Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Facility Use Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in hosting an event at the Higher Education Center. Please review the following guidelines carefully as you prepare for your upcoming event.

Reservations

1. Event bookings are considered TENTATIVE until a signed copy of the Facility Use Guidelines has been received by our staff.

2. The Higher Education Center reserves the right to alter space assignments as necessary. Our staff will notify you of any changes that must be made.

3. The Higher Education Center is generally open from 7:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. during the week and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. Special events are occasionally held on Sunday. Earlier arrival or later departure times must be arranged in advance of the event. If an event surpasses the requested event time frame, an additional fee of $75 per hour will be incurred.

4. Upon departure, rooms should be left clean and orderly. All furnishings should be returned to their original configuration. Additional trash bags are available upon request from our Conference Services staff.

5. In the circumstance that classroom furnishings must be reconfigured for a meeting or event, a reconfiguration fee of $25.00 per hour will be incurred. This fee does not apply to events scheduled in the Grand Hall or Rooms 103/104, but will apply to any other classroom in the facility.

6. Proof of insurance naming the Higher Education Center as the additional insured may be required for events held in the Grand Hall and must be submitted before the event can be confirmed. State agencies are exempt from this requirement. The insurance form must include the following statement:

   “Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, as well as its employees and agents, are named as additionally insured for the date of the event.”

   It is agreed and understood that your organization will maintain general liability insurance coverage with a minimum limit of $1,000,000.00 per occurrence, which includes coverage for your activities that will take place at the Higher Education Center and that coverage will include our employees and agents as insured. A certificate of insurance may be required upon request.

Food & Beverages

1. Continental breakfast and break items are available for purchase through the Higher Education Center. Please see our Event Checklist for a complete list of refreshments and prices.

2. Refreshment requests should be made at least one week (7 days) in advance of the scheduled event.

3. If the event requires a catered meal, please select an Approved Caterer from the list available on our website: https://www.swcenter.edu/caterers/.
4. Alcoholic beverage services must be arranged in advance with the Higher Education Center and in accordance with Virginia ABC laws. A valid Virginia ABC license is required for all events scheduled in the facility and must be displayed throughout the event. Please provide a copy of the ABC license to our staff as soon as possible. “Brown bagging” is not be permitted.

Audio/Visual Requests & Technical Assistance

1. AV requests should be made at least one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled event.

2. On-site technical assistance is available at the client’s request. Basic technical assistance of up to 30 minutes is provided to customers who rent the Center’s equipment. If the allotted 30 minutes is exceeded, additional IT assistance is available at the rate of $75.00 per hour.

3. If a client chooses to bring their own equipment and requires IT assistance, a $75.00 per hour minimum service charge will be incurred.

4. Designated IT assistance is strongly encouraged for any event held in the Grand Hall. If designated IT assistance is not requested, the client must have a representative scheduled to maintain the sound booth. The representative must meet with an IT staff member prior to the event in order to be trained on how to use the equipment in the sound booth.

5. If a live band is hired for an event, designated IT assistance will be required at the rate of $75.00 per hour, unless the band is able to provide their own sound engineer. A sound check will be required at least 2 hours in advance of the scheduled event start time. The band should provide a stage diagram and/or rider, including any specific AV needs, at least one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled event.

6. Due to limited staff, the Higher Education Center may be unable to accommodate AV requests made within 72 hours of the scheduled event.

Deposits

1. If the charges reflected on the Confirmation Report exceed $1,000.00, a $500.00 deposit will be required prior to the event.

2. The Higher Education Center reserves the right to release the reserved room(s) if a deposit is not received within 30 days of receipt of the Confirmation Report.

Cancellations

1. Cancellations should be made at least one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled event at no charge.

2. Cancellations made within 48 hours of the scheduled event may incur a fee reflecting 25% of the reserved room(s) rental fee.

3. Cancellations made within 24 hours of the scheduled event may incur a fee reflecting 50% of the reserved room(s) rental fee.

4. If a client neglects to notify our staff of a cancellation prior to the event, payment in full based on the most recent confirmation report will be expected and required.

5. Snow dates may be made available in January or February of each year at the discretion of the facility. If a snow date is arranged for an event, the decision to cancel either the preferred date or alternative snow date must be made at least three days prior to the originally anticipated event date. Failure to cancel within this time frame will incur a fee reflecting 25% of the reserved room(s) rental fee.

6. Cancellations may be made via e-mail to events@swcenter.edu or by phone at (276) 619-4342. Please note that failure to return these guidelines does not automatically cancel an event.
**Security**

1. The Higher Education Center employs police officers who monitor the building and grounds during business hours. The police officers are stationed at our main Information Desk.

2. Please advise our staff in advance if you plan to use additional security guards or other security measures for a scheduled event.

**Right of Entry**

1. Higher Education Center employees and agents reserve the right to enter any event for the purposes of inspection, enforcing rules and regulations, performing routine event services and for building maintenance purposes.

**Publications**

1. Please use the correct facility title, “The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center,” in any advertisements, press releases or notices.

2. Publication of room assignments must be approved.

3. We are happy to display flyers, brochures, posters or other publications advertising your event. Please provide these materials to our staff as early as possible.

4. The title, date, time and contact number, e-mail or website can be displayed on the marquee at the main entrance to the Virginia Highlands Community College campus upon request. Event information may be run at no charge for a maximum of 3 days. Additional run time may be requested at the rate of $25.00 per day.

**Photography**

1. Higher Education Center employees and agents may conduct photography (still and motion) of any event or space and such photography may be used for marketing purposes. You may contact our Event Planning staff prior to the event if a conflict of interest arises.

**Displays**

1. The Higher Education Center’s partner institutions may display program material related to a scheduled event.

2. Yard signs may be displayed by the client on the campus of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. These signs may be placed the evening before an event begins, but must be removed immediately following the completion of the event prior to the client leaving the campus.

**Liability**

1. Damages to the facility will be the responsibility of the organization or individual hosting the event to the extent caused by the acts or omission of organization’s agents or employees. State agencies are exempt from this requirement.

2. Materials should not be attached to the walls. Please request flip chart holders or easels to display posters, charts, etc.
Regulations

1. Exit doors must not be blocked.

2. Tobacco products are not permitted in the building.

3. Open and concealed carry of firearms in the building is prohibited per Governor’s Executive Order 50 (2015) unless held by law enforcement, authorized security or military personnel authorized to carry firearms in accordance with their duties.

4. Only service animals are allowed in the building.

5. Only power strips with a circuit breaker can be used in the facility. Power cords should accommodate only one device per cord.

6. Returned checks will incur a handling fee of $25.00. If the matter is referred for collection to an attorney or collection agency, then the debtor will be liable for the attorney’s fees or additional collection fees of 3% of the then unpaid balance. Requested goods or services will be deemed to be acceptance of these terms. State agencies are exempt from this requirement.
Facility Use Guidelines Agreement

The Facility Use Guidelines Agreement must be signed and returned immediately in order to confirm the event request.

I certify that I have reviewed the Facility Use Guidelines set forth by the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in their entirety and hereby agree to abide by the guidelines outlined. I accept full responsibility for any charges incurred by my organization/event.

Organization: ________________________________________________________________

Name of Event: ________________________________________________________________

Date(s) of Event: ________________________________________________________________

Day of Event On-Site Contact: ____________________________________________________

On-Site Contact Phone: __________________________________________________________

Signature: ______________________________________________________________________

Printed Name: __________________________________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________________________

Please return the signed agreement via e-mail to events@swcenter.edu or via fax to 276-619-4309, ATTN: Event Planning.