Convention FAQs

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1. **How do I register? When can I register?** [back]

As an AKA Member, you receive the AKA Newsletter, Kiting. The Spring issue will have a registration form inside; you may mail or fax in your printed registration form. You can also view or download a copy of the form. Do NOT forget to sign the waiver portion of your registration form; otherwise you will not be registered.

In addition, you may register online at the secure AKA website, https://kite.org/aka/secure/con_reg.php , by using your member number and email address. Unfortunately we cannot take registration by phone, as you are required by our insurance company to sign your insurance waiver or approve via the Internet form. The online registration opens around June 1.

2. **Will I receive confirmation of my registration?** [back]

YES!

If you list an email address on your registration, you will receive an email confirmation. Please allow one week for confirmation; if you do not receive the confirmation, you are NOT registered.

If you do not list an email address, you will receive confirmation by USPS. Please allow two weeks for confirmation; if you do not receive your mailed confirmation, you are NOT registered.

It is your responsibility to make sure you are registered.

3. **When will information about the host hotel be available? I want to be sure of a good room.** [back]

Information about the hotel will be included in the Spring issue of Kiting. It will also be posted on the website around June 1. Although the AKA does have a block of rooms set aside, it is best to reserve your room early.

4. **I have never been to the AKA convention before, is there anything special I should do?** [back]

There is a place on the registration form to indicate you are a “first timer”. Please make sure to check this box so your registration packet will include a first timer ribbon. The ribbon allows seasoned conventioneers to know you are new to the event and gives them the opportunity to introduce themselves and make sure you are welcomed. In addition, there are places on the registration form for you to volunteer some of your time. The convention is dependent on volunteers and the best place to get to know everyone is to volunteer for auction receiving. If you are a seasoned vet with kite competitions of any type, they too would appreciate your help.

5. **I noticed the AKA has a reception on Monday night; am I welcome to attend if I am registered for the convention? Is my significant other also welcome to attend, even if they are not registered for the convention?** [back]

The Monday Night Reception is sponsored by the AKA convention budget, and is therefore part of the official AKA convention. If you are not registered for the convention, you are not contributing to the cost of the reception.

6. **I am registered for the full convention, but my significant other is not. Is there any way I could get an extra spot at one of the workshops so my partner can attend?** [back]

The AKA has created a “day pass” registration, which allows a member to register for only a day or two. Whatever day(s) they register for, they are allowed to attend all of the events in that day. The exception to this rule is the banquets (you need to purchase a banquet ticket) and the field competitions. All competitors in trophy events need to be registered for the full convention.

7. **Can I participate in the competitions at the convention?** [back]

It depends on each competition. Sport kite competition both indoors and outdoors are restricted to only invited pre-qualified flyers. For information on qualifying, contact your regional director.

The kitemakers and fighter kite competition; the rok battles, and all challenges are open to every registered convention attendee.

8. **I want to compete in only one event. Can I purchase the day pass or do I need to register for the entire convention?** [back]

All those competing in any trophy event must register for the entire convention, no matter how many days they choose to attend.

9. **I want to register, but I don't want to compete; can I still bring kites to fly?** [back]

Yes. Most of our sites have fields large enough to accommodate a spot for the general public. Visit the AKA website at www.aka.kite.org for specifics.

10. **My passion is photography. Can I go up close to get great pictures during the competitions?** [back]

The head judges are always looking for volunteers to document the competition. Contact them and volunteer. If those positions are filled, we do ask that you remain behind the line and allow the competitors to focus on the events. Most competitors will gladly talk with you and allow pictures to be taken after competition has finished.

11. **I know there is Mass Ascension on the field everyday, and a pin given for participation. What kites are flown, and on what day?** [back]

12:30 – 12:50 Daily

Tuesday-Soft Kites; Wednesday-Sport Kites; Thursday-Cellular Kites; Friday-Rokkaku & Fighter Kites; Saturday-Delta Kites. Check your program to find which field they are on.

12. **I understand the field events are open to anyone who wants to watch them, but the Indoor Fly is not; and is only open to convention registrants. Is that true?** [back]

Yes, the Indoor Fly is held at a facility that the AKA purchases for the night; and because the AKA is contractually liable for the space, we cannot open the space to the public.

13. **What are all these challenges, Special Angel Fly or Bag challenge?** [back]

The Angel Fly is to honor kiting friends who have passed on. You are encouraged to fly a white kite. Other special flys will be announced on the AKA website at www.aka.kite.org. The challenges are organized with fun in mind; check the convention program for details.

14. **The Workshops look really interesting, how do I sign up for them?** [back]

Workshops are on a “first come – first served” basis. Many of the more sought after workshops run for two sessions (check the schedule), but if there is only one session – you must arrive early.

15. **What is the difference between the Board of Directors meeting and the Annual Business Meeting? Is the Annual Business Meeting only for the Board of Directors, or may I attend?** [back]

The Board of Directors holds a meeting on Tuesday morning. This is the only board meeting done face to face, all the other meetings are via a conference call. All members are welcome to attend the board meeting.

The ABM is the place where Association business is discussed and Officers and Regional Directors are elected; it is the Association's only face-to-face meeting and all AKA members are encouraged to attend. This is the opportunity for all members to ask questions of their board. This meeting is typically held Wednesday evening.

All AKA members, whether or not they are registered for convention are welcome to attend both meetings.

16. **What is the Thursday Night Challenge?** [back]

Thursday night is the official opening of the Kite Gallery (featured kite artist and their work), the Fly Mart (retail sales from kite related vendors) and the pin and miniature kite challenge. If you are interested in any of the challenges, talk with your regional director about participating – they can give you some great tips.

17. **Fly Mart? What is sold there? Could I reserve a space?** [back]

The Fly Mart is an opportunity for you to purchase at a retail level some unique kites and accessories. Each year the selection is different depending on who has reserved a space. Typically you can buy kites, tails, line, winders, jewelry, miniature kites, books, and many other kite themed items. The Fly Mart is the only place at convention that items may be sold, and only those paying for a booth may sell items.

Non-AKA members may purchase a Fly Mart pass to allow them to shop.

Anyone registered for convention may reserve a booth. Spaces are limited and must be paid and reserved in advance.

Contact the Fly mart coordinator for more information.

18. **What happens at the Friday night auction and banquet?** [back]

The Friday Night Auction is the largest fundraiser the AKA holds. Members participate in cash & carry as well as a silent and loud auction, raising funds for the AKA while enjoying dinner and a cash bar. Dress for the event ranges from cutoffs to formal attire – your choice!

The auction is open to all AKA members. If you are not registered for convention, stop at the check out table upon entering to get a bid number.

19. **What is the Bag Raffle?** [back]

The bag raffle is held from Wednesday until Saturday noon when the winners are drawn. Many, many wonderful items are available to win. You purchase tickets, typically 4/$1 and put your name on each. Each item has a bag next to it. Simply drop a ticket into the bag of the items you would like to win. The more tickets you drop, the better your chance of winning.

20. **What happens at the Saturday night awards banquet?** [back]

The Saturday night event is for rewarding those members who have achieved awards

through competitions or special recognition and voting for Members Choice items. The final night of the weeklong gathering; the awards banquet honors those members who have competed throughout the week and are receiving trophies. In addition, those groups or individuals who have assisted or volunteered during the week are recognized. There is a cash bar, and again dress for the event is whatever you choose. Many like to show off a special Happi coat or other kiting themed attire.

21. **My partner is not registered for the convention, but I would like them and two of my other friends (guests, children) to attend the banquet. Are there extra tickets to be purchased?** [back]

Yes. Full registration includes two banquet tickets; one for Friday night and one for Saturday night. A la Carte tickets can be purchased for guests. Purchase these tickets from the convention manager early in the week. Since a very limited number are available, they go quickly.

22. **What happens if I can't attend either one or both of the banquets: Can I get a refund?** [back]

Your registration covers all events whether or not you choose to participate. No refunds can be offered if you do not attend the banquets. The AKA must pay for the food that was ordered based on our reservation numbers

23. **What will we be eating for dinner?** [back]

The menu will be listed on the website before registration opens. Typically there is a beef option on Friday and a chicken option on Saturday, with vegetarian options on both nights.

24. **I have been asked to be a committee chair or head judge, is there anything special I should do?** [back]

The AKA provides radios, stopwatches, wind meters, clipboards, power strips, and bibs for judges and competitors. If you are in charge of any of the competitions, you may need rulebooks, score sheets or judging information. Print your material and bring it with you or have it printed onsite. Your convention chairperson will tell you what items are reimbursable. Be sure to get all expenditures approved in advance.

25. **I have volunteered at the convention, is there anything special I should do?** [back]

The Convention Manager will inform the convention committee chairperson that you are volunteering. The chair will be in contact with you after early registration closes, typically in early September.

If you are not contacted, contact the annual meeting chair around 9/15.

26. **How do I find out what times the events are?** [back]

The AKA website will list all the times as they become available. Times are always subject to change, however, in the past general times are:

Monday: 1 - 4 Registration and Auction Receiving

PM reception somewhere.

Tuesday: 8 - Noon & 6:30 - 7:00 Registration & Auction Receiving

9 - 11:45 Workshops

9 - Noon Indoor Practice

Noon – 5:PM Field Events

7PM - 9:30PM Indoor Competition.

Wednesday: 8 - Noon & 6:30 - 7:00 Registration & Auction Receiving
9 - 11:45 Workshops
Noon - 5Pm Field Events
7:30PM Annual Business Meeting
Thursday: 8 - Noon & 6:30 - 7:00 Registration & Auction Receiving
9 - 11:45 Workshops
9AM - 10PM Kite Gallery Opening
Noon - 5Pm Field Events
6:30 Cash Bar
7PM Fly Market Opening & Pin & Miniature Kite Challenge.
Friday: 8 - Noon & 6:30 - 7:00 Registration
9 - 11:45 Workshops
9AM - 8PM Kite Gallery
9AM - Noon Fly Market
Noon - 5Pm Field Events
5PM Cash Bar
5 - 7PM Silent Auction
7 - 12PM Loud Auction and Banquet.
Saturday: 8 - Noon Registration
9 - 11:45 Workshops
9AM - 11AM Kite Gallery
9AM - Noon Fly Market
Noon - 5Pm Field Events 3:30PM – 5PM Members Choice Set Up
6PM – 7PM Members Choice and Cash Bar
7PM - Midnight Awards Presentation and Banquet.