

CASL'S GARDEN

2026

GROW BEYOND

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LETTER FROM CASL'S LEAD

Welcome to the CASL State Conference! We are excited to gather student leaders, advisors, and educators from across the state who share a commitment to leadership and positive change. Your presence reflects your dedication to making a meaningful impact in your school communities.

This year's theme, CASL Garden: Grow Beyond, reminds us that leadership is a living, evolving process. Like a garden, it requires intention, care, patience, and adaptability. Growth often comes through challenge and reflection, shaping us into stronger, more resilient leaders.

During this conference, you will plant new ideas, build meaningful connections, and develop skills to support your leadership journey. Step beyond your comfort zone, learn from one another, and remain open to new perspectives.

Engage fully in workshops, collaborate with peers, and embrace every opportunity to grow. Together, let's cultivate a CASL Garden rooted in purpose and resilience which flourishes long after this conference ends.

With appreciation and excitement,
Mike White
CASL Lead



Letter from the

PRESIDENT

A garden doesn't grow by itself.

From the planting of a seed, its emergence as a sapling, and finally to its full bloom, there lies a set of hands, carefully nurturing it and creating a path for growth. Here, at CASL's Garden, we do the same, emphasizing the intention behind that growth: the patience and the belief that something small can become something extraordinary.

From the moment I walked into my first state conference three years ago, I've been inspired by those around me: to emerge, to wonder, and to trust. The community cultivated by this network of brilliant student leaders shaped me into who I am today, and for that, I'm endlessly grateful. The love you pour into our program inspires us to do the same, and we strive to continue to show you all the CASLove we can.

On behalf of the 2025-2026 CASL State Board, thank you for coming along this evergreen journey with us. Let's grow beyond, to shape a flourishing future.

- **Shivansh Kelkar**
'25-'26 CASL State President



1. We will remain on conference grounds unless permitted by an advisor



2. Once it's lights out, we will remain in our rooms and observe quiet hours



3. We will stay with our group & communicate with advisors at all times



4. We will not use phones during general sessions, area rooms, or any time when attention & focus are required

CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

5. We will remain in designated areas according to the conference schedule



6. We will not possess, use, or sell any drugs, alcohol, or tobacco



7. We will be CASL Clean and use respectful language to maintain a positive attitude



8. We will challenge ourselves, support others, & blossom into the leaders we are meant to be

SCHEDULE

Day 1

- 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM REGISTRATION | **LAKE BALLROOM**
10:00 AM - 12:50 PM PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES |
HOTEL PARKING LOT & LAKE BALLROOM
- 01:00 PM - 01:45 PM AREA ROOM 1 | **SEE INSERT**
02:00 PM - 03:15 PM GENERAL SESSION 1 & KEYNOTE |
**GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
(CONVENTION CENTER)**
- 03:30 PM - 04:10 PM ROTATION 1 | **SEE TICKET**
04:20 PM - 05:00 PM ROTATION 2 | **SEE TICKET**
05:00 PM - 05:30 PM SCHOOL MEETING & KEY DISTRIBUTION |
SCHOOL CHOICE (HOTEL)
- 05:30 PM - 05:45 PM MOVE LUGGAGE TO ROOMS |
TENT
- 05:45 PM - 06:30 PM DINNER | **EMPIRE BALLROOM**
05:45 PM - 06:30 PM ADVISOR DINNER | **LAKE BALLROOM**
07:30 PM - 10:00 PM NIGHT ACTIVITIES |
EMPIRE BALLROOM & FOYER
- 10:00 PM - 10:15 PM SCHOOL MEETING | **SCHOOL CHOICE (HOTEL)**
10:45 PM LIGHTS OUT | **DELEGATE ROOMS (HOTEL)**

Day 2

- 07:20 AM - 08:00 AM BREAKFAST | **LAKE GREGORY & LAKE SILVERWOOD**
07:30 AM - 08:00 AM MEET THE PROS SETUP | **EMPIRE BALLROOM**

Meet the Pros First Rotation

- 08:00 AM - 09:10 AM MEET THE PROS | **EMPIRE BALLROOM**
09:25 AM - 10:00 AM ROTATION 3 | **SEE TICKET**
10:05 AM - 10:40 AM ROTATION 4 | **SEE TICKET**

Meet the Pros Second Rotation

- 08:00 AM - 08:35 AM ROTATION 3 | **SEE TICKET**
08:40 AM - 09:15 AM ROTATION 4 | **SEE TICKET**
09:30 AM - 10:40 AM MEET THE PROS | **EMPIRE BALLROOM**

10:50 AM - 11:40 AM ROTATION 5 | **SEE TICKET**
 11:50 AM - 12:40 PM ROTATION 6 | **SEE TICKET**
 12:40 PM - 01:20 PM LUNCH | **EMPIRE BALLROOM**
 12:45 PM - 01:20 PM CANDIDATE SOUND CHECK |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
 01:35 PM - 02:35 PM GENERAL SESSION 2 |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
 02:45 PM - 03:25 PM AREA ROOM 2 | **SEE INSERT**
 03:35 PM - 04:20 PM INTERSTATES | **SEE PAGE 10**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

04:30 PM - 05:15 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL MEET THE CANDIDATES |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
 05:30 PM - 06:00 PM VOTING ROOMS | **AREA ROOMS**

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

04:30 PM - 05:15 PM NORTHERN MEET THE CANDIDATES |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
 04:30 PM - 05:15 PM SOUTHERN MEET THE CANDIDATES |
203ABC
 05:30 PM - 06:00 PM VOTING ROOMS | **AREA ROOMS**

06:00 PM - 06:30 PM GET READY FOR CASL CARNIVAL
 06:30 PM - 09:00 PM CASL CARNIVAL + DINNER |
NORTH PARKING LOT (CONVENTION CENTER)
 09:15 PM - 09:30 PM CANDIDATE MEETINGS | **KELLER PEAK**
 09:30 PM - 10:00 PM SCHOOL MEETINGS | **SCHOOL CHOICE (HOTEL)**
 11:00 PM LIGHTS OUT | **DELEGATE ROOMS**

Day 3

07:15 AM - 07:50 AM BREAKFAST | **EMPIRE BALLROOM**
 07:15 AM - 07:35 AM OLPA REHEARSAL |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
 08:00 AM - 09:00 AM SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE | **AREA ROOMS**
 09:05 AM - 09:40 AM ROTATION 7 | **SEE TICKET**
 09:50 AM - 10:35 AM GENERAL SESSION 3 |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM
 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM AREA ROOM 3 | **SEE INSERT**
 11:45 AM - 12:20 PM CLOSING SESSION |
GENERAL SESSION BALLROOM



KEITH HAWKINS

Keith Hawkins helps people understand the greatness that is bottled up in them and the opportunities that life has to offer them. He attributes his success to leadership and education. Leadership was the launchpad for Keith and through leadership he found his voice. Education taught Keith how to unlearn bad habits that were created through his childhood and learn how to create good habits to take into his adulthood. Keith Hawkins is now an international speaker that speaks and conducts programs to over 400,000 students, parents, educators, leaders, and businesses annually.

As a youth motivational speaker, Scott has dedicated his life to doing one thing: inspiring teens through speaking at their level. He has been featured on TV and radio as a student leadership expert and has presented to over 100,000 teens from coast to coast around North America. Witty by nature, caring at heart: for Scott, this is merely the tip of the iceberg. Scott's quirky yet powerful style and message speak to students on their own level, helping them to understand the true potential they hold.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jessie is a certified life coach with leadership training from the University of Notre Dame, plus degrees in psychology and social work. She's spent 18 years speaking to over a million teens nationwide. A six-time published author and professional vocalist, she has released five albums, toured 36 states, and recorded vocals featured on shows like America's Got Talent and ESPN. She's turned down multiple record deals to stay true to her values and is now pursuing a doctorate focused on resilience and critical thinking. Jessie blends research, storytelling, humor, and music to teach four proven tools that help students make strong choices and elevate their lives.

JESSIE CLARK-FUNK



SCOTT BACKOVICH



ARE YOU READY TO



GROW BEYOND?

GROWING BEYOND IS ADAPTING TO ONE'S CHALLENGES, BECOMING AWARE OF YOUR RESOURCES, AND THRIVING IN ANY CHANGE THAT COMES IN LEADERSHIP.

INTERSTATES

ROOM	LOCATION
Rose	100A
Daisy	100B
Tulip	103
Sunflower	104B
Lily	105
Lavender	106
Jasmine	107A
Petunia	107B
Poppy	107C
Hydrangea	200A
Marigold	200B
Foxglove	200C
Wisteria	201AB
Dahlia	202AB
Orchid	203ABC
Iris	204

WORKSHOPS

Shivansh Kelkar - It Takes One Throw

Leading a team means putting others before you, and developing a team mindset. Join us as we uncover how leaders create an effective culture, practice consistency, and inspire — one throw at a time.

Donovan Rudish - The Greatest

This workshop explores the timeless question: What does it mean to be great? Through science, history, and personal experience, we will define greatness and how we want it to shape our lives.

Blake Kim - Find Your Tune

Find your tune by defining empathy and its significance in contributing to an effective team and supporting a community.

Siddharth Hosakere - The Inner Drive

Lead with fire, not just duty. Discover how passion fuels energy, purpose, and inspiration. Through interactive challenges and personal reflection, we will discover how to transform our passions into powerful tools for influence and change.

Austin Cheeseman - Curiosity Over Comfort

Let's talk about changing our mindsets to seek struggle and discomfort, and see it as an opportunity for growth, not failure. It's about pushing yourself to prove what's possible within you.

Aseel El-Fiky - In Their Shoes

This workshop dives into the power of perspective and how it shapes leadership. Through interactive activities and real-life scenarios, delegates will explore different leadership styles and learn how understanding others' views can lead to stronger, more empathetic leaders.

Natalie Navarro - Did You Forget?

In this workshop, delegates will learn about the importance of gratitude and how it can change our lives. Not only will we discuss gratitude for our privileges, but we will also focus on gratitude for the people surrounding us.

Mariah Juarez - Your Story Your Shelf

In a world controlled by technology, we often use resources in ways that limit us. In this workshop, you will learn strategies and explore resources to ensure that your creativity is not lost while using technology.

Jay Bhimani - Same Shoes Different Sizes

In this workshop, students will learn the importance of equity over equality. Through interactive activities and hands-on displays, students will learn the necessity for giving people what they need, and more importantly, how to identify and provide for those needs.

Sunjana Kaur - Beneath the Surface

This workshop will explore how leaders can practice humility to stay grounded and self-aware when leading others. Delegates will discover how leading with humility forms stronger relationships and a larger impact.

WORKSHOPS

Jake Munzaa - Speak Up & Speak Out

Step into your power as a student advocate! In this workshop, we'll uncover real issues in our schools and turn our ideas into action that makes a difference.

Step into the spider-verse and unmask your inner hero. Discover your superpowers, take a leap of faith and remember who you are beyond the suit.

Jakob Bassham - Behind the Mask: Beyond the Suit

Samuel Zamora - Legacy: Leading Beyond Today

Delegates will explore the concept of legacy – what it means to leave a lasting impact through actions, values, and service. With reflection, discussion, and hands-on activities, delegates will identify the kind of leader they want to be and create a personal legacy plan.

Taylor Arun - The Silent Superpower

Students will develop their understanding of the two-way road in communication. We will work on emphasizing the roles of the listener and the speaker to observe how they can work together with efficiency.

Isaac Logan Rosas - "You Choose: LIFE"

You will reflect on your futures and what you feel you need to do to achieve your goals. Learning how to believe in your own future/paths and how to stay committed, no matter what obstacles LIFE throws at you, because you choose your own Life.

Madison Paek - The Regulator:

Just as Regulatory T-cells keep the immune system in balance, effective leaders sustain stability by regulating themselves and their teams. This workshop empowers student leaders to cultivate clarity, composure, and purpose in the face of challenge.

Shane Speck - Flight Plan

Hardship. Struggle. Challenge. Adversity wears many faces but none strong enough to keep us down. Falling is fate, rising is choice. Together, we'll take flight and prepare for whatever lies ahead.

Janvi Balakrishnan - One Step at a Time

Discover how small actions lead to monumental changes in your life. This workshop will unlock the key to being consistent with your goals to build your confidence.

Hannah Bautista - Find Your Gold

Discover your most authentic self through reflection and interactive activities. Learn how to lead with your uniqueness and become your own blueprint.

SOCIAL MEDIA



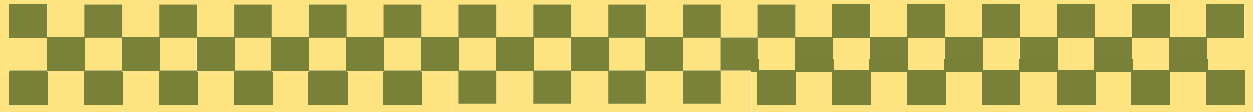
FOLLOW US ON @CASLEAN

SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

This year, the CASL Service Committee has worked to address the educational resource gap: the unequal access to learning materials and opportunities that many students face due to their geographic location or financial circumstances. Throughout the year, the Service Committee has worked intentionally to raise awareness of this issue by meeting with experts, launching an online social media challenge, and eventually culminating in the Service Learning Experience at CASL's Garden. The educational resource gap remains a prevalent and pressing concern in today's society, continuing to impact millions of students on a daily basis. We hope the conference will provide students with the tools, perspective, and motivation to take action in their own communities and advocate for equitable access to education for all.



CASL MARKET



CASL Hoodies

In the quiet habitat of the modern wardrobe, the hoodie emerges as a resilient, fleece-lined species, its soft canopy and sheltering hood adapted perfectly to the cool climates of early mornings and drifting autumn air.



Fanny Pack

The fanny pack appears along the waistline like a compact marsupial of the urban plains, a zippered pouch poised at the hip, storing its small provisions while traveling lightly through crowded terrain.



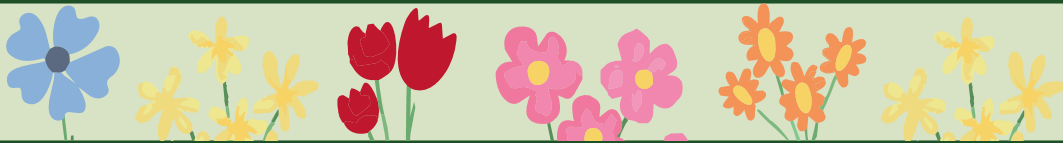
Beanie

Perched at the crown, the beanie settles like a migratory cap of knit plumage, insulating against brisk winds and clinging close in the colder climates of street and summit alike.



FIND THIS & MORE AT CAJON PEAK





OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AWARD

AREA A

Concord High School | Douglass Middle School | Excelsior Middle School | Grant Union High School | Hiram Johnson High School | Modesto High School | Nevada Union High School | Ripon High School | Summerville High School | Whitney High School | Winston Churchill Middle School

AREA B

Monta Vista High School | Westmont High School

AREA C

Dinuba High School | Hanford West High School | Madera High School | Matilda Torres High School | Washington Intermediate School | Roosevelt High School

AREA D

Arroyo Grande High School | Carmel High School | Monterey High School | Nipomo High School | North Monterey County High School | North Salinas High School | Salinas High School

AREA E

Bellflower Middle/High School | Chino High School | Chino Hills High School | John A. Rowland High School | Quartz Hill High School | San Dimas High School | West Ranch High School | William J. Pete Knight High School | Santa Fe High School

AREA F

Brookhurst Jr High School | Canyon Springs High School | Fred Newhart Middle School | Hillcrest High School | Hook Junior High School | John F. Kennedy High School | Kraemer Middle School | La Quinta Middle School | Legacy Magnet Academy | Loara High School | Murrieta Valley High School | Orange Vista High School | Temescal Canyon High School | Thompson Middle School | Travis Ranch Middle School | Tuffree Middle School | Valley View High School | Vista del Lago High School | Vista Murrieta High School | Yorba Linda Middle School | Lakeview Leadership Academy

AREA G

Mt. Carmel High School | Sage Creek High School | Westview High School | San Marcos High School



ROTATION SPEAKERS



Weston Van Soest is a 19-year-old social media content creator and college student passionate about encouraging others to pursue their full potential. After facing rejection from his dream school, Weston began leaning into his creativity, using video and storytelling to open new doors. What started as posting content in his college dorm quickly turned into a growing platform, reaching nearly 2 million followers across social media. Weston's journey has been shaped by failure, persistence, and faith. From competing on Beast Games as the youngest contestant to inspire content creation full-time, he continues to use his platform to inspire others, spread positivity, and show that success isn't about having everything figured out.

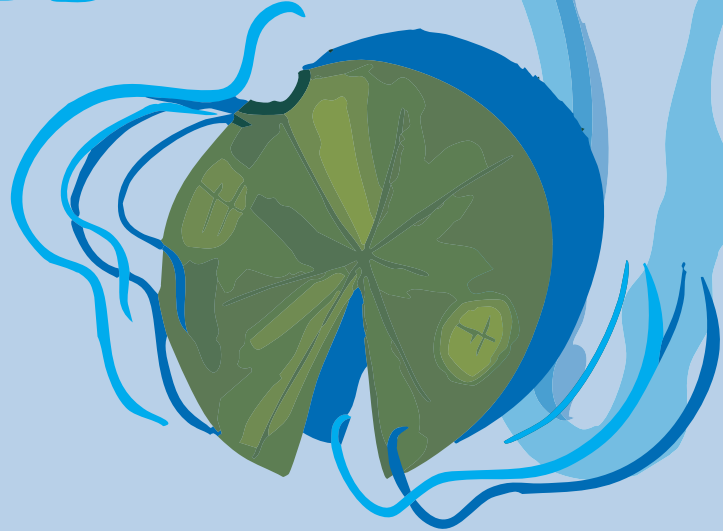
Kevin and Stu are two classroom teachers who've become deeply involved in guiding the future of student connection. Driven by their unique stories and passion for public speaking, they formed the Chalkboard Agency which hosts a variety of unique stories and lessons each with different anecdotes given by different people. Together, they've presented to more than 1 million students and are continuing to inspire students to walk with intention.



SPONSORS

PLATINUM

Band App
Herff Jones
Lifetouch Studios
Pegleg Entertainment
SOS Entertainment

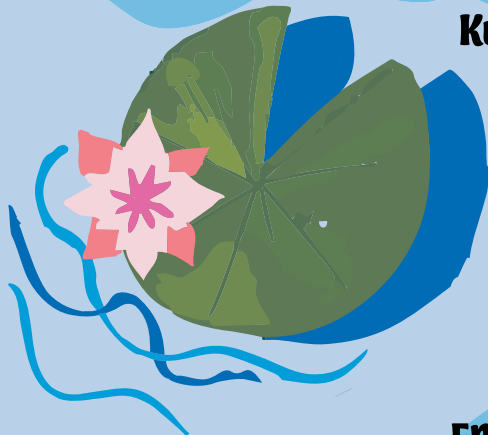


GOLD

AllStar Events & Venues
Top Youth Speakers

SILVER

All Action Awards | Audio Dynamix
California Canopy | Freestyle Event Services, Inc.
Harmony Confetti FX | Jostens, Inc.
Kustom Imprints | LifeStream Blood Bank
Pmmnp | Spirit Sox USA, LLC
Vocab T (OneStone Apparel)



COPPER

5-Star Students | Active Entertainment
CoolSpeak | Dr. Laymon A Hicks
Digital4Good (#iCANHELP) | Dee Hankins
ENVOLVE Schools | Event Group SF | ignite2unite
FSP Designs | Groove Factor Entertainment | Kate Garnes | Learning for Living
Keith Hawkins Real Inspiration, Inc. | Mier's Ice Cream | LED Entertainment
MiNGA | Lucca Petrucci Coaching, Consulting & Speaking | TILL360 (Joe Beckman)
Six Flags Entertainment Corporation | The "Amazing" Tei Street | WorldStrides

BRONZE

Bossgraphics Wall Murals | Dynamx Digital | First Class Events
Larry Livermore Co - The Marker Man | Swell Productions |
T- Graphics West Inc

Interested in...

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND MEDIA?

**Apply to be a Media Director
for the 27'-28' CASL state board!**

WITH MUCH CASLOVE,
'25 - '26
MEDIATEAM





**THANK YOU
2025-2026
CASL BOARD**



**Shivansh Kelkar
Donovan Rudish
Sunjana Kaur
Siddharth Hosakere
Austin Cheeseman
Aseel El-Fiky
Blake Kim**

**Mariah Juarez
Jay Bhimani
Natalie Navarro
Jake Munzaa
Jakob Bassham
Samuel Zamora
Madison Paek**

**Isaac Logan Rosas
Taylor Arun
Shane Speck
Hannah Bautista
Jayden Morash
Janvi Balakrishnan
Vivian Zhang**

Melissa Edsall
Dinah Greene
Christina Hillman
Joe McMahon

**THANK YOU
CADA BOARD
AND
VOLUNTEERS**

Bonnie Bagheri
Nestor Cerda
Lindsey Charron
Paul Chylinski

2025

Bryan Speed
Valerie Tapia
Erin Tobias
...and more!

2026

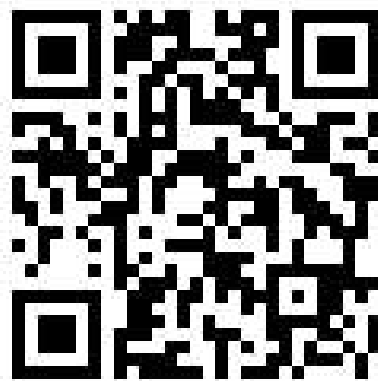


COMMUNICATIONS

See the CADA/CASL Events App
to stay in the loop at
CASL's Garden!



Middle School



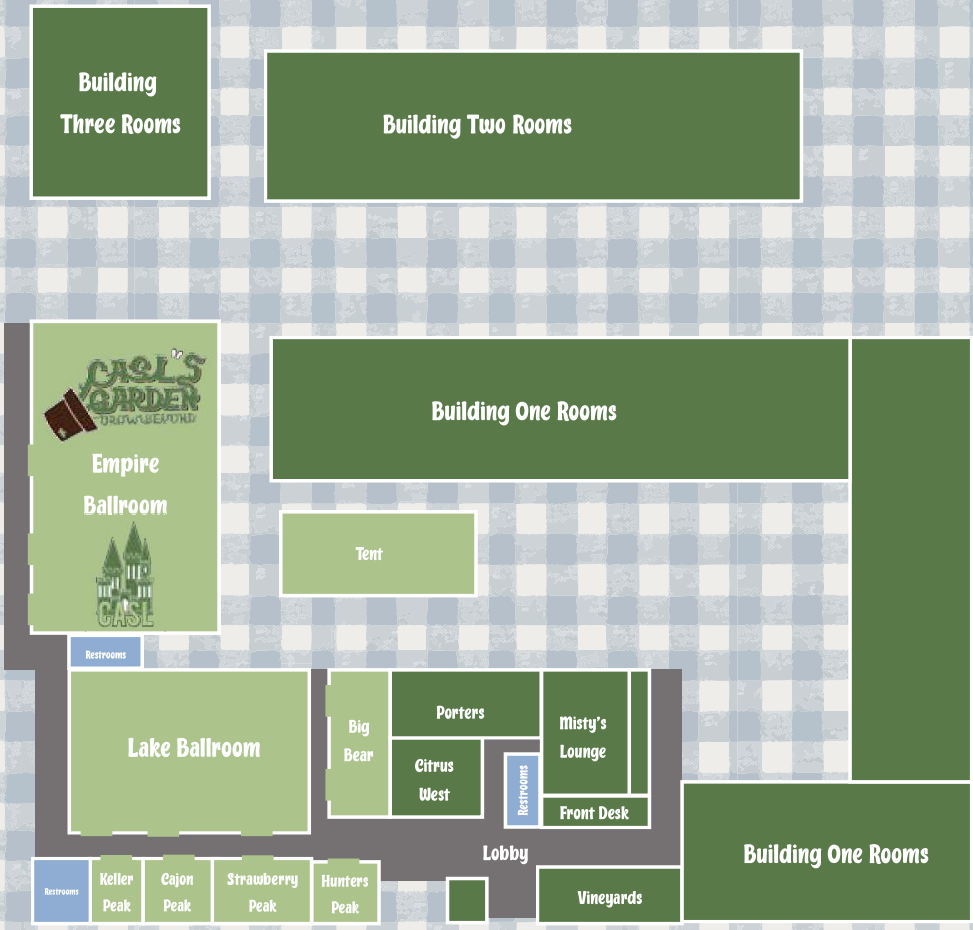
High School

AUTOGRAPHS

DOUBLETREE HOTEL

To Convention Center ↑

Hotel Parking Lot

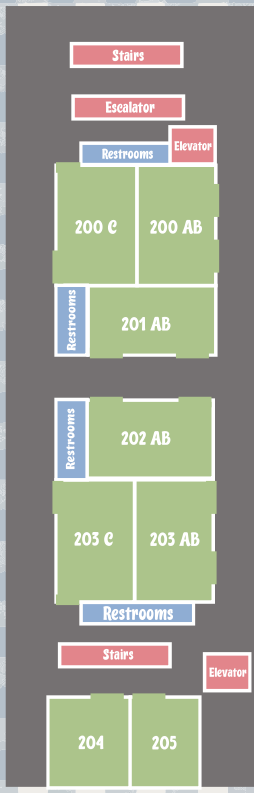
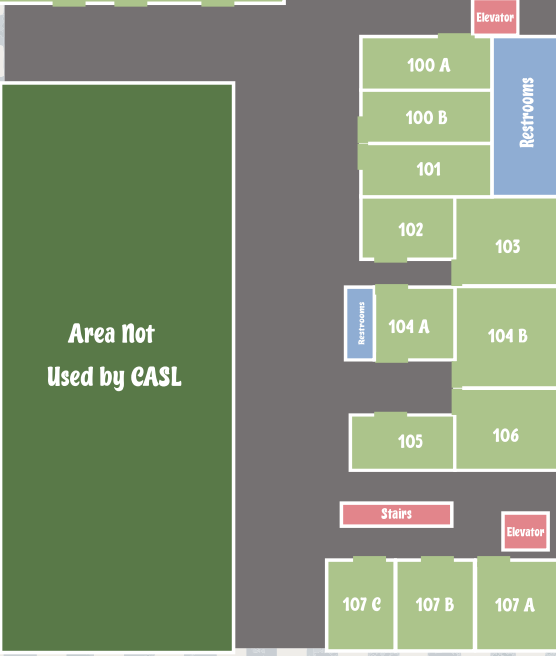


← To Hotel



First Floor

Second Floor



CONVENTION CENTER MAP