



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SGMP to Hold 2018 National Education Conference & Expo in Norfolk, Virginia**

ALEXANDRIA, VA—May 8, 2017—The Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) announced today that its 36<sup>th</sup> National Education Conference will take place in Norfolk, Virginia. The event will be held June 5-7, 2018, at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside, with both the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside and Hilton Norfolk The Main as hotel partners.

“The national board is thrilled to bring the NEC back to Norfolk, VA. The ink is barely dry on the contracts, but I know this is important news that our members will be very excited to hear,” said SGMP President Michelle Milligan, CGMP. “In working with VisitNorfolk it is very apparent that they, along with their hotel partners, are just as excited as the National Board to announce that Norfolk will be hosting the conference for the third time, having previously hosted in 2002 and 2011.”

All SGMP educational content at the conference will address topics within our nine core competencies which are integral to the government meeting professional. These core competencies are: Education/Programming, Facilities & Services, Logistics, Financial & Contract Management, Technology, Leadership, Ethics, Protocol, and Federal, State & Local Travel. Attendees will earn at least eight education contact hours that include multiple blocks of specific training.

The Certified Government Meeting Professional course will be offered as a special pre-conference program. The "CGMP" defines the rules and regulations of the federal government for meetings and conferences and is the highest designation available that is specifically for government meeting professionals. The course teaches recognized industry practices and includes specific and thorough instruction in ethics, federal budget and appropriations, acquisition and contracting, federal travel rules and regulations, RFPs, risk management and protocol.

“The 2018 NEC will be packed with incredible industry-leading education for the government meetings market and will bring together our members from across the country,” said Milligan. “As the national board finalizes our strategic plan, I am excited to report that continued NECs are a part of that plan.”

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*The Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) was founded in 1981 and is the only national organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to individuals who plan and execute government meetings. We deliver our membership value of education, resources and networking to 2,000 plus members in more than 20 chapters across the country. Our mission is to enhance and promote the expertise of government meeting professionals. For more information, please visit [www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org).*