

THE 16TH ANNUAL MSA SHOWDOWN
OFFICIAL REGISTRATION PACKET

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
MARCH 3-5, 2023

*the journey to
divine*

LOVE



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Salam & Welcome to Houston!

Welcome to Houston, Texas! Showdown brings together collegiate MSAs across Texas for friendly competitions, religious lectures, and other events. Showdown is an amazing way to meet and create bonds with Muslim college students from all across the state! InshAllah, this opportunity will allow you to have fun, gain knowledge, and create lifelong friendships — all while growing as Muslims. The **MSA Lone Star Council** and the **UH Muslim Student Association** are excited to welcome you to the [16th Annual MSA Showdown at the University of Houston!](#)

Objectives

- Strengthen the relationships between the MSA Lone Star Council & MSAs in Texas
- Develop brotherhood/sisterhood and facilitate unity among MSAs in Texas
- Develop brotherhood/sisterhood within individual MSAs
- Create and foster an environment for spiritual growth
- Showcase creative talent and skills of Muslim students

Important Links

- Competitions Packet: [available here](#)
- Registration Packet (this packet): [available here](#)
- Registration: [available here](#)
- Website (submission & roster forms): [available here](#)

Theme: The Journey to Divine Love

Abu Darda (RA) reported: The Messenger of Allah (SAW), peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Dawud would supplicate, saying: O Allah, I ask you for your love and the love of those who love you and the deeds that will bring me your love. O Allah, make your love more beloved to me than myself and my family and even cold water."
(al-Tirmidhī 3490)

Allah, the most high, also mentions in a Hadith Qudsi:
"I Am Ar-Rahman. I created the Raham (womb) and derived a name for it from My Name. Hence, whoever keeps it (family ties), I will keep ties to him, and whoever severs it, I will sever ties with him."
(Bukhari 5988)

The word *Rahma* is often translated simply as Mercy; yet that translation is not completely accurate. As stated in a hadith Qudsi, Rahma is closely linked to Rahm (womb). Why did Allah (SWT) link these two words, and hence link His love to a mother's one? A mother's womb exemplifies Rahma's purest meaning. It represents a place of safety and care, where a being is conceived and given unselfish loving care.

Even more than a mother's love, He is constantly there for us, loving us, leading us, guarding us, and supporting our lives down to their most minute elements, even though we don't always recognize or even sense His presence.

Loving each other and loving Allah are deeply intertwined. It's not possible to have one without the other. Someone who loves Allah will also love their family, their surroundings, their friends, their siblings, other believers, and most importantly the Prophet (SAWS).

We must constantly look for His divine Love and show our love for Him through our deeds, our actions, and loving those whom He loves.

Competitions

Basketball (brothers' & sisters')
Volleyball (brothers' & sisters')
Soccer(brothers' & sisters')
Table Tennis (brothers' & sisters')
Dodgeball (sisters')
Flag Football (brothers')
Super Smash Bros (mixed)
Knowledge Bowl
Tajweed
Nasheed
Short Film: Comedy
Short Film: Drama
Promo Video
Public Service Announcement
Art: General 2D
Art: General 3D
Art: Calligraphy
Photography
Event Photography
Performance Poetry
Written Poetry
Ready Writing
Extemporaneous Speaking
Children's Storybook Design
Fashion Design
Digital Scrapbook
T-Shirt Design
#RaceToShowdown2023
Project Sadaqa

& so much more, including social events, spiritual lectures,
and community service opportunities!

Important Deadlines

Registration Costs

Early Registration + FREE shirt (\$40):

Friday, February 3rd by 11:59 PM CT

all competitors should try register by this deadline

Regular Registration (\$50):

Friday, March 3rd by 11:00 PM CT

Click here to [register](#).

Registration is not complete until payment is received. **Individual registration is required.** No refunds will be issued to an individual or MSA that is unable to attend after registering and submitting a payment online.

A participant must be **fully registered** by the submission deadline for their respective competition. **Fully registered** means that the registration form was completed and payment was received. To verify payment, a Stripe receipt will be sent via email to the registrant. All competitors on rosters must also be registered by the rosters deadline.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
Saturday, January 7 th	1:00 PM CT	<u>DUE:</u> T-Shirt Design submissions	All submissions are due here
Friday, February 3 rd	11:59 PM CT	Early Registration (+ FREE Showdown t-shirt) ENDS	\$40 / person
Saturday, February 18 th	1:00 PM CT	<u>DUE:</u> Rosters for Sports (Basketball, Volleyball, Dodgeball, Soccer, Table Tennis, Flag Football, & Super Smash Bros) <u>DUE:</u> Every sports competitor MUST register by this deadline <u>DUE:</u> Rosters for Competitions (Knowledge Bowl, Tajweed, Nasheed (Individual & Group), Short Film (Comedy & Drama), PSA, Art, Photography, Written Poetry, Ready Writing, Performance Poetry, Extemporaneous Speaking, Children's Storybook Design, and Fashion Design)	All rosters should be submitted here
Tuesday, February 21 st	1:00 PM CT	<u>DUE:</u> Individual submissions for Short Film, Written Poetry, and Performance Poetry <u>DUE:</u> Every non- sports competitor MUST register by this deadline <u>DUE:</u> Individual pre-submissions for Photography, 2D & 3D Art, Calligraphy, Children's Storybook Design, and Fashion Design <u>DUE:</u> Team submissions for Short Film, Promo Vide, and PSA	All submissions are due here
Saturday, February 25 th	7:00 PM CT	Mandatory Captains' meeting for all sports	Information will be emailed to all Captains on the Rosters
Friday, March 3 rd	10:00 PM CT	<u>DUE:</u> All Project Sadaqa offline donations #RaceToShowdown2023 ENDS <u>DUE:</u> Digital Scrapbook submissions	Must be turned into an LSC officer or through Venmo/Zelle .All submissions are due here
Friday, March 3 rd	11:00 PM CT	Regular Registration ENDS	\$50 / person
Saturday, March 4 th	10:00 AM CT	<u>DUE:</u> 2D & 3D Art, Calligraphy, Photography, Fashion Design, & Children's Storybook Design	Must be physically checked in at the Art Room (Skyline Room)
Sunday, March 5 th	10:00 AM CT	<u>DUE:</u> Event Photography submissions	Submissions must be emailed to exec@msa-texas.org

General Guidelines

- All Showdown **competitors** must meet the following requirements: be a member of a university/collegiate MSA registered with LSC and 18 years or older. Only current students or alumni who graduated in Fall 2021 or onwards can compete. Alumni that have graduated before Fall 2021 **can attend, but not compete**, at Showdown.
- LSC reserves the right to disqualify or eject any Showdown attendee for inappropriate behavior or suspicion of dishonesty.
- LSC reserves the right to make any changes to the stated rules and regulations, as deemed necessary.
- Plagiarized submissions for competitions are an automatic disqualification. Each competition entry/submission must be unique.
- Any participant who enters a competition late is subject to disqualification at the discretion of the competition's judge(s).
- Participants must be wearing their Showdown wristbands **at all times** and will not be allowed to enter event areas without their wristband.
- Dress code for both brothers and sisters should be **loose fitting and not transparent**. Feel free to wear your school's MSA shirt if available.
- Schools may under **NO circumstances** use or bring any of the following materials:
 - Decorative items or spirit gear that will leave a mess behind (i.e. glitter, smoke bombs, etc.)
 - Items that produce amplified sounds (blow horns, megaphones, etc.)
 - Instruments of any kind (cow bells, drums, etc.)
- We strongly recommend that your school print and bring at least one copy of this packet. It is your responsibility to check [the LSC website](#) for the most up to date versions of this packet.

Event Organizers

MSA LONE STAR COUNCIL		
exec@msa-texas.org		
POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
Chair	Tayseer Abubakar	chair@msa-texas.org
Vice Chair	Abdurrahman Khan	vicechair@msa-texas.org
Secretary	Anjum Mustafa	secretary@msa-texas.org
North Outreach Director	Samar Rawas	northoutreach@msa-texas.org
South Outreach Director	Yazen Hamoudah	southoutreach@msa-texas.org
Treasurer	Sidra Ambreen	treasurer@msa-texas.org
Programs Director	Ammaar Kazi	programs@msa-texas.org
PR Director	Nawal Khan	pr@msa-texas.org
Ex-Officios	Nabeeha Tariq & Aabid Shivji	ex-officio@msa-texas.org
Project ALUM Director	Ameera Khan	projectalum@msa-texas.org

STEERING COMMITTEE		
POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
Showdown Chair	Hossam Mansour	hosam2001man@gmail.com
Competitions Chairs	Zuhayr Haq Sarah Khan	zezuzu2@gmail.com sarahkhan011202@gmail.com
Activity Chair	Mohamad Altabaa	maltabaa123@gmail.com
Sports Chairs	Omayr Irshad Rayana Fadhli	omirshad@gmail.com rfadhli8@gmail.com
Accommodations Chairs	Esmā Kurtlu Muhammad Shekhani	esmazkurtlu@gmail.com shekhani482@gmail.com
Registration Chair	Yara Shokeir	yarashokeir18@gmail.com
Logistics Chair	Shereen Enan	shereenenan@gmail.com
Volunteer Chair	Ibrahim Albaba	ibrahim.albaba@cls.health
Publicity Chair	Sarah Logsdon	sarrahlogs@gmail.com
Judges' Chair	Ambreen Khan	ambreenkhan95@gmail.com
Finance Chair	Hadiqa Imran	hadiqaimran100@gmail.com

Program

NOTE: Final locations & events are subject to change.

START	FINISH	ACTIVITY
F R I D A Y		
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Jummah (Friday Prayer)
5:00 PM	11:00 PM	Registration Check-In
6:30 PM	6:45 PM	Maghrib Prayer
7:00 PM	10:15 PM	Brothers' Tajweed (individuals)
7:00 PM	10:15 PM	Sisters' Tajweed (individuals)
7:00 PM	10:15 PM	Extemporaneous Speaking (individuals)
8:00 PM	10:15 PM	Sisters' Nasheed + LSC Welcome & Intros
8:00 PM	10:15 PM	Brothers' Nasheed + LSC Welcome & Intros
8:30 PM	9:30 PM	Knowledge Bowl - Written (Teams ONLY)
10:15 PM	10:30 PM	Isha Prayer
10:45 PM	12:00 AM	Showdown Intro & Hot Topic

S A T U R D A Y

6:45 AM	7:00 AM	Fajr Prayer
8:00 AM	1:00 PM	Sisters' Volleyball & Sisters' Soccer
8:00 AM	1:00 PM	Brothers' Basketball & Brothers' Volleyball
8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Ready Writing
10:00 AM	6:00 PM	Art Competitions: Gallery Viewing
10:30 AM	1:30 PM	Mixed Super Smash Bros
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Lunch & Duhr
2:00 PM	5:00 PM	Brothers' Table Tennis & Sisters' Table Tennis
5:00PM	5:15 PM	Asr
2:00 PM	7:00 PM	Sisters' Basketball & Sisters' Dodgeball
2:00 PM	7:00 PM	Brothers' Flag Football & Brothers' Soccer
6:30 PM	6:45 PM	Maghrib
7:00 PM	7:45 PM	Dinner
7:45 PM	8:00 PM	Isha
8:00 PM	8:45 PM	Entertainment & Halaqa
8:45 PM	10:45 PM	Performance Poetry
10:45 PM	11:45 PM	Roll Call

SUNDAY

6:15 AM

6:45 AM

Fajr

8:30 AM

9:30 AM

Knowledge Bowl - Finals

9:30 AM

12:15 PM

Film Festival

12:30 PM

2:15 PM

Closing Ceremony

2:30 PM

2:45 PM

Duhr

Prayer Times

The following are the athan times for Houston during the weekend:

Sunni Prayer Times

PRAYER	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Fajr	5:41 AM	5:40 AM	5:39 AM
Duhr	12:35 PM	12:35 PM	12:35 PM
Asr	3:55 PM	3:55 PM	3:55 PM
Maghrib	6:24 PM	6:25 PM	6:25 PM
Isha	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:31 PM

Shia Prayer Times

PRAYER	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Fajr	5:28 AM	5:27 AM	5:26 AM
Duhr	12:34 PM	12:34 PM	12:33 PM
Maghrib	3:53 PM	3:53 PM	3:54 PM
Isha	7:23 PM	7:24 PM	7:25 PM

Hotels

Hilton University of Houston on Campus Hotel

This year, the MSA Lone Star Council has contracted with [UH Hilton](#), which is located on **campus**, right in front of the Student Center. There will ONLY be 50 Double Queen rooms for a discounted rate of \$189. These 50 rooms have two Queen beds that can take 4 students, and the reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. To book a room at UH Hilton, follow the special link below. You may book through your MSA or individually. Check with your MSA president and/or Showdown Coordinator to see where most of your MSA will be staying!

The deadline to book through this contracted rate is **February 10, 2023**, after which the link will be inactive. The booking link is below:

[Booking Link](#)

Additionally, you may choose to book King beds and suites through the regular UH Hilton booking methods. LSC has not reserved these rooms and has not negotiated a rate with UH Hilton.

Hotel Information:

Hilton University of Houston
4450 University Drive, Houston, TX 77204-3028
(832) 531-6300

Additional Hotel Recommendations

Below is a list of other hotel options that your Accommodations Chairs have worked hard to find in Downtown Houston! We highly recommend staying with the UH Hilton Hotel, as it is on campus. However, we understand that UH Hilton is not for everyone and we have listed other locations. The hotels listed below are located on the Downtown MetroRAIL. The convenience of the MetroRAIL is that it runs from UH to Downtown and gives students easy access to popular attractions, such as POST Houston and the Museum District. In addition to the below locations, we also recommend Airbnb and other home rental services.

HOTEL NAME	ADDRESS	BOOKING LINK
Cambria Hotel Houston Downtown Convention Center	4450 University Dr, Houston, TX 77204	https://www.cambriahoustondowntown.com/#_booking
Hampton Inn Houston Downtown	710 Crawford St, Houston, TX 77002	https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/houdwhx-hampton-houston-downtown/
AC Hotel by Marriott Houston Downtown	723 Main Street Houston, TX 77002	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/houac-ac-hotel-houston-downtown/overview/
Hilton Americas – Houston	1600 Lamar Street Houston, TX 77010	https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/houcveh-hilton-americas-houston/
Aloft Houston Downtown	820 Fannin St, Houston, TX 77002	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/houdw-aloft-houston-downtown/overview/

Need additional help?

If you have questions regarding accommodations and booking rooms, or contracting blocked rooms, feel free to contact the **Accommodations Chairs**! If you'd like to see if a brother or a sister would be willing to host you, please contact the Accommodation Chairs listed below and they will be able to help you out. **Please let us know if you are unable to cover for a hotel, and need a place to stay.**

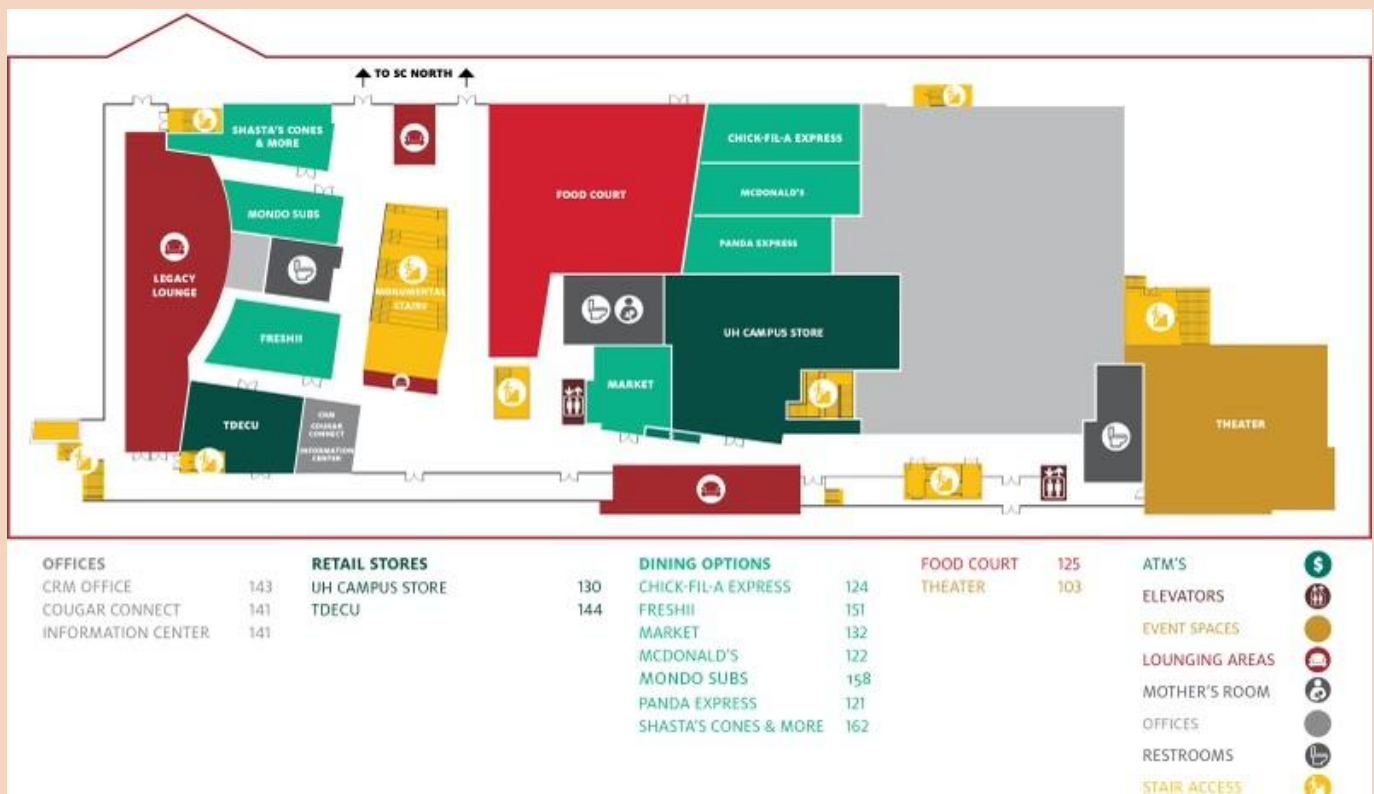
Accommodation Chairs

Sisters - Esma Kurtlu at (470)-967-9236

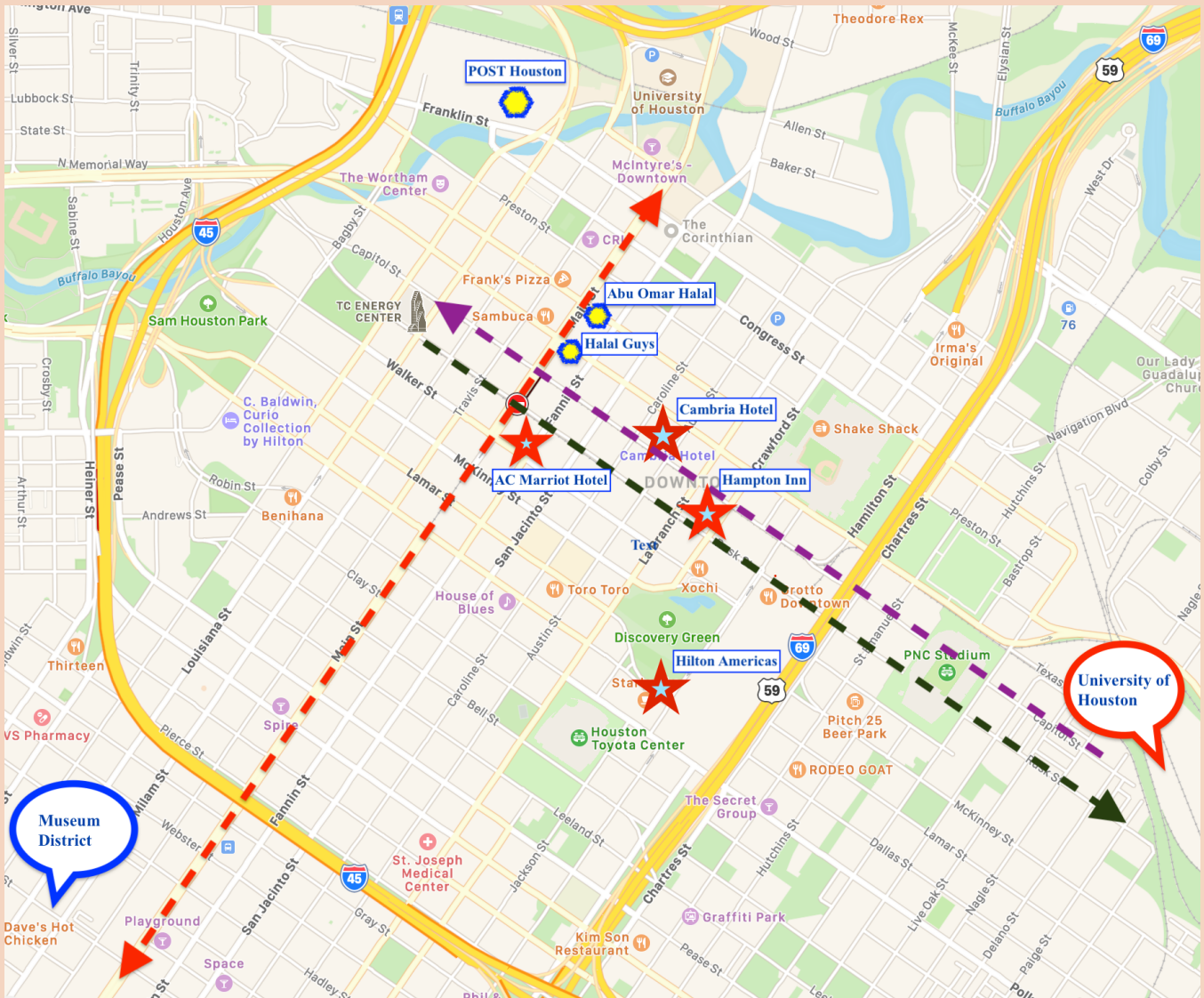
Brothers - Muhammad Shekhani at (832)-709-6594

[illegible]

Non Sport Competition Map



Downtown Houston Map



Transportation

Houston METRORail

Houston Metro has two stops on campus: UH Athletics & **UH South University Oaks**, which is the one closest to the Student Center and the Welcome Garage. **Passengers are not checked to pay, meaning students can and normally do ride for free.** There are 3 Metro lines available:

- **Purple Line** (routes UH Campus to Downtown)
- **Green Line** (routes AWAY from UH Campus) **DO NOT USE**
- **Red Line** (South to North & North to South, starting from Downtown)

How to get to Downtown from the UH Campus:

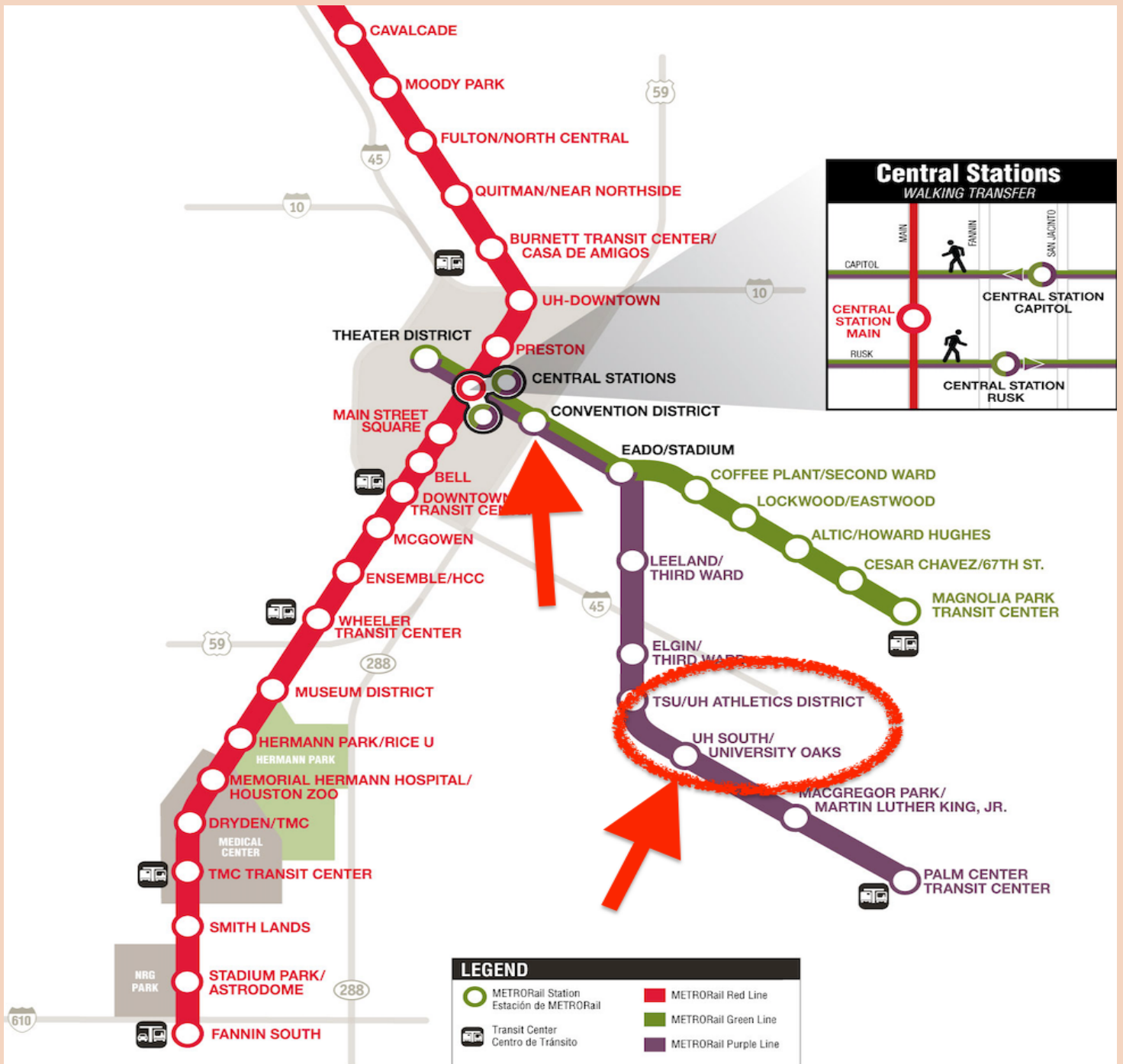
Walk past the Welcome Center Garage to get to the UH South Oaks Metro stop. Get on the train that is headed right and has "THEATER DISTRICT" on its screen. Get off at the "CENTRAL STATION", stop at CAPITOL Street, and walk to your hotel.

How to get to the UH Campus from Downtown:

Walk from your hotel to "CENTRAL STATION" on Rusk Street. Make sure to get on the Purple Line Train that has "PALM CENTER" on its screen. Get off at the "UH SOUTH OAKS" stop and walk to the Student Center.

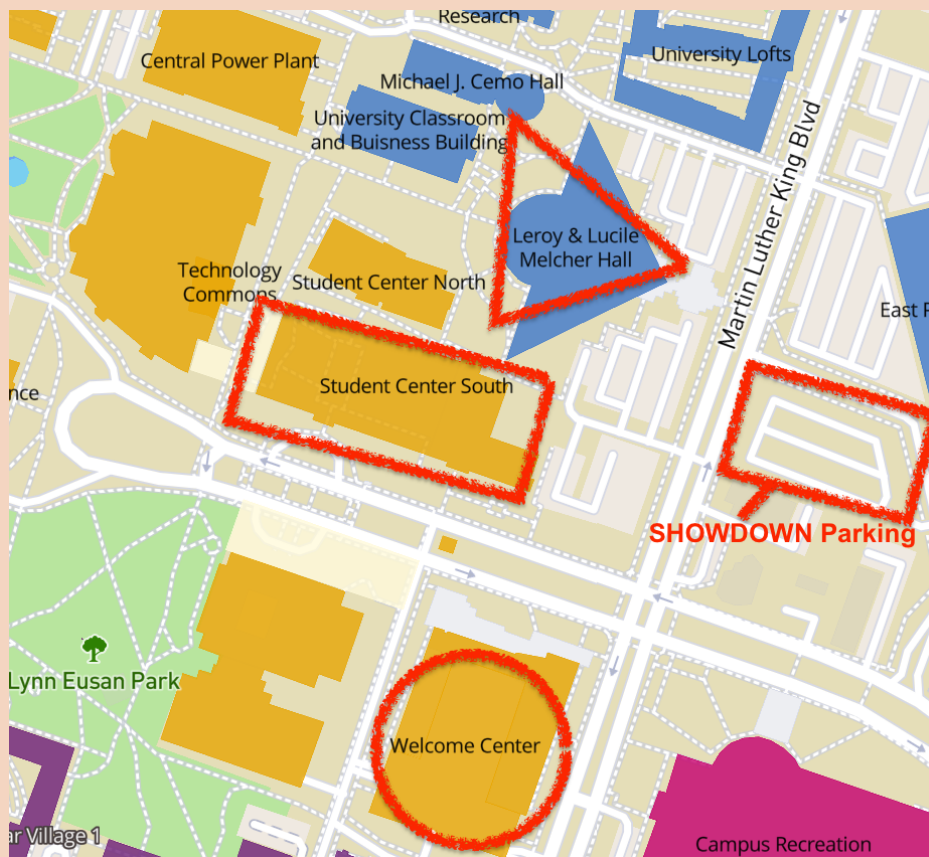
****Disclaimer:** Please ride the METRORail in **groups, never alone**. The train is used freely and has many passengers.**

MetroRAIL Map



Parking

The Steering Committee has negotiated with the University of Houston to get a discounted price for student parking passes at **\$10 per day**. The passes will be purchased upon arrival to the garage. Once you purchase the discounted parking pass, you will be able to park in the Parking Lot (4801 Calhoun Rd, Houston, TX 77004) behind the Student Center, as marked in the map below. Although all of the hotel options have paid parking, students can **leave their car on campus** and take the MetroRAIL back to their hotel. More parking information will be available soon.



****Disclaimer:** Neither the MSA Lone Star Council (LSC) nor the University of Houston Muslim Student Association (UH MSA) is responsible for any parking violations issued by the City of Houston and/or the University of Houston Transportation Department. Please be aware of parking notices and signs!**

Packing List

- THIS packet. It has directions and maps on it so save this on your phone!
- Cash and/or credit/debit cards
 - Saturday's lunch & dinner will be provided, but if you want to go exploring, come prepared!
- Driver's license and school ID with your name, date of birth & photo (for check-in)
- Health insurance card (in case of an emergency)
- Depending on accommodation: Blanket, pillow(s), inflatable mattress, and/or sleeping bag
- Your MSA T-shirt(s)
- Tennis shoes for sports
- Shower supplies & personal items (towels, toothbrush, deodorant, floss, etc.)
- Cell phone & laptop chargers
- First aid supplies & medications
- Reusable water bottle
- Modest attire appropriate for sports, entertainment, award ceremony, workshops, sweaters, and an umbrella
- Salah necessities (hijabs, prayer rugs)
- Positive attitude & sabr (patience)
- School spirit
- Cowboy boots & hat (it's TEXAS y'all!)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I register through my MSA or do I register myself?

- Registration is done [individually](#). Some MSAs may have a form that you're required to fill out so that they can plan lodging & transportation; however, you must still [register yourself with us](#) in order to be considered fully registered for Showdown.

Q: I have an exam that weekend so I can't go. Can I leave Showdown early?

- Yes, you don't have to stay for the entire weekend! While we recommend staying for the entirety of Showdown to gain the full experience, we understand that everyone's circumstances are different. If you need to leave early, let your MSA President/Showdown Coordinator know.
 - If you're participating in a prejudged competition like Written Poetry or Short Film, and aren't able to physically attend Showdown, that's okay! You'll still need to register in order for your piece to be entered and judged in the competition.

Q: I can't come to Friday of Showdown. Is there a way I can still check-in and attend?

- Yes! email exec@msa-texas.org with any concerns and we'll try to figure out a way you can attend showdown.

Q: This is the first time our MSA is going to Showdown. Can someone help us keep track of what to do?

- Absolutely! Please check page 6 of this document for a list of all the documents and forms needed to be done before attending Showdown. Also, please reach out to us via email (exec@msa-texas.org) and our Outreach Directors will follow up with you.

Q: I have a lot of questions about Showdown. Who can I talk to?

- Email exec@msa-texas.org or on social media (@msalsc).

Q: My school doesn't have an MSA but I still want to compete/attend Showdown. Is this possible?

- ABSOLUTELY! On the registration form, be sure to specify your school under "Other". If your school doesn't have an MSA and you'd like to compete in something, contact exec@msa-texas.org, so that we can try to accommodate your request(s).

Q: How can my MSA afford hotel & transportation costs for our members?

- We recommend asking your university's student government for funding, doing fundraisers on campus (bake sales, profit shares, etc.), and asking for donations at the masjid. Additionally, LSC does provide MSAs with [grant funding](#), with certain requirements in place.

Q: What is required for sports jerseys?

- All jerseys **must** be the same color as their team. Numbers must be printed on the back. Names are not required but are encouraged. Jerseys do not need to be fancy or expensive; simple jerseys available at Academy or Wal-Mart suffice. Additionally, jersey designs can be handmade, with the numbers printed on the back of each jersey in bold/fabric paint. Tape is not allowed.

**We look forward to seeing you at the
University Of Houston
for Showdown 2023!**

Jazak Allah Khair!

