

# Class of 1963 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **1. *What does the Registration Fee cover?***

The Registration fee covers the cost of bus transportation, rental of hospitality suites, all costs associated with the Memorial Service, all miscellaneous expenses including nametags, registration mailings, and the registration reception.

### **2. *What kind of weather can I expect?***

October in San Diego is frequently fairly warm. Historically, daytime temperatures during the period of the Reunion average a high of 73 and a low of 60. We may experience partly cloudy days with about a 7% chance of rain.

### **3. *What is the dress code for the Reunion?***

Dress for the entire Reunion is designated as casual. However, the dress code for Thursday's Class Dinner on the USS Midway and Friday's Memorial Service is "business casual," and a sport coat/blazer, tie optional, is recommended. Ladies should consider wearing pants rather than skirts or dresses. Since the Class Reception on the Midway will be on the Flight Deck after sundown, windbreakers, sweaters and jackets are recommended. The Class Dinner, however, will be held in the Hangar Bay, which is protected from the weather. The steel decks throughout the ship favor comfortable low-heeled shoes. The Memorial Service will be held outside at Point Loma, which can be windy, so please dress accordingly. The football stadium can get chilly as the game runs into the evening hours, so jackets, sweaters are recommended.

### **4. *Do I need to rent a car?***

Renting a car depends on where you are staying and what you plan to do in your spare time. One of our Reunion planning goals was to limit the need for private transportation. Attendees staying at one of the Reunion hotels will not need private transportation to and from the scheduled events because we have chartered buses for this purpose. Also, each of the two Reunion hotels is near a trolley stop of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS).

Beyond Class events, other transportation needs can be filled by the San Diego MTS (bus and trolley), taxis, Uber and Lyft. There is also a new service, Free Ride Everywhere Downtown (FRED) that offers a free shuttle within the central area of downtown San Diego. (You will receive a FRED flyer in your Hospitality bag.)

5. ***What if I do rent a car?***

If you plan to rent a car or use a private vehicle, the following should be considered:

a. Parking at the hotels: We have included discount parking in the two Reunion hotel contracts:

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Hotel guest attendees</u>	<u>Non guest reunion attendees</u>
Marriott SpringHill Suites	\$30/day with in-and-out privileges	\$15 per visit
Hilton DoubleTree	\$10/day with in-and-out privileges	Free (In adjacent lot)

b. Parking at the USS Midway Museum: There is a large lot adjacent to the ship that charges \$10 per visit, with a one day limit. This lot is about three blocks from the Marriott SpringHill Suites.

c. Parking at the Memorial Service. There is very little private parking at the Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, site for Friday's Memorial Service. Riding our chartered buses is highly recommended. Free parking has been arranged at Liberty Station at the base of Point Loma. The buses will stop there to and from the Memorial Service and the Class Luncheon. You will receive a flyer at registration that provides details about this option.

d. Parking for the Class Luncheon. The Admiral Kidd Conference Center, site of the Class Luncheon, is located on a military base with tight security. For this event, we will provide the gate guards with a list of all attendees. You and all occupants in your car can gain entrance to the base by showing the guard a picture ID that matches your name on the attendee list. Also, you can gain access directly with a valid U.S. military ID (active, reserve or retired). However, other occupants in your car may also be required to show a photo ID. We strongly advise against using a taxi, Uber, Lyft, etc. to attend this event because these commercial vehicles are not allowed on base (even to transport attendees on the guest list at the gate).

e. Parking for the Tailgate and Football game. The SDCCU Stadium parking lot has over 19,000 parking spots. The rate is \$20 for a private 4 wheel auto.

6. ***What type of bus service will be provided?***

The current bus plan is designed to transport only registered Reunion attendees (i.e. wearing Reunion name tags) from the two Reunion hotels to and from scheduled Reunion events. Additional guests you may have need to find other transportation. (An exception is made for family members accompanying an attendee with mobility challenges.) Please note: Specific detailed bus schedules will be posted in the Hospitality Suite at each Reunion hotel. Following are more details.

a. Thursday night Class Reception and Dinner: Full-size buses will ferry classmates and guests at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel to and from the USS Midway Museum. A small coach will shuttle attendees between the Marriott SpringHill Suites and the USS Midway. It is recommended that attendees staying elsewhere use taxi/Uber or drive private cars directly to the Midway Museum and park in the pay lot adjacent to the ship.

b. Friday: Memorial Service/Class Luncheon: Buses for all reunion attendees will leave from the Reunion hotels for the Memorial Service at Fort Rosecrans. They will stop in route at the Liberty Station parking lot to pick up any attendees. After the Memorial Service, these buses will transport attendees either to the Class Luncheon, the Liberty Station parking lot, or the Reunion hotels. After the Luncheon, buses will transport attendees back to the two hotels and Liberty Station. Because of parking restriction at Fort Rosecrans and the base security issues described previously, we recommend that attendees not staying at the hotels use public or private transportation to one of the hotels or the Liberty Station parking lot to board our buses.

c. Saturday: Tailgate/Game. Buses to carry all Reunion attendees will leave from the two Reunion hotels to the stadium for the tailgate. There will be no bus departures after 1500. So those reunion attendees wishing to leave later and skip the tailgate will need to rely on private transportation or the trolley. After the game, buses will transport all attendees to the Reunion hotels. (Please note that private parking at the SDCCU Stadium is discussed in paragraph 5.e.) We strongly recommend that registered attendees not staying at one of the Reunion hotels proceed to one of these hotels and ride in our buses or take the MTS trolley directly to the stadium.

## **7. *What does the San Diego Trolley offer?***

The San Diego Trolley and San Diego City buses are parts of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), which provides public transportation to most points of interest in San Diego. A trolley station is approximately one and a half blocks from the Marriott SpringHill Suites, and another station is directly across the street from the Hilton DoubleTree. (The trolley brochure is included in your Hospitality bag.) The senior (60+) one-way trolley fare is \$1.25, and a full one-day pass is \$5. Tickets are issued by cash and credit card machines at all trolley stations. All trolleys have access and special spaces for wheelchairs and accommodation for vision and hearing impaired patrons.

## **8. *How could I use the trolley to attend some of the reunion events?***

Here are some examples:

### **a. Wednesday Registration and Reception and Thursday Registration and Class Dinner**

For those staying at the Hilton DoubleTree, using the trolley to travel the Marriott SpringHill Suites for registration and the reception Wednesday or to register Thursday is straightforward. Cross the street to the Hazard Center trolley stop, ride the trolley to the Santa Fe station, then walk a few minutes towards

the water and the hotel. Total time is about 40 minutes. Those at the Hilton DoubleTree could also ride the trolley to registration Thursday afternoon, then walk to the USS Midway Museum for the Class dinner that evening. Following the dinner, they could ride a Reunion bus back to the Hilton Double Tree.

The trolley ride from the Hilton DoubleTree directly to Thursday's Class dinner on the USS Midway takes about 30 minutes, plus a 12-15 minute walk. (A taxi or pedicab could also replace the walk from the trolley stop at the Santa Fe Station to the USS Midway.)

b. Saturday's Tailgate/Football game

After a ten minute walk to the Santa Fe trolley station, the ride from the Marriott SpringHill Suites to the football stadium is 31 minutes. After a three-minute walk to the Hazard Center trolley station, the ride from the Hilton DoubleTree to the stadium is 10 minutes.

For those staying at other hotels, please consult the trolley map for the nearest station.

**9. *Can I turn in extra game tickets that I paid for but do not need?***

The Reunion Committee cannot guarantee that you will get a full refund on unused tickets. We will attempt to sell your extra tickets by filling the requests from other classmates for additional tickets. Please consult the San Diego Bowl Game Association website regarding its policy for ticket refunds.

**10. *Where are my football game seats located?***

Group seating for the Class will be on the Loge Level, sections 23-26. We chose these seats because they provide a good sight line of the field, full view of the scoreboard and screen, easy access, some overhead shelter from the elements and afternoon sun, and close proximity to restroom facilities. Seats were assigned by company.

**11. *What accommodations are available for attendees with mobility issues who attend the football game at the stadium?***

If necessary, some of our buses will be equipped to handle wheelchairs. All buses will lower to on load and off load passengers, and a small portable step will also be provided to assist. The stadium parking contractor operates a special shuttle van that circles the inner ring of the stadium while stopping by the trolley station, the bus parking lot, and, by request, near the tailgate and stadium gates. This shuttle also handles wheelchairs. In addition, the Reunion Committee is arranging for private shuttles to assist our attendees with the distances involved in the stadium area. An information flyer on this service will be included in your Hospitality bag.

We will have available several “sport chairs” that make it easier for some attendees to navigate the distances involved. Inside the stadium, there are ramps, escalators and elevators to reach the upper seating levels. Our Class seating sections include wheelchair access viewing positions.

**12. *What are some of the specific distances to navigate at the football stadium?***

Please see the SDCCU stadium layout map included in your Hospitality bag. The tailgate tent will be about 200 yards from bus parking and about 500 yards from the trolley station. Stadium Gate P is about 400 yards from the tailgate. Inside the gate, the walk to our seating area is another 300 yards. Vertical travel to the Loge level is by ramps, escalators or elevators. Access within the seating sections is by stairs with railings.

**13. *How do I find out about Company events?***

The time set aside for Company events is Friday afternoon and evening after the Class Luncheon. Details of these events are to be determined by each Company. The name and cell phone of each Company coordinator will be provided in the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Program, which is in the Hospitality bag you will receive at check-in.

**14. *How will special dietary needs be accommodated?***

We have accommodated all known special dietary needs for the two Class meals. If you have not yet made your needs known, you need to contact Lee Cargill ASAP at (619) 519-0099 or [leecargill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leecargill@sbcglobal.net)

**15. *What is there to do in my free time?***

Links to many San Diego area attractions are found in the San Diego Tourist Guide in your Hospitality bag and are also available through the San Diego Visitors Bureau website. You may choose to make your own arrangements or use the services of your hotel Concierge desk to visit places of interest. For eligible military retirees, discount tickets to many popular attractions are available through Navy-Marine MWR.

**16. *How can I find out the classmates who are attending the Reunion?***

A list of classmates who are attending will be available in the Hospitality Suites at both Reunion hotels.

**17. *If it rains on Friday morning, is there an alternative venue for the Memorial Service?***

In case of inclement weather, the Memorial Service will be held indoors at the Admiral Kidd Conference Center before the Class Luncheon. If such a change is made, an announcement will be made at the Class Dinner Thursday night.

**18. *Can I visit any Navy ships or bases?***

Visiting military installations is difficult. The current security procedures for access to San Diego military bases require one person in a vehicle or pedestrian group to possess a valid military ID card (active, reserve or retired). Some bases also require government issued photo ID of companions in a vehicle. Please note that all ship piers are closed to visitors.

San Diego Fleet Week will be in full swing during our Reunion. There will be a Navy ship open for general visiting at Broadway Pier from Friday through Sunday, hours 1000 - 1600. There will be an information flyer about Fleet Week activities in your Hospitality bag.