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"An Evening with Presidents" – August 4, 5:30 p.m.

The official kick-off of the 2023 District Kiwanis Convention will begin at 5:30 p.m. on August 4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in La Vista, Nebraska. The Opening event will be held in the Dapper Ballroom and will feature past International Presidents Steve Siemens and Jane Erickson.

Both will be addressing the convention theme: **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore or **TEAM**. The evening of fun and relaxation will begin with the formal presentations from Jane and Steve, to be followed by a District Food Packing Service Project. This food packing, in cooperation with the **Heartland Kid's Against Hunger** organization is sponsored by generous Kiwanians and Kiwanis clubs across the NE-IA District. The project will involve Kiwanis members, Kiwanis leadership, and Key Club members. For information on what to expect and how to participate, click this link: **KAH Video 01** or **KAH Video 02**



Prepare to have an evening of education, service, relaxation, fellowship, and food. There will be food stations for registered convention attendees and a complimentary bar for your enjoyment. Since this is an "Evening with Presidents," all **Kiwanis Club presidents or presidents-elect are encouraged to attend** and to be recognized throughout the evening.

Keynote Speaker Clayton Anderson Books Sales & Signing Event

One of the highlights of the District Kiwanis Convention will be the book signing by Astronaut Clayton Anderson. Mr. Anderson is the author of four books with his fifth book due out in August. Three of the books are for children and we are encouraging Kiwanis members attending the convention or not attending the convention to purchase one of these remarkable books. Clayton will be on hand at the District Convention to sign any book preordered, purchased, or purchased the day of the convention. The Bookworm Bookstore in Omaha is handling all the transactions. (Pre-order books at





On August 5, the morning session of the Nebraska-Iowa District Convention will feature astronaut **Clayton Anderson as the keynote speaker**. Anderson, a Nebraska native and Professor of Practice at Iowa State University will address the annual convention at the Embassy Suites Conference Center at La Vista, Nebraska.

He is a resident of Ashland, Nebraska and recently was named the CEO of the SAC Air Museum there. Mr. Anderson is a retired NASA Astronaut who spent 167 days aboard the International Space Station beginning in 2007. His career spans 30 years working for NASA as an engineer and then as an Astronaut, teaching him the value of having a dedicated and focused TEAM supporting him every minute along the way. The unique "out of this world" insights will be shared with his audience, bringing them practical advice on leadership, persistence, teamwork, and passion.

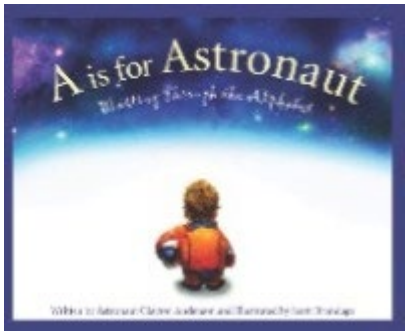
Clayton Anderson - Children's Book Author (Pre-order books at Bookworm Store)

Clayton Anderson is an author of several children's books. These books will be available online coming soon. If purchased ahead of the convention, Clayton will autograph the books and they will be available at the convention. Clayton will also be available to sign books that are purchased at convention. The book sale will be handled by the **Bookworm bookstore in Omaha**.

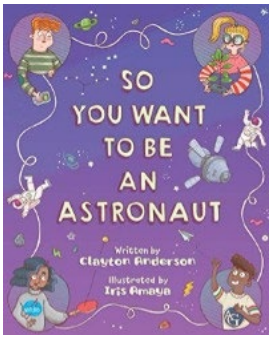
Letters from Space



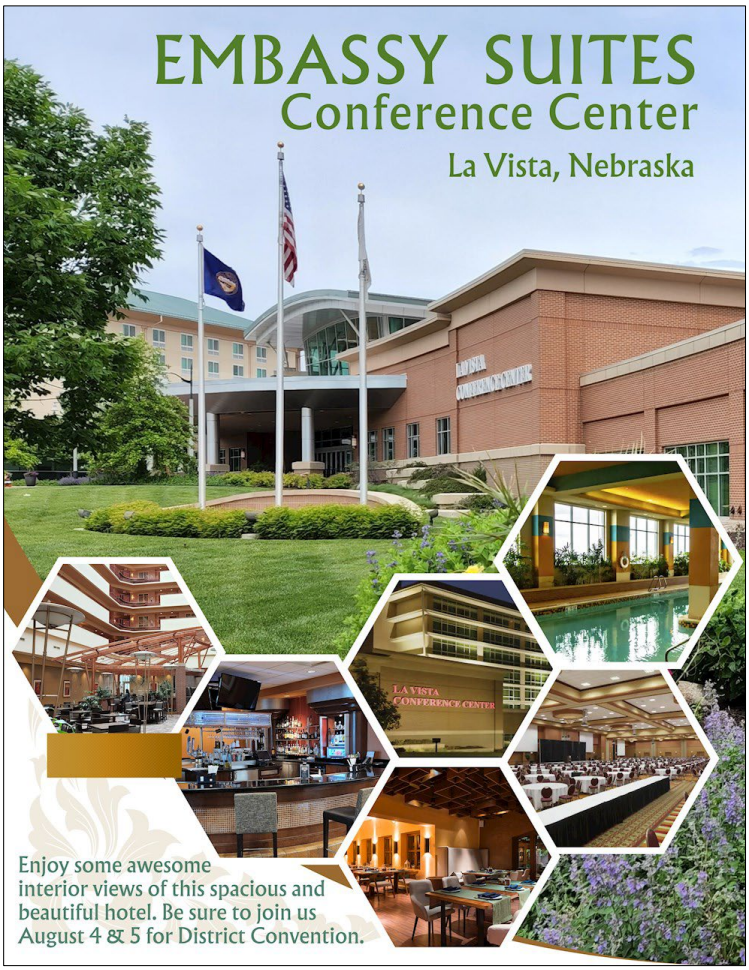
A is for Astronaut



So You Want To Be An Astronaut



Enjoy the Beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center – La Vista, NE



Hotel Location & Nearby Attractions

Located in La Vista, Embassy Suites Omaha-La Vista/Hotel & Conference Center is in the suburbs, a 4-minute drive from Defy Gravity Indoor Trampoline Park and 5 minutes from Tara Hills Golf Course. This hotel is 12.7 mi (20.5 km) from Henry Doorly Zoo and 14.6 mi (23.4 km) from Charles Schwab Field Omaha.

Popular Hotel Amenities and Features

Enjoy recreational amenities such as an indoor pool and a 24-hour fitness center. Additional amenities at this hotel include complimentary wireless Internet access, concierge services, and gift shops/newsstands. Getting to nearby attractions is a breeze with the complimentary area shuttle that operates within 4 mi.

Business, Other Amenities

Featured amenities include a business center, express check-in, and express check-out. Planning an event in La Vista? This hotel has 30000 square feet (2700 square meters) of space consisting of a conference center and a meeting room. Self-parking is available onsite.

About Embassy Suites By Hilton Brand Hotels

Embassy Suites is an upscale, full-service, all-suite hotel chain managed by Hilton Worldwide. It boasts of over 253 locations worldwide targeting both leisure and business travelers. It has another 46 properties in the pipeline. One of the most anticipated addition is the 229-room Embassy Suites in Gulf Shores, which is expected to open in the spring of 2022. The $85 million mixed-used development includes an 11,000 sq. ft. meeting space and a 7,800 sq. ft ballroom.

The hotel chain was a brainchild of the Holiday Corp., under the brand Holiday Inns in 1983. Its first hotel opened in 1984 in Overland Park. Six years after, Embassy Suites was sold to The Promus Companies, Inc., before it joined the Hilton Family in December 1999 with the merger of its new parent company with Hotels Corp. In 2009, it celebrated a milestone with the opening of the Embassy Suites Minneapolis - Brooklyn Center, its 200th hotel.

Embassy Suites is known for its two-room suites with a separate sleeping area and living area. It features an atrium-style layout and long indoor drops. Every guest gets to enjoy a complimentary Evening Reception with snacks and free made-to-order breakfast. Some scenes of the 2017 film Spider-Man: Homecoming was filmed at the Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Center Embassy Suites.





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