



15th Annual Seismic Design Competition



Mailer #1

February 27th, 2018

Dear SDC team,

Congratulations! You have been invited to participate in the 15th Annual Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition (SDC) which will be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles, CA, on Monday, June 25th to Friday, June 29th, 2018. We hope your preparations are going well!

This mailer (Mailer #1) contains necessary travel and registration information for the 2018 SDC including how to register for the competition, how to arrange hotel accommodations, when to book travel, competition location, how to ship your models, and a preliminary draft schedule. **Please read *everything* carefully!**

Another mailer (Mailer #2) will be sent out about one or two months before the competition with exact scheduling details and competition day instructions. Please note, models must be in the display area by Monday, June 25th at 9:00 pm in their **final state**. Also, the SDC Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 29, from 12:00 to 1:00pm along with the 11th US National Conference on Earthquake Engineering (NCEE) Closing Plenary.

1. **Competition Registration Important Dates:**

- *Registration Opens:* February 27, 2018
- *Registration Deadline:* March 31, 2018, 11:59 pm PST

2. **Registration Fees:**

- The SLC has worked hard to keep the cost for the teams reasonable. Putting on a professional event like this one is very costly. Although registration costs may seem high, all teams have the opportunity to take advantage of a hotel deal to reduce the trip costs. We welcome any feedback on registration fees and packages for future competitions.

The following table shows the registration tiers, pricing, and included items:

Registration Tiers		SDC Team of up to 4 members	Each Additional Team Member	Team Supporter
Base Cost		\$500	\$125	\$75
Events / Items	Hotel Deal (see table below for details)	✓		
	T-Shirt(s)	✓	✓	
	SDC Welcome Event	✓	✓	
	11NCEE Welcome Reception	✓	✓	
	Admission to Presentations and Shake Day	✓	✓	✓
	Refreshments	✓	✓	✓
	Awards Ceremony	✓	✓	
	SDC Wrap Up Party	✓	✓	
	Walking Tour	+ \$15 / person	+ \$15	Not Available
	PERW	+ \$20 / person	+ \$20	+ \$20

- Hotel Deal:** Stay 4 or more nights at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites to receive 2 nights credit as part of the registration (over \$425 of savings!). This deal is generously provided by EERI to help reduce the travel expenses for the teams. An illustration of how the hotel deal is applied is included in *Section 4. Hotel Accommodations*, below. Section 4 also includes details on how to sign up for and redeem this deal.
- T-Shirt(s):** Receive a 2018 SDC T-shirt showcasing the winning design from the T-shirt Design Competition.
- SDC Welcome Event:** Invitation to attend the session where the SLC will introduce themselves and welcome all participating teams to the 2018 SDC! The SDC Welcome Event will also feature an opening greeting from the EERI Director, Heidi Tremayne.
- 11NCEE Welcome Reception:** Invitation to the welcome reception for a chance to meet fellow SDC participants and network with professionals attending 11NCEE. This event includes light refreshments and appetizers.
- Refreshments:** Snacks and refreshments (including coffee!) will be provided on Tuesday, June 26, and Wednesday, June 27, for Presentation Day and Shake Day.
- SDC Wrap-Up Party:** An invitation to celebrate the end of the competition with all participating teams, the SLC, and 11NCEE professionals on Thursday, June 28, from 5:15 to 8:30pm. This evening event is generously sponsored by CSI. For more details, see <https://11ncee.org/program/csi-reception>.
- Awards Ceremony:** An invitation to attend the SDC Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 29 from 12:00 to 1:00pm, held in conjunction with the 11NCEE Closing Plenary Session. A light lunch will be included.

3. Registration Details:

- Each team is **required to register for the competition** by filling out the online registration form that will be posted on the competition website by February 27, 2018. Team captains will receive an email with the registration link and instructions.
- Each registered team member must be an undergraduate student who is an EERI member. We will check each registrant for this requirement.
 - Online EERI membership can be completed by selecting the \$25.00 Student Membership at: <https://www.eeri.org/member-center/get-involved/become-a-member/>
 - To confirm that team members are indeed EERI student members before you register, please search for each team member's name on the EERI Online Membership Directory, which includes all current EERI members. The team captain can verify the membership for all team members by visiting the following website: <https://www.eeri.org/cohost/member-resources/> selecting 'Member Directory' and logging in as a member. Remember, your email address is your user name, and your EERI Member ID number is your password (unless you changed it).
- Before you register, please contact your team members to find out how many will attend the Post Earthquake Reconnaissance Workshop, Walking Tours, SDC Welcome Event, 11NCEE Welcome Reception, the SDC Wrap-Up Party, and the Awards Ceremony. See details for each of these events below.
- Please note, teams/individuals do NOT need to register for 11NCEE (this has happened at past competitions).

Please read all instructions on the registration webpage.

4. Hotel Accommodations

- The competition will be hosted at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, located at:
404 S Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Hotel rooms can be reserved at: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/eeri11ncee>. The EERI group rate will be applied automatically for reservations made before **June 1, 2018**.
- As mentioned above, EERI has a **special hotel deal** for teams that book 4 or more nights between Wednesday, June 20, and Wednesday, July 4, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites. If a team books 4 or more nights at the hotel, 2 nights of lodging will be covered by participation in the EERI Hotel Deal at the time of checkout from the hotel. Teams must pay for at least two nights of lodging at the conference hotel rate, and two of the following nights will be paid by EERI directly to the hotel as an effort to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses for the teams. You are not obligated to stay at the conference hotel, but many teams find this to be a convenient and immersive way to experience the competition. An illustration of how the hotel deal works is included in the table below.

How does the hotel deal work? For example, for a team of 4, staying 4 nights at the conference hotel*		
	Hotel deal	No hotel deal
Registration	\$500	\$500
Hotel bill for 4 nights	\$1076^	\$1076^
EERI credit applied to your hotel bill	- \$538^	- \$0
Total cost (registration + hotel)	\$1038^	\$1576^
<small>* Must stay at the hotel a minimum of 4 nights in order to be compensated for two nights. You may stay more than 4 nights; the credit will remain two nights and does not increase proportional to your length of stay. You are responsible for making the hotel reservation directly through the hotel in order to redeem this credit. You must notify EERI SLC with the name on the reservation by March 31, 2018. ^ Note that these numbers are based on the hotel cost before taxes and fees. The hotel deal includes the extra cost of taxes and fees for the two night credit applied to your hotel bill. These numbers are for demonstration purposes only and are not a final representation of what you may pay at registration or at the hotel.</small>		

- Please note, new this year: this offer is available to any team registered for the SDC.
 - To receive the special hotel deal, please register as normal during registration for one team.
 - Make the hotel reservation for 4 or more nights through the link above, and email SLC with the name the reservation is under, and the dates of the reservation. Again, to redeem the hotel deal at the time of stay, the team will be responsible for the first two nights on their bill, and EERI will apply a credit directly to the hotel bill for the following two nights. Any additional nights beyond the 4 nights are again the responsibility of the team.
 - For teams interested in redeeming the hotel deal, please email the SLC with the name the room is reserved under and the dates of the reservation by **March 31, 2018**.
- **Book early!** Teams are responsible for finding hotel accommodations elsewhere if the hotel is fully booked. Please keep in mind that the SDC daily schedule starts early, and the convenience of staying in the conference hotel is often a welcome convenience at the time of competition.

5. Booking Travel

- Considerations when arriving:
 - We recommend teams **arrive by noon on Monday June 25** at the latest. Structures may be unpacked as early as Sunday evening (more details below). A mandatory team meeting will take place on **Tuesday, June 26th at 8:00am**.
 - Models may not be altered in any way after being placed in the display area on **Monday, June 25th by 9:00pm**. Preliminary judging will begin **first thing Tuesday**

morning, with time allotted to alter structures if violations are found. Please note that this is different from years past. *Teams will not be allowed to compete* if any alterations occur between 9:00 pm on Monday, June 25, and Tuesday, June 26, before your structure has been through the initial inspection, or after the end of preliminary judging on Tuesday, June 26.

- Please ensure enough time is available upon arrival to unpack your model and make any necessary alterations before dropping the model off.
 - The display room will be available on **Sunday, June 24 from 7:00 to 11:00pm**, and on **Monday, June 25 from 8:00am to 9:00pm** for teams to unpack and work on their models in a designated area. These times are subject to change. A Student Leadership Council member may or may not be present to supervise but will not be in charge of any unattended items, including models. The room will be secured during evenings.
- Considerations when leaving:
 - The SDC Awards Ceremony will be held **Friday, June 29, from 12:00 to 1:00pm**. This year the awards ceremony will take place during the Closing Plenary in conjunction with 11NCEE and admission is covered by the cost of team member registration. A light lunch will be served.

6. Competition Location

- The competition will be hosted at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites:
 - Venue: Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites
 - Address: 404 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
 - Room: Catalina Ballroom
 - Website: <http://www.thebonaventure.com/>

7. Model Shipping Information

- Models will be shipped directly to the hotel. Detailed information and instructions will be sent to team captains once finalized.

8. Competition Events

- Post-Earthquake Reconnaissance Workshop: The Student Leadership Council and EERI's Learning from Earthquakes Program are jointly organizing a post-earthquake reconnaissance workshop for students and professionals on the afternoon of **Thursday, June 28 from 1:00 to 4:30pm**. This workshop will provide overviews of conducting post-earthquake reconnaissance in structural and geotechnical engineering and demonstrations of EERI field data collection tools. The workshop will include a field exercise that will give participants the opportunity to practice making reconnaissance observations using the demonstrated tools. EERI members who complete this training will be well-positioned to contribute effectively to reconnaissance efforts following an earthquake in their area.
 - The option to register for this workshop at \$20 per student will be included in the

online SDC team registration form.

- There is a registration cap of 60 students.
- **SDC Welcome Event:** All SDC participants are invited to attend a welcome event on **Monday, June 25 from 5:00pm to 5:30pm**. The SLC would like to introduce themselves and welcome all the teams to the competition. The SDC Welcome Event will also feature an opening greeting from the EERI Director, Heidi Tremayne. Please indicate how many team members will be attending when completing the online SDC team registration form.
- **EERI Annual Meeting Welcome Reception:** All SDC participants are welcome at the EERI welcome reception on **Monday, June 25 from 5:15pm to 7:00pm**. This is an opportunity to socialize and network with fellow SDC teams and 11NCEE participants. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. Please indicate how many team members will be attending when completing the online SDC team registration form.
- **Downtown Los Angeles Walking Tour:** The EERI Younger Members Committee has organized earthquake engineering related walking tours for SDC participants. This walking tour will highlight some earthquake engineered structures located in Los Angeles, CA. The tour should last about 3 hours and will include lunch. There is a limit of 45 students.
 - The tour will start on Thursday at noon at Specialty's (located on 400 South Hope street, two blocks from the hotel), where the group will have lunch with the YMC volunteer tour guides.
 - The group will then depart after lunch from Specialty's at 1pm to begin a the walking tour, which will last approximately 1.5 hours. You will return to the hotel by 3pm.
 - Please note the walking tour conflicts directly with PERW and you are not able to sign up for both this year.
 - The option to register for the walking tour is \$15 per student, and will be included in the online SDC team registration form. This fee includes lunch.
- **Student & Industry Expo Scavenger Hunt:** The SLC is hosting a student and industry expo scavenger hunt this year to encourage SDC students to network with the conference exhibitors. Participation encourages students to make contact with these companies and firms who are leaders in the fields of earthquake engineering and risk reduction.
 - Further details on the Scavenger Hunt schedule will be provided in the next mailer.
- **SDC Wrap-Up Party:** On Thursday, June 29, you are invited to join other SDC teams for a wrap-up party at the reception hosted by CSI from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. As the website describes: "You'll enjoy a decadent dinner as we honor the lives and accomplishments of these pioneers of our profession. Formal attire is recommended -- don't forget your dancing shoes! CSI's official band—The Ashraf Allstars—will crank out your favorite hits from the 80s, 90s and beyond. You haven't seen a show like this! This is the conference event you won't want to miss." Read more at: <https://11ncee.org/program/csi-reception>
 - The cost to attend is included in team member registration, but please indicate how many team members will be attending when completing the online SDC team

registration form.

- **Awards Ceremony:** An invitation to attend the SDC Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 29 from 12:00 to 1:00pm, held in conjunction with the 11NCEE Closing Plenary Session. A light lunch will be included.

9. Competition Feedback

- SDC teams will be able to get feedback on their proposals, presentations, scores, and other aspects of the competition once it is over. We will send information on how to request feedback for your team after the SDC.
- The SLC will also solicit feedback from teams on how to improve the competition. Please keep in mind things you would like to see at the competition next year, and include them in the survey we will send out after the SDC.

10. Competition Schedule

- See following page for a preliminary draft schedule for the 15th Annual Seismic Design Competition and additional student events. All events are located in the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, with the exception of the Walking Tour.

SEISMIC DESIGN COMPETITION 2018 – Los Angeles, CA

Please note that some event times are still **subject to change**, but the following is provided as a current best-estimate. Events are unlikely to change days, but may shift in time or location from the listing below.

Date	Event	Time
Monday June 25, 2018	Teams Arrive in Los Angeles	Before 12:00 pm
	Model Display Set-up	Before 9:00pm
	SDC Welcome Event	5:00 pm – 5:30 pm
	11NCEE Welcome Event	5:15 pm – 7:00 pm
Tuesday June 26, 2018	Team Captains Meeting	Morning
	Model Display and Preliminary Judging	Morning
	Team Presentations	Afternoon
	Judging Debrief with Team Captains <i>Captains must be present</i>	Afternoon
Wednesday June 27, 2018	Model Shaking	All Day
Thursday June 28, 2018	Model Shaking	Morning
	Walking Tour of Los Angeles	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
	Post-Earthquake Reconnaissance Workshop	1:00 pm -- 4:30 pm
	CSI Wrap Up Party	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Friday June 29, 2018	Awards Ceremony	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

11. Changes to the 2018 SDC Rules Reminder

- Please pay close attention to the changes made to the 2018 rules. Failure to follow the 2018 rules will negatively affect your final ranking. Major rule changes for 2018 include but are not limited to: the number of floors, the spacing of floors, the footprint of the building, and maximum member sizes. **If the structural model, damping devices, base plate and roof plate exceeds 5 lbs, your team will be disqualified.** We *strongly recommend* weighing your structure prior to arriving in Los Angeles to avoid any complications.