



**Convention  
Planning Guide**

2025

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# WHY attend CONVENTIONS?



Here's me in front of the UT Tower at my first ILPC convention in 1999.

I hopped off the bus at the UTC. The heat of Austin spring hit my face. Masses of high school journalists, like me, swarmed the entrance to the lecture hall. My adviser collected our ILPC registration materials and looked through the list of Individual Achievement Award-winners and while I was just a sophomore and new on yearbook staff, my senior editors found out that they would haul a hefty collection of medals home that weekend.

I wanted that too. Not just the medals. Although, who doesn't want a little recognition for hard work? I wanted to be part of a team that did something special – something excellent.

Going to conventions with my high school yearbook and newspaper staff made me want to be a journalism teacher. So that's what I did for 17 years.

Now, as the director of ILPC, I hope your students will get the same feeling I had that day in April when I attended my first convention.

By taking students to journalism conventions, you will:

- Foster a sense of family.
- Expose a developing program to a network of success.
- Collect outside feedback on student work.
- Expose students to a variety of careers in media.
- \* Network with other advisers. Make lifelong friends.
- Develop a sense of pride and love for YOUR job as an adviser.

My hope is that this guide can assist you in planning your trip to Austin for ILPC. Please reach out if you have any questions at all. You can call the UIL office or email me at [a Boehringer@uiltexas.org](mailto:a Boehringer@uiltexas.org).

Keep it real.

Alyssa Boehringer  
ILPC Director

## What's in the guide?

Convention Information	3
Planning Checklist/Sample Budget	4
Sample Itinerary	5
Sample Permission Form	6
Things to do in Austin / Hotel Info	7

Special thanks to Lori Oglesbee, Lisa Roskens, and Paige Dyer for contributing ideas.

## 2024 Convention Information

# more power to YOU

**ILPC**  
SPRING CONVENTION  
APRIL 11-13, 2025  
UNIVERSITY of TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Register on the UIL website. // \$40 per participant // \$5 for preconvention workshop

### FRIDAY

#### JOURNALISM MEETS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

#### PRECONVENTION WORKSHOP 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

*Pre-registration required*

Learn to use generative artificial intelligence software to enhance your problem-solving skills alongside a deeper understanding of the ways AI programs are built, how to avoid their limitations, and explore their strongest potential uses. Plan ahead for this hands-on workshop that will encourage you to analyze real problems your publication faces and make your life more efficient. .

*Instructor: Stephen Green*

### SATURDAY

#### REGISTRATION AT UTC 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOPS IN TEXAS

#### IAA CHAMPIONS 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Students who win a first place IAA are eligible to win Tops in Texas. First place winners are judged against other gold medalists in all conferences. Not all categories have a Tops in Texas winner.

### SUNDAY

#### KEYNOTE AND GRAND AWARDS ASSEMBLY

#### 9:30 a.m. in LBJ Auditorium

Our keynote address (Emily Kimbro of the Texas Monthly) followed by presentation of "Of the Year" leadership awards, TAJE scholarships, the Max Haddick Teacher of the Year announcement and presentation of the ILPC Stars.

**KEYNOTE**  
**EMILY KIMBRO**  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
TEXAS MONTHLY

### TENTATIVE SPEAKERS

**Bobby Hawthorne**  
*Author, writing coach*

**Raoul Hernandez**  
*University of Texas*

**Mark Murray**  
*ATPI*

**Vanessa Martinez**  
*El Dorado High School*

**Kevin Robbins**  
*University of Texas*

**David Knight**  
*He's David Knight*

## PLANNING CHECKLIST

- Join ILPC and submit necessary contest materials.
- Research travel methods and hotels to determine a price range for the trip. (For example: \$250-\$350).
- Submit travel request to administrator.
- Communicate with students and parents with a flyer, email or parent meeting.
- Two months out, collect deposit.
- Make hotel arrangements using district travel protocol. See administrator and bookkeeper for travel advance, etc.
- Make travel arrangements depending on number of students attending (bus, car rental, flights).
- Register for the convention by April 18.
- Plan evening activities for the trip. Make any restaurant or activity reservations.
- Announce remaining balance to students and parents.
- Distribute permission slips, trip itinerary, packing list and trip reminders.
- Prepare travel kit (extra cash, granola bars, first aid kit, bottled water).
- Collect permission slips.

## Sample Budget

Hotel Total	_____
Airfare/Car Rental/Bus	_____
Registration Total	_____
Parking	_____
Miscellaneous (activities, food)	_____
Total	_____
<b>Total/ No. of students attending = Final price per student</b>	_____

## Notes

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## Trip Information

The following is a sample trip info sheet. Feel free to use this information to create your own and distribute to parents.

## ILPC

**April 11-13, University of Texas at Austin Interscholastic League Press Conference**

### Hotel info

Name of Hotel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hotel Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hotel Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Itinerary

*Friday, April 11*

11:30 a.m. Meet by the playground  
 Drive to Austin  
 Explore the University  
 7:30 p.m. Dinner at Hula Hut

*Saturday, April 12*

8 a.m. Meet in hotel lobby to go to convention  
 9 a.m. Break-out sessions  
 12 p.m. Lunch  
 1 to 5 p.m. Break-out sessions  
 5 p.m. Tops in Texas Awards  
 6 p.m. Superfun Saturday on South Congress

*Sunday, April 13*

10 a.m. Keynote  
 11:15 a.m. Grand Awards Assembly in LBJ Auditorium  
 12:30 p.m. Lunch and go home

### Chaperones

Adviser \_\_\_\_\_ phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone number \_\_\_\_\_

### Weather

Highs in the low-80s. Lows in the low 60s.

### Clothing

Casual school clothes are the norm. Bring a light jacket since the classrooms can get cold.

### Money

Breakfast will be included at the hotel. Inexpensive restaurants are all around campus. Typical dinner menus are in the \$20 range. Bring around \$50 per day for food. Parents may send as much or as little money as they deem necessary. Young people have a tendency to spend all that they have, but we will have emergency money should anyone need to borrow.

## TRIP REMINDERS

If you plan to buy a lot of souvenirs, leave room in your bags.

No whining.

Stay with the group. Don't get ahead and don't drag behind.

If mixed sexes are in the hotel rooms, the door must be ajar.

Don't let doors bang in the hotel.

Quiet in the hotel hallways.

You need to eat at every meal.

You should have plenty of money for food, and don't skimp on food to buy more stuff.

Did I mention no whining?

Don't be late. Get up early and be ready to go at the appointed time.

Do not leave the hotel at night once we are back for good.

No sex. No drugs. No alcohol. No tattoos. No kidding.

When a crosswalk sign says stop, it's not just a suggestion. It's lifesaving advice.

Tipping is not an option. Fifteen percent is the least you should tip.

Set aside money for each day so you don't run out.

Wear comfortable shoes. No new shoes.

No whining.

# Sample Permission Slip

Please sign permission slip. We must have one for every student.

## Permission Form – ILPC

My child \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to attend the ILPC Spring Convention April 11-13 as a representative of (name of school). I understand that this is a school-sponsored activity and that school rules apply. By giving my child permission to attend, I recognize that my child will be under reasonable guidance at all times. In the event of an accident, emergency, or illness, I authorize (chaperone) to seek medical treatment for my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name Telephone # Date

Insurance Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Prescribed Medication \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

### For your child to sign:

My word is my bond. I realize that my character is shaped by my ability to stand by my word. Understanding this, I give my word as evidenced by my signature below that while I am on this trip I will (1) not engage in any illegal behavior (including tattoos); (2) not drink alcohol, not smoke cigarettes, not use any controlled substance abusively, nor engage in sexual activity; (3) respect all adults in authority; (4) attend all classes that I have been assigned to; (5) be considerate to others on the trip and at the convention and (6) be where I am supposed to be, be there on time, and act right when I get there.

Give this statement thought before you sign below. If you travel with us, we reserve the right to search your luggage. If you don't like this rule, stay home. If I find out that you have broken any of these rules, I will report you to the proper authorities, relieve you of any editorial duties, never allow you to travel with us again, nor will we ever write you a letter of recommendation. Please refer to your signed behavior contract for questions or concerns about behavior.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Things to Do in Austin

## Activities & Restaurants

**Amy's Ice Cream**  
Mark Murray's fave.  
Multiple locations in Austin.

**Austin Duck Adventures**  
Amphibious tours downtown and on the lake.  
602 E. Fourth Street, Austin, TX 78701

**Austin's Park**  
Arcade, bowling, go-karts, mini golf, rides, pizza buffet.  
16231 N Interstate Hwy 35, Pflugerville, TX 78660

**The Bats**  
See them fly out from under the Congress Avenue Bridge. Be at the Statesman Bat Observation Center by sunset,  
305 S. Congress Ave., Austin

**Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**  
Texas history museum and IMAX near the UT campus.  
1800 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

**Hula Hut**  
Tacos, fajitas and luau platters.  
3825 Lake Austin Blvd, Austin, TX 78703

**LBJ Presidential Library**  
Located on the UT campus.  
2313 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705

**Museum of Ice Cream**  
Treats included.  
11506 Century Oaks Terrace #128, Austin, TX 78758

**The Oasis Restaurant on Lake Travis**  
Decent restaurant on the lake.  
6550 Comanche Trail, Austin, TX 78732

**Peter Pan Mini Golf**  
Old school.  
1207 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78704

**South Congress**  
Hip boutiques and restaurants. "I love you so much" Instagram moment.

**Texas State Capitol**  
Self-guided tours, free entry.  
1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

## Hotels

The University Interscholastic League has a standing list of recommended hotels in the Austin area. Many of them offer special rates for UIL activities, including ILPC. To see the list of UIL recommended hotels, visit <https://www.uil-texas.org/files/uil-hotel-info.pdf>

## RESTAURANTS ON THE UT CAMPUS

**CAVA**  
Mediterranean restaurant with customizable greens & grains bowls, pitas & salad.  
2426 Guadalupe St.

**The Pizza Press**  
Nostalgic pizza restaurant with 1920s-theme. 404 W. 26th St.

**Zombie Taco**  
Creative and unique tacos.  
2552 Guadalupe St.

**Kerbey Lane Cafe**  
Everything from pancakes to burgers. 2606 Guadalupe St.

**Roppolo's Pizzeria West Campus**  
Quick and easy lunch options.  
2604 Guadalupe St.

**In-N-Out Burger**  
California-based burger chain. 2700 Guadalupe St.

**Pot Belly Sandwich Shop**  
Made-to-order toasted sandwiches, salads & baked goods. 2316 Guadalupe St.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
Email – [aboehringer@uiltexas.org](mailto:aboehringer@uiltexas.org)