

Tips From WTP Alumni

Dorm Life

- The beds are hard, and the dorm rooms are usually cold. Consider bringing your own extra blanket/quilt or borrowing one at the desk. Maybe an extra-long mattress pad too.
- A good travel tip is to include a power strip. Rather than dig along baseboards to plug in your cell-phone cord, use a power strip in an accessible area of the room.
- You may want to bring extra towels and washcloths.
- There is a fridge in the basement.
- There is a vending machine in the basement of the dorm (for junk-food attacks).
- If the room is chilly at check-in, turn the AC off right away. Turning it down does no good.

On Campus

- There is a coffee shop below the dining hall with areas to gather or spend quiet time.
- The bookstore across from the dining hall sells Band-Aids, etc. and bags to carry home books you buy that won't fit in the suitcase (LOL).
- The Billy Graham Museum contains not-to-miss experiences.
- The library on the third floor is a great place to work during free time.
- The Wade Center has C. S. Lewis and Tolkien exhibits and Lewis's famous wardrobe.
- If you want to find people to sit with during meals, be sure to get there right on time.
- Restrooms are on all three floors of the Billy Graham Center.

Off Campus

- Don't count on hotel shuttle service if advertised; it might be part-time.
- Use the bulletin board in the conference area to see if you can carpool.

Meals

- You need a ticket to sit in the dining hall. Buy it at the conference; conferees are not allowed to pay at the door.
- The food is great with salad bars always available and unlimited portions and beverages.

What to Bring

- Business cards.
- Consider bringing a small, wheeled bag to save your shoulder from the weight of books, notes, laptop, etc., hauled across the campus.
- Be prepared for any kind of weather, so pack a jacket and umbrella.
- Bring something casual to wear to take a walk in the evenings after the sessions.
- When the registration letter recommends wearing comfortable shoes, it means it. You'll be walking every day between buildings. Fancy shoes are cute. Comfortable shoes are lifesavers.

At the Conference

- Be sure to attend the first-timers meeting.

- Head for the faculty sign-up sheets immediately after registration. They fill quickly.
- Before arriving at WTP, go to the Manuscripts page on the website and read “How to Sell Your Manuscripts.” Go to the Registration page and listen to “How to Pitch an Editor.” Without this kind of reinforcement, a first-timer might skip over these two important items.
- Write notes on the backs of collected business cards to remember everyone you meet.
- Come prepared to purchase books by faculty members and conferees, as well as writing books and sale books.
- Study the website faculty members and class offerings prior to attending the conference. But be aware that you may connect better with one faculty member’s style when you get to the conference. You’ll have a chance to get to know the personalities of the faculty members early in the conference and are free to move to a different continuing class if you need to.
- Don’t miss the worship sessions every morning and evening. They set the tone.
- One thing I always tell my “Timothys” is to be prepared to be overwhelmed. Then when it happens, it’s not a big surprise.
- Don’t try to do everything. Take a walk if you need to; give your brain time to assimilate new information.