

2026 NEWS

This is a list of things that you need to be aware of in 2026. Some are old, some are new, some have changed.



VIP PASSES

VIP Passes are back again. They were such a hit for the last 3 years that we brought them back for 2026. Want to get in early and rub elbows with your favorite vendor? This pass allows visitors to get into the show area during setup on Friday 8/14/26 at 10 AM and during the show on Saturday 8/15/26 and Sunday 8/16/26 at 9 AM. Cost is \$100/person and is good for the entire weekend. The pass can be purchased as follows:

Thursday afternoon 8/13/26 at the registration desk in the Ocean Center.

Friday morning 8/14/26 at the registration desk in the Ocean Center.

Saturday morning 8/15/26 at the registration desk in the Ocean Center.

Sunday morning 8/16/26 at the registration desk in the Ocean Center.

VENDOR EARLY REGISTRATION

There will be early vendor registration on Thursday afternoon 8/13/26 at the Ocean Center from noon to 4 PM. **NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE EARLY VENDOR REGISTRATION/ICE BREAKER AT THE DAYTONA HILTON ON THURSDAY EVENING THIS YEAR.**

EASIER VENDOR UNLOADING FOR ROOM TWO

Room 2 vendor unloading will be easier again this year. They will be allowed to unload through the ballroom entrance instead of going through room 1 to reach their tables in room 2. Directions will be given at Vendor Registration as well as signage to direct Vendors to the ballroom unloading area.

QUICKER PURCHASE OF WRISTBANDS AND T-SHIRTS

The new wristband sales kiosks and the separate t-shirt sales area worked exceedingly well for the last 3 years. Sales were quick and no one had to stand out in the sun. The 3 kiosks for wristband sales and 1 line for t-shirt sales will be back in 2026.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We tried to block out as many rooms as possible at the Daytona Hilton Hotel with an Expo discount. However, the block sells out each year. So, if you want to stay at the Hilton, make your reservations as early as possible. Go to the HOTEL tab on this website for a link to make reservations at the Hilton.

Like last year, we reserved an overflow block of rooms with an Expo discount at the Daytona Grande Hotel. The new Daytona Grande Hotel is located just 3 blocks north of the Ocean Center on the water across the street from the IHOP. Rates are very reasonable. Go to the HOTEL tab on this website for a link to make reservations at the Daytona Grande.

INCOMING SHIPMENT UNLOADING

The Ocean Center will not be providing forklift trucks this year. Check with your trucking company to see if they include unloading from the truck to the dock. If not, you will have to make your own arrangement for truck unloading.

BANNER HANGING

The Ocean Center will not be providing scissors lifts this year. Vendors must make their own arrangements to hang banners.