

SACS 2026

PRESENTING
THE 52ND ANNUAL SACS MEETING

July 16th-19th, 2026
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT, FL



SOUTH ATLANTIC CARDIOVASCULAR SOCIETY



AN INVITATION FROM OUR CHAIR

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society (SACS), I am pleased to invite you to join us at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Florida, July 16–19, 2026, for our 52nd Annual Meeting.

Each year, SACS brings together cardiovascular specialists from across the Southeast and beyond to discuss and debate challenging clinical cases in a collegial and relaxed setting. Distinguished leaders and innovators in our field will present cases and facilitate interactive discussions — allowing us to learn from one another's successes, and failures alike.

Hot topics for 2026 will include the transcatheter and surgical management of mitral annular calcification, the lifetime surgical management of aortic valve disease, longevity medicine in cardiology, novel coronary uses of drug coated balloon and optimal imaging techniques in patients with polyvalvular heart disease, among many other relevant and practical clinical topics in cardiology and cardiac surgery.

We are honored to welcome ACC President Dr. Christopher Kramer as our keynote speaker this year. We will also continue our highly successful hands-on skills and demonstration area, offering physicians and APPs valuable one-on-one training opportunities in collaboration with our industry partners.

In addition to our educational programming, we have planned a variety of family-friendly social events, including a Welcome Reception, Friday Family Dinner, a Saturday night adults-only dinner with a concurrent Youth Party, and our Sunday Family Brunch.

On a personal note, I have been attending this meeting since childhood, as my father is a cardiologist from Georgia. It has been incredible to watch SACS grow over the years while remaining true to its core belief — learning from one another. It's a meeting my family and I look forward to each year, as we've built lasting relationships through this conference.

I hope you will make plans to join us at Amelia Island.

— Michael Johnson, MD Chairman, SACS 2026

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SACS TITANIUM AND PLATINUM SPONSORS



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Outside of the educational sessions, the social activities are a very important part of the conference, providing opportunities for families to come together in a relaxed, laid-back setting.



SACS 2026 CHAIRS



**CHAIRMAN,
SACS 2026
MICHAEL JOHNSON, MD**
Piedmont Heart
Institute — Augusta
Augusta, GA

Dr. Johnson is a practicing structural and interventional cardiologist at Piedmont-Augusta Hospital. He is also the medical director of the Piedmont-Augusta Heart Institute. He attended the University of Notre Dame for undergraduate and Georgetown University for medical school. He completed Internal Medicine residency at the University of Virginia. He then completed General Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology and Structural Cardiology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. He lives in Augusta, Georgia with his wife and four children.



**CO-CHAIRMAN,
SACS 2026
JOHN FREDERICK, MD**
Sanger Heart and
Vascular – Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Dr. Frederick is a practicing cardiac surgeon with specialty expertise in complex aortic surgery at the Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina where he serves as the Co-director of the Aortic Center and Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. He attended the University of Texas for both undergraduate and medical school, and completed his surgical training at the University of Pennsylvania.

SACS 2026 STEERING COMMITTEE

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Michael Johnson, MD
Piedmont Heart Institute – Augusta

CO-CHAIRMAN

John Frederick, MD
Sanger Heart and Vascular
Institute – Charlotte

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Program
Medical Director, LVAD Program
MedStar Heart and Vascular Institute
MedStar Washington Hospital Center
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Cardiovascular Surgeons
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University of Florida, Gainesville
Kerry Schwartz, MD
Florida Heart Group
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University of Florida, Gainesville
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Ezequiel Molina, MD
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Jimmy Stewart, MD
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Vinod H. Thourani, MD
Dept. of Cardiovascular Surgery
Marcus Heart & Vascular Center
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VIRGINIA

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UVa Health System
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TCV Surgery
John Saxon, MD
UVa Health System
Angela Taylor, MD
UVa Health System
Behnam Tehrani, MD
Inova Heart and Vascular Institute
Leora Yarboro, MD
UVa Health System



CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION CE ACCREDITATION



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Amedco LLC and South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society (SACS). Amedco LLC is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Amedco Joint Accreditation #4008163.



APP 2026 CHAIRS



**CHAIRWOMAN,
APP 2026
EILEEN DEARTH, PA-C
UVA Health
Charlottesville, VA**

Eileen Dearth is a practicing cardiovascular Physician Assistant at UVA Health. Her primary clinical role is surgical, in the operating room. She also serves as the APP manager for the ambulatory, inpatient step-down unit and operating room teams. She attended Syracuse University for undergraduate and James Madison University for PA school.



**CO-CHAIRWOMAN,
APP 2026
MADHUREE EARNSHAW, PA-C
Piedmont Heart Institute
Atlanta, GA**

Madhuree Earnshaw is an accomplished cardiac surgery Physician Assistant currently practicing at the Piedmont Heart Institute, part of Piedmont Healthcare. In her clinical role, she provides comprehensive care across the full spectrum of cardiac surgery, including inpatient management, outpatient services, clinic responsibilities, and operative support in the OR.

She serves as the lead Physician Assistant for one of the busiest cardiac surgeons at Piedmont, Dr. Vinod Thourani, demonstrating leadership, advanced clinical expertise, and a strong commitment to delivering exceptional patient outcomes.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Emory University and went on to complete her Master's degree in Physician Assistant studies at Quinnipiac University. Her career began in nursing within cardiac surgery, and she has remained dedicated to the field throughout her professional journey.

Outside of her career, she is a proud parent of twins, who are her greatest source of inspiration.

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS



Our interactive format is unique to SACS and sets our conference apart from others.

The SACS Annual Meeting is an educational conference that features new and practical strategies related to the treatment of common and complex cardiovascular disease. Each year scientific information and timely topics are presented and debated in an interactive format.

Over the course of the three-day conference, participants and colleagues share knowledge, debate techniques and procedures, present case studies, and learn from one another in a relaxed, open dialogue atmosphere.

This interactive format of the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society's educational sessions, combined with the conference's relaxed atmosphere, is what makes SACS unique from other conferences. Our program features distinguished speakers who are prominent leaders in current issues, technology, and treatment of the cardiac patient. Most presentations include case studies and are designed to encourage audience participation and lively debate between attendees. This format is unique to SACS and sets our conference apart from all the others. In addition, Exhibitors and Sponsors are invited and encouraged to attend all educational sessions and social events.

2025 CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

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Phillips
Shockwave
SynCardia Systems, LLC
Zimmer Biomet

SACS CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tentative; subject to change

THURSDAY, JULY 16TH

4:30pm – 5:30pm
Meet and Greet with Exhibitors

5:00pm – 6:30pm
APP Cases
Eileen Dearth, PA-C & Madhuree C. Earnshaw, PA-C

FRIDAY, JULY 17TH

6:00am – 7:00am
Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:00am – 7:05am
WELCOME
Michael Johnson, MD

7:05am – 7:45am
Surgical and Transcatheter Strategies for MAC
Moderator: Kenan Yount, MD
Speakers: Leora Yarboro, MD; Vinod Thourani, MD & John Saxon, MD

7:45am – 8:15am
Cath Lab Disasters
Moderators: Nyal Borges, MD & Terence Hill, MD
Speakers: Ryan Crisel, MD & Ben Holland, MD;

8:15am – 8:45am
Order of Operations:
Transcatheter Management of Polyvalvular Disease
Moderators: Jonathan Schwartz, MD & John R. Spratt, MD
Speakers: Matt Summers, MD & John Lisko, MD

8:45am – 9:15am
Contemporary Management of Surgical Maze Procedure & LA Closure
Moderators: Newton Wiggins, MD & Michael Hoosien, MD
Speaker: Trent Magruder, MD

9:15am – 9:45am
Break with Exhibitors

9:45am – 10:15am
Peri-operative use of MCS in Cardiac Surgery
Moderators: Leora Yarboro, MD & Ezekiel Molina, MD
Speaker: Jack Haney, MD

10:15am – 10:45am
Ross versus Mechanical AVR in Patients < 55-year-old
Moderators: John Frederick, MD & TBD
Speaker: Jared Beller, MD

10:45am – 11:15am
Evaluation of Pathologic Left Ventricular Hypertrophy
Moderator: Chris Kramer, MD
Speaker: Deepa Upadhyaya, MD

11:15am – 11:45am
The Science Behind Endurance Athletics
Moderators: Pascha Schafer, MD & TBD
Speaker: Dave Anderson, MD

11:45am – 12:15pm
Beyond ISR: Novel Uses of Drug Coated Balloon
Moderators: Nyal Borges, MD & John Lisko, MD
Speaker: Bill Nicholson, MD

1:00pm – 6:00pm
Advocate Health SACS ACHD Symposium

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH

6:00am – 7:00am
Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:00am – 7:05am
WELCOME

7:05am – 7:35am
Lead Management in the Era of Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Therapies
Moderators: Newton Wiggins, MD; Michael Hoosien, MD & Matt Summers, MD
Speaker: Jimmy Stewart, MD

7:35am – 8:05am
Surgical Disasters
Moderators: Parijat Didolkar, MD & Curtis Bryan, MD
Speakers: Eric Pruitt, MD & David Hobson, MD

SACS CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tentative; subject to change



8:05am – 8:35am
Bioprosthetic vs Mechanical AVR in 55–65-year-old Population
Moderators: John Frederick, MD & Jared Beller, MD
Speaker: John R. Spratt, MD

8:35am – 9:05am
Managing Acute Right Heart Failure: Axial Flow vs ECMO vs Medical Management
Moderators: Ezequiel Molina, MD & Madhuree Earnshaw, PA-C
Speaker: Ahmad Zeeshan, MD

9:05am – 9:35am
Break with Exhibitors

9:35am – 10:05am
Preventive Cardiology for the Cardiologist
Moderators: Pascha Shafer, MD & David Ike, MD
Speaker: Nishant Shah, MD

10:05am – 10:35am
Current State of TAVR Explant
Moderators: Vinod Thourani, MD & Eileen Dearth, PA-C
Speaker: Kenan Yount, MD

10:35am – 11:05am
TBD
Moderators: TBD
Speakers: TBD

11:05am – 11:30am
The SACS Experience: Perspective from Dr. Kevin Accola
Moderators: David Ike, MD & Ray Johnson, MD
Speaker: Kevin Accola, MD

11:30am – 12:15pm
Keynote Address from ACC President Chris Kramer, MD
Moderators: Michael Johnson, MD & John Frederick, MD
Speaker: Chris Kramer, MD

1:00pm – 5:20pm
Advocate Health SACS ACHD Symposium

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH

7:30am – 10:00am
Break with Exhibitors

8:00am – 8:30am
Management of Early Valve Failure in Low Risk TAVR Patients
Moderators: Hannah Woodard, NP & Jimmy Stewart, MD
Speaker: Jonathan Schwartz, MD

8:30am – 9:00am
Optimal Imaging Strategies for Patients with Multivalvular Heart Disease
Moderator: Deepa Upadhyaya, MD
Speaker: James McNamara, MD

9:00am – 10:00am
Case of the Year

9:30am – 11:00am
Farewell Brunch



2026 VENUE: OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT

To receive the discounted rate for SACS, you can use the booking links below OR you may call the Reservations Desk at 1-800-843-6664 and state you are with the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society Meeting.

Hotel - [SACS Annual Meeting 2026 | Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa | Omni Hotels & Resorts](#)

Villas - [SACS Annual Meeting 2026 | The Villas of Amelia Island | Amelia Island Vacation Rentals](#)

HOTEL

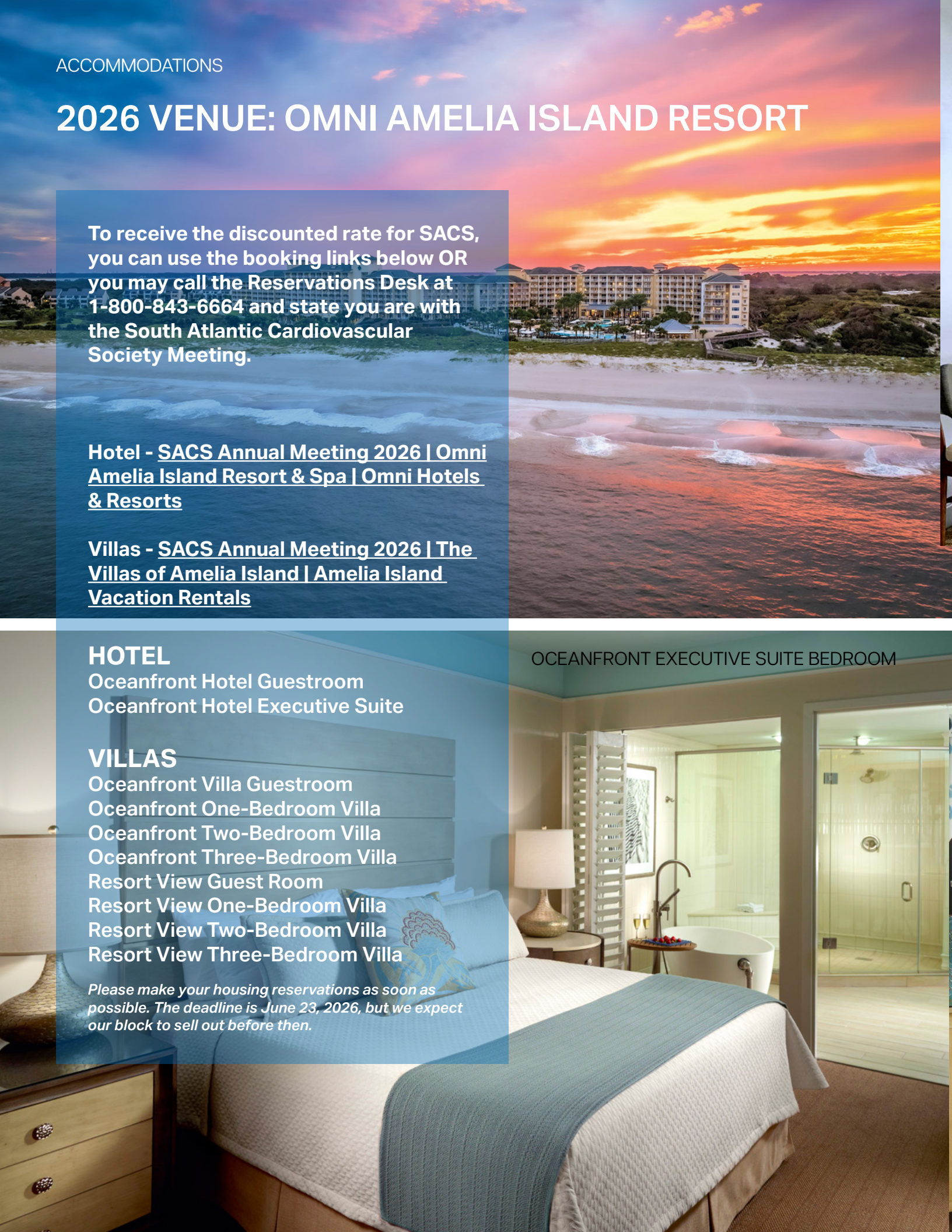
Oceanfront Hotel Guestroom
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VILLAS

Oceanfront Villa Guestroom
Oceanfront One-Bedroom Villa
Oceanfront Two-Bedroom Villa
Oceanfront Three-Bedroom Villa
Resort View Guest Room
Resort View One-Bedroom Villa
Resort View Two-Bedroom Villa
Resort View Three-Bedroom Villa

Please make your housing reservations as soon as possible. The deadline is June 23, 2026, but we expect our block to sell out before then.

OCEANFRONT EXECUTIVE SUITE BEDROOM





OCEANFRONT BEDROOM



REGISTRATION

Click [HERE](#) to Register to Attend or visit www.sacsconference.com.
If you have questions please contact heather@sacsconference.com.



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