

Sparkling Curiosity: A PLTW Launch Conference 2024 Travel Guidelines and FAQ

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Registration

Standard Registration	Final Call Registration
Aug. 16, 2023- Jan. 10, 2024	Jan. 11- 31, 2024
\$495	\$695

Attendees receive:

- Access to all breakout sessions and general sessions.
- Admission to Opening Celebration with live entertainment.
- Access to the PLTW Launch Exploratorium, an interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests.
- Two breakfasts, two lunches, one evening dinner reception, and four coffee/snack breaks.

Health and Safety Guidelines

- Sparking Curiosity registrants must follow all health and safety guidelines, which are subject to change. Guidelines can be found on the Sparking Curiosity [website](#).
- Sparking Curiosity registrants must follow all federal, state, and local guidelines in place at the time of the event as well as any requirements and/or protocols issued by registrant's employer.
- Based on local or national mandates or guidance, guests may be required to wear face masks or coverings in indoor public areas and when moving around in outdoor areas of the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch [hotel](#). Safety and cleanliness procedures implemented at the hotel may be adjusted in consideration of local practices, government requirements and guidance, and the situation where the hotel is located.

Sparking Curiosity Substitution Policy

If you can't attend Sparking Curiosity and wish to transfer your registration to another individual, you must submit a request in writing to solutioncenter@pltw.org. PLTW is unable to accept substitutions after the start of the event.

- Include "Sparking Curiosity Substitution Request –Name of Registered Guest" in the subject line.
- You are responsible for modifying or canceling your hotel reservation.
 - Use the links or instructions in your hotel confirmation email to modify or cancel your reservation.
 - Cancellation policies vary by hotel, and you should always check the hotel's cancellation policy at the time of booking.
 - PLTW is not responsible for any fees associated with failure to effectively manage your reservation.
- All travel costs for the substitute guest are the responsibility of the guest.

Sparking Curiosity Cancellation Policy

If you need to cancel your Sparking Curiosity registration, you must submit a cancellation request in writing to solutioncenter@pltw.org.

- Include "Sparkling Curiosity Cancellation Request –Name of Registered Guest" in the subject line.
- Your hotel reservation does not automatically cancel when you cancel registration for Sparkling Curiosity. You are responsible for canceling your hotel reservation.
 - Use the links or instructions in your hotel confirmation email to cancel your reservation.

The following cancellation fees may apply if you don't receive pre-approval from PLTW to cancel your registration.

Cancellation Cutoff Dates	Credit or Refund
Before 5 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024	Full refund of registration
After 5 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024	No refund

Method of Payment	Refunds and Invoices
Credit card payments	PLTW will provide a refund of your paid registration fee.
Check payments received by PLTW	PLTW will mail a refund check for your paid registration fee within 30 days of the invoice date.
Check payments not received by PLTW	PLTW will issue an invoice for the amount due for your registration if within the cancellation cutoff dates. Payment is due within 30 days of the invoice date.

Attendee Experience

Sparkling Curiosity attendees will participate in-person in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch. The attendee experience includes access to general sessions, breakout sessions, the PLTW Exploratorium, networking, and meals. Attendees will have access to the event mobile app that provides a detailed agenda as well as networking opportunities with other attendees.

Agenda:

- Monday, Jan. 29 (*Event kicks off at 1 p.m. CT*)
 - General session
 - Breakout sessions
 - PLTW Launch Exploratorium (Interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests)
 - Opening Celebration with live entertainment
 - Meals included: Afternoon snack and dinner
- Tuesday, Jan. 30
 - General session
 - Breakout sessions
 - PLTW Launch Exploratorium (Interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests)
 - Meals included: Breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack
- Wednesday, Jan. 31 (*Event concludes at 1 p.m. CT*)
 - General session

- Breakout sessions
- PLTW Launch Exploratorium (Interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests)
- Meals included: Breakfast, morning snack, and lunch

**The agenda is subject to change without notice. Additional details will be released closer to the event.*

Air and Ground Transportation

You are responsible for any air and ground transportation arrangements and expenses for Sparking Curiosity.

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL)	St. Louis – Gateway Amtrak Station
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 miles from the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch • Estimated one-way transportation cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taxi: \$48 (20 minutes) ○ UberX: \$41-45 ○ UberXL: \$57-63 ○ Lyft: \$30-35 ○ LyftXL: \$42-49 • View the STL transportation information page here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 miles from the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch • For transportation costs to St. Louis, view Amtrak's website

Driving and Parking

You are responsible for all driving and parking expenses. Parking charges will appear on your guestroom receipt unless otherwise shared by hotel agents.

Parking costs (subject to change):

- Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch
 - Self-parking: \$36 per day, plus tax
 - Valet parking: \$38.40 per day, plus tax

View hotel parking and transportation information [here](#).

Hotel Accommodations

Guests are responsible for all hotel related expenses. PLTW has reserved a hotel guestroom block for Sparking Curiosity. Availability is limited, and the hotel reserves rooms on a first-come, first-served basis. We can't

guarantee availability or rates beyond our contracted block. The room block closes on Jan. 10, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. CT. All guestroom rates include access to guestroom internet. You will make hotel reservations by selecting the link embedded in your registration overview directly after you complete your registration. You must provide a credit card to confirm your reservation.

You will receive a confirmation email from the hotel after you complete your reservation.

- The email will come from Hyatt, not PLTW. Please check your spam or junk folder if you don't receive the email within 30 minutes.
- The email includes links and instructions to modify or cancel your reservation.

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch

315 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, MO 63102

Hotel pricing includes the following charges and benefits:

- Guestroom Rate: \$169 plus tax
- Resort Fee: Hotel will not impose a mandatory Resort Fee on PLTW attendees.
- Included amenities:
 - Complimentary standard Wi Fi in guestrooms
 - Complimentary access to Hyatt's 24-hour StayFit Gym

Hyatt COVID-19 Protocols and Practices:

Hyatt has released a full description of protocols and elevated practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can access the information for the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch [here](#).

Hotel Check-in and Check-out Times:

- Check-in time: 4 p.m. CT
- Check-out time: 11 a.m. CT

Meals

Meals are provided for Standard Registration and Last Call Registration guests per the Sparking Curiosity conference agenda:

Day	Meals provided
Monday, Jan. 29	Afternoon snack Dinner at the Opening Celebration
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Breakfast Morning and afternoon snacks Lunch
Wednesday, Jan. 31	Breakfast Morning snack Lunch

Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is Sparking Curiosity: A PLTW Launch Conference?

Sparkling Curiosity takes place Jan. 29-31, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch located at 315 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, MO 63102.

What is Sparking Curiosity?

Sparkling Curiosity: A PLTW Launch Conference is a new conference designed specifically for PreK-5 teachers and administrators that provides a unique opportunity to network, gain new ideas, and learn from other PLTW teachers. Our PLTW Launch Exploratorium lets you get hands-on experience with PLTW Launch modules. Sessions will focus on the specific needs of early STEM educators, including strategies for implementing the activity-, project-, and problem-based learning in your classroom. This event will expand your strategies, spark new insights on the curriculum, and re-ignite your passion for teaching.

Who Should Attend Sparking Curiosity?

- PreK-5 teachers, counselors, administrators, and other educators seeking increased confidence in implementing PLTW Launch modules in their classrooms.

What is the agenda for Sparking Curiosity?

The agenda* is as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 29 (*Event kicks off at 1 p.m. CT*)
 - General session
 - Breakout sessions
 - PLTW Launch Exploratorium (Interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests)
 - Opening Celebration with live entertainment
 - Meals included: Afternoon snack and dinner
- Tuesday, Jan. 30
 - General session
 - Breakout sessions
 - PLTW Launch Exploratorium (Interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests)
 - Meals included: Breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack
- Wednesday, Jan. 31 (*Event concludes at 1 p.m. CT*)
 - General session
 - Breakout sessions
 - PLTW Launch Exploratorium (Interactive space for vendors, partners, and guests)
 - Meals included: Breakfast, morning snack, and lunch

**All agendas are subject to change without notice. Additional details will be released closer to the event.*

What are the registration fees?

Standard Registration	Final Call Registration
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Is there a mobile app for Sparking Curiosity?

Yes, guests will receive more information about the Sparking Curiosity mobile app at least one week prior to the event start date. The app contains helpful information, including the agenda, workshop sessions, general updates, and more.

When does the room block close?

The room block closes on Jan. 10, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CT.

Can I request a specific guestroom type?

Yes, you can request a specific room type or an ADA-accessible room when you make your hotel reservation. Room types are subject to availability.

Can I extend my stay?

You can request an early arrival or late departure date when you make your hotel reservation, pending hotel availability.

Can I request early check-in or late check-out?

You may request late check-out upon arrival and will receive a charge from the hotel. Early check-in is pending hotel availability, and the hotel recommends calling the day before your arrival to check on the current availability so the hotel can note your request on your reservation.

How can I register a group?

For groups under 10 people, please follow the process below.

- Please, first complete your own registration.
- Once your registration is complete, the system will prompt you to register an additional guest.

- Select *Yes* and *Continue*.
- On the next page, find the *Register an Additional Attendee* section, add their email address and select *Register Another*.
- Repeat this process until you have registered all people in your group.
- Please note, you will need to make hotel reservations for your group separately.
- To book a hotel reservation for your group:
 - Select the gear icon next to the guest's name.
 - Selecting *Book Hotel* will redirect you to the hotel's reservation system.
 - Complete the reservation form in its entirety.

For groups of more than 10 people, please reach out to solutioncenter@pltw.org for assistance registering your group. Please use, "Group Sparking Curiosity Registration Request" in the email subject line.

What are the health and safety guidelines for attending Sparking Curiosity?

- Sparking Curiosity registrants must follow all health and safety guidelines, which are subject to change. Guidelines can be found on the Sparking Curiosity [website](#).
- Sparking Curiosity registrants must follow all federal, state, and local guidelines in place at the time of the event as well as any requirements and/or protocols issued by registrant's employer.
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