



[www.sotosyndrome.org](http://www.sotosyndrome.org)

## **SSSA Conference 2008 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How many people come to the conference?**

Average attendance is about 60 families for a total of 175 people. The majority comes from the USA and Canada and there are usually a few families from overseas too. You'll meet about 50 people with Sotos of all ages from infants and toddlers to teens and adults.

### **Do I have to bring my child with Sotos?**

Most families bring their child with Sotos, especially if it is their first conference. This is the easiest way to meet with one of the medical experts and get definite confirmation of your child's diagnosis and discuss any questions. Some people don't bring their child with Sotos if traveling is difficult or expensive or if they have attended numerous conferences and simply wish to stay in touch with fellow Sotos families. Another consideration is that children with Sotos often appreciate the opportunity to meet other individuals with Sotos who are "just like me". With or without – either way is fine.

### **Can I still have a doctor's appointment if I don't bring my child with Sotos?**

Yes, just bring photos and your child's medical records.

### **Is there an extra charge for a doctor's appointment?**

No, it's included in the conference fee.

### **What about bringing other children?**

We provide professional childcare throughout the conference for all the children with Sotos and their typical siblings. We aim to make sure that all the children have a great time. Many families make the Sotos Conference part of their annual holiday and take the opportunity to visit new parts of the country. Sometimes older siblings benefit from meeting other families dealing with Sotos and learning that they are not alone.

### **What is there for my young adult with Sotos to do at the conference?**

He/She may either register as an adult and attend the workshops, or register as a child/assisted adult and take part in the fun activities on Saturday and Sunday with the older teens.

### **Can I bring my infant to the lectures with me instead of paying for childcare?**

Yes, as long as they are completely quiet. You must be prepared to leave the lecture if they are disturbing anyone.

### **My children don't need supervision (or another friend/relative is coming along to watch them) so I won't be using the conference childcare. Do I need to register them for the conference?**

No, but if they will be attending the Friday evening dinner/entertainment, they still need to pay for their meal. Please contact us for prices. Separate pricing for Saturday lunch or Sunday breakfast is not available.

### **Which meals are included in the conference?**

The registration fee includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast for adults and children. You are responsible for the rest of your meals.

**What airport should I fly to?**

Americans will probably find it cheaper and easier to fly to Buffalo, New York. Canadians and other foreign attendees should fly to Toronto.

**How do I get from the airport to the hotel?**

*Niagara Airbus* provides shuttle service from Toronto and Buffalo airports to Niagara Falls. Advance reservations are required for the Buffalo route and are recommended for the Toronto route. Phone (905) 677-8083 or see [www.niagaraairbus.com](http://www.niagaraairbus.com). There is a 10% discount for booking online.

**What flight times should I book?**

Your flight times depend on whether you want to have a doctor appointment or not. The main part of the conference takes place from 5 p.m. on Friday until Noon on Sunday BUT this does not include the doctor appointments. *First time* attendees will have their doctor appointments on Sunday afternoon. They should arrive at the hotel by 4 p.m. on Friday and stay until 5 p.m. on Sunday. *Repeat* attendees will have their doctor appointments on Friday afternoon. They should arrive at the hotel by Noon on Friday and stay until Noon on Sunday.

**Will I receive confirmation of my registration?**

Yes. We'll e-mail you approximately 2 weeks after we receive your registration forms and payment. Or send you a letter by regular mail if you don't have e-mail (will take about 4 weeks).

**I am a US citizen. Do I need a passport to go to the conference?**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a press-release in January saying that they are delaying the passport requirement for land/sea travel from summer 2008 to June 2009. So, no passports are needed to go to the conference for people who drive across the border. They can get away with birth certificates and driver's licenses. Adults and children crossing by air do need passports. Please contact the DHS for full details.

**I want to make this a holiday too. How can I get tourist information?**

Please see the conference brochure for Niagara Falls tourism websites.

**Where is the next conference?**

The 2009 conference is being planned for Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Hopefully, 2010 will be in the East again but a committee is not in place yet.

**I still have more questions. How can I get more information?**

You can e-mail [conference-questions@sotossyndrome.org](mailto:conference-questions@sotossyndrome.org) or phone 1-888-246-7772 (USA and Canada only) or phone (403) 217-5447 (International, Mountain Daylight Time).