St. Louis’ most popular
attractions: the St. Louis Zoo, Art Museum, Science Center and Planetarium, and the Jewel Box conservatory, an art deco masterpiece. This complex is accessed easily by bus and metro.

The old Courthouse brings the turbulent past to life with historic exhibits and information about the Dred Scott decision, the Underground Railroad, and more.

**Shop, eat, enjoy**

For big-time entertainment, book yourself a seat to see Broadway shows and concerts at the magnificently restored Fabulous Fox Theatre in the Grand Center Arts and Entertainment District. For a more intimate musical experience, the Soulard neighborhood boasts some of the best blues venues in town. All around the city, you can find a cozy spot to enjoy your favorite tunes, everything from rock to ragtime.

Hungry? St. Louis offers unique city and regional dishes, including toasted ravioli, gooey butter cake, provol cheese, the slinger, the Gerber sandwich, the St. Paul sandwich, and St. Louis-style pizza, featuring thin crust and provol cheese. Also unique to St. Louis is the Ted Drewes “Concrete,” which is frozen custard blended with any combination of dozens of ingredients, served in a large yellow cup with a spoon and straw.

Thirsty? Tour a variety of breweries by joining the Brewery Tours of St. Louis.

Laclede’s Landing and Washington Avenue are fun areas of fine dining, family restaurants, dance clubs, bars, and shops on the riverfront—all right near the Lumiere Place Casino. And the Hill, a quaint St. Louis neighborhood, is acclaimed for its Italian cuisine.

The Delmar Loop is a famous six-block entertainment and shopping district packed with bars, restaurants, music venues, vintage clothing boutiques, and more.

**Fun facts about St. Louis**

The Eads Bridge, completed in 1874 over the Mississippi River, was the first arched steel truss bridge in the world. When it was first proposed, it was scoffed at as impossible to build.

The first successful parachute jump from an airplane took place at St. Louis’ Jefferson Barracks in 1912.

St. Louis Zoo is home to 18,000 animals from 700 species on 90 acres and features a Zooline Railroad.

At the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, the ice cream cone and iced tea were invented and Dr Pepper was introduced. 7-Up and peanut butter were also invented in St. Louis.

The cocktails Planter’s Punch, Martini, Bloody Mary, and Tom Collins, were invented at the historic Planter’s House hotel, built in 1817.

Famous writers, including T.S. Eliot, Maya Angelou, William Gass, Tennessee Williams, Eugene Field, and many others, were from St. Louis.

Nicknames for St. Louis include: The STL, St. Louie, Mound City, River City, The Lou, and of course, Gateway to the West.

**And more**

More information can be found on the city’s official website at [https://stlouis-mo.gov/](https://stlouis-mo.gov/). We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.