INTERNATIONAL
POSTDOC
SURVIVAL
GUIDE

Modified from the St. Vincent Charity Medical Center (SVCMC): An Intern’s Survival Guide & Spiritus

Medical University of South Carolina
Postdoctoral Association
International Association

Edited: Summer 2017

Disclaimer:
The resource handbook was compiled by postdocs for postdocs using information available at MUSC, public resources and personal experiences. MUSC does not review, edit or endorse any items from this guide. MUSC is not responsible for the content, completeness, accuracy, or timeliness of every page that can reach from the guide. Any recommendations will be highly appreciated, and can be submitted through the Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs (http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/grad/post_doc_resources/Office_of_Postdoctoral_Affairs/Postdoctoral_Affairs).
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Medical University of South Carolina. Following quite a while of seeking, submitting applications, going for interviews, discovering lodging, and visa applications, you are at last here to set out on yet another energizing section of your life. Typically, the following couple of days will be loaded with fervor, worry and anxiety. Things may appear to be overpowering. In any case, take comfort that a great deal of global postdocs like yourself have been through a similar ordeal and SURVIVED!!!

One can't resist the urge to feel like a fish out of water, when adjusting to new environment, new culture, and that everything must happen quick! For a few people driving on the correct side of the street will be an issue. Those of us who have never observed a city beneath sea level will soon must be utilized to the likelihood of flooding and rain boots. The wellbeing framework is distinctive. Patients and companions will have an alternate culture and will act in routes counter to what one may expect in your nation of starting point. With everything considered, being an outsider in the US is an overwhelming test. Be that as it may, you don't need to do it isolated! What makes this handbook uncommon is the soul of comradeship and solidarity that structures the MUSC postdoc group. We trust that this guide will be a profitable asset as you set out on this new experience and settle in to your part as a MUSC postdoc. Rest guaranteed, your move can be a smooth one, with a little assistance from companions!

ABOUT THIS SURVIVAL HANDBOOK

This survival handbook is a broad-based collection of resources at MUSC and in the greater Charleston community that students, postdocs and faculty might find helpful in their personal and professional lives. The harbinger of this handbook was the consequence of coordinated effort between the MUSC International Programs Office and the Postdoctoral Scholars Association. It was gotten eagerly crosswise over grounds and was circulated generally. The intrigue gathered has prompted the current extended rendition of the guide, which is the consequence of a communitarian exertion.

Medical University of South Carolina is dedicated not only to caring for the body, but also for the mind and the soul. This is a place where compassion is more than just a word - it is a vision. It provides tremendous vital medical, surgical and emergency care resource for patients. In terms of research MUSC's motto is “changing what's possible”. As you embark on your journey as an MUSC postdoc, take pride in the contributions your work will make toward this mission. Your work as a postdoc is important and will change what is possible in terms of patient care, outcome, and treatments.
1. PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

A. General Information
   - U.S. Port of Entry Arrival Procedures for Exchange Visitors: Advance preparation prior to entry can ensure delays are minimal. If you are an exchange visitor, here are some guidelines to follow:
   - Travel arrangements and payment for travel arrangements are the responsibility of the J-1 visitor. Do NOT make travel arrangements until you have all required documents.
   - Before leaving your country, confirm that your original Form DS-2019, passport and J visa are still valid for entry into the United States. The passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected arrival.
   - Check to see that your visa accurately reflects your correct visa classification.
   - For your initial entry, if the visa identifies the exchange program in which you are participating, verify that this information is accurate as well. If your review indicates any discrepancies or potential problems, visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to obtain a new visa.
   - Exchange visitors entering the United States for the first time under their respective nonimmigrant visa classification may only be admitted up to 30 days before the program start date in SEVIS, and up to 30 days after the program start date in SEVIS. If the date you plan to arrive in the U.S. changes, please let your department mentor know as soon as possible so that IPSO can make the necessary adjustments in SEVIS. You will not need a new DS-2019 if the dates in SEVIS are within the 30-day window.
   - When you travel, you should carry some specific documents on your person. Do not check them in your baggage! If your baggage is lost or delayed, you will not be able to show the documents to the Customs and Border Protection Officer and, as a result, may not be able to enter the United States. See list of documents below

B. Documents you should carry on your person
   - Valid passport (including attached envelope of immigration documents) with nonimmigrant visa
   - SEVIS Form DS-2019
   - SEVIS I-901 FMJ fee receipt or Internet Receipt verifying SEVIS Fee payment.
   - Evidence of sufficient financial resources.
   - Name and contact information for the Responsible Officer (RO) at your intended program.
   - Writing instrument (pen).

C. For more detailed information visit
   - U.S. Customs and Border Protection
   - U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
   - Foreign Embassies/Consulates in the U.S.

D. Find Housing
   - The University offers resources for current or incoming students for locating housing both housing and roommates. You can view current available housing listings, create your own listing for renting/selling a property, and/or find a roommate to move in with you. http://www.mymuschousing.com
2. POST-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

A. Airport transit

- **Public Transportation (about 60 minutes)**
  Easy and affordable way to Charleston downtown is to take bus - CARTA Route 11 (runs every ½ hour) or CARTA Express bus X4 (runs every 1 hour). When you arrive at the airport, follow the signs for public transportation/CARTA. The bus stop at the airport is located near the passenger pick-up area and the rental car pickup lot. The downtown stop is located at Meeting St./Mary St. right next to the Charleston Visitor Center in the center of Downtown Charleston. The bus fare is $2-$3.50 per person and is free if you already have your MUSC badge. Make sure you have the exact fare, as bus drivers cannot make change most of the time. [http://www.ridecarta.com](http://www.ridecarta.com)

- **Taxi (about 30 minutes)**
  The 12-mile ride costs about $25-$30 for 2 passengers (+ $14 extra charges per additional passenger). For non-metered rides make sure you agree on a fixed rate beforehand. Taxis are plentiful and easy to find. Uber and Lyft are other economic options if you have a smart phone and can get that app.

- **Shuttles - Charleston Airport Shuttles, Charleston International Airport Shuttle, Mt Pleasant Shuttle**
  There is also a CHS airport shuttle service to Downtown Charleston. It departs roughly every 15 minutes, and is $14.00 + tip per person. Advanced reservations are not necessary. The shuttle is a shared ride, so be prepared to make several stops depending on how many passengers there are. The shuttles and taxis leave in front of the terminal building, outside of baggage claim area.

B. **To-do-list (first 3 days upon arrival)** *First two listed are most important*

- **Get to know the International Office (IO) and find out who your International Scholar Advisor is.** [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/international/staff.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/international/staff.html) The international office is located at 45 Courtenay Drive, MSC 175, 4th Floor Harper Wellness Center

- **Make friends with the MUSC Postdoctoral Association** by attending one of the events advertised or contacting one of the officers listed on page 2 of this handbook

- **Visit important offices on campus and submit the necessary paper work:**
  i. Human Resources 19 Hagood Avenue, Suite 105 - MSC-800, Phone: 843-792-2071 Fax: 843-792-9533
  ii. Payroll Main Office Number 843-792-4343, Fax number 83-792-5185 Payroll FAQ’s [https://www.musc.edu/vpfa/finance/controller/payroll/faqas.htm](https://www.musc.edu/vpfa/finance/controller/payroll/faqas.htm)
  iii. Benefits [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/university/benefits/index.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/university/benefits/index.htm)

- **All new employees must complete their I-9 forms within the first 3 business days** (MUSC Payroll).

- **For J1 and F1 visa holders keep your SEVIS records updated including**
  i. New/different mailing address
  ii. Different financial information
  iii. Add dependents

  **Note:** Provide this information to your International Scholar Advisor to update your SEVIS records

C. **Get to know your Academic Department**

  i. Department administrative contacts to find out where to get your keys and other required/necessary forms (i.e. for purchasing)
  ii. Your supervisor/sponsor
  iii. Other colleagues in your department
iv. Check in with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
   http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/grad/post_doc_resources/Office_of_Postdoctoral_Affairs/Postdoctoral_Affairs
v. Apply for a Social Security Number/Card (SSN)
vi. Open a bank account
vii. Set up your email account after receiving your NetID
viii. Get a MUSC ID
ix. Apply for a State ID or Driver’s License

D. Salary Information
   • Q: Is MUSC paying uniform postdoc salaries?
   • A: Your salary depends on your PI and is decided in consultation with the Associate Dean for post-doctoral affairs and is not necessarily uniform across campus. Information for average postdoctoral salaries at MUSC might be available here: https://www.glassdoor.com/Salary/Medical-University-of-South-Carolina-Charleston-Salaries-EI_IE34885.0,36_IL.37,47_IM161.htm


F. Most postdocs at MUSC are paid from research grants and categorized as “postdoctoral scholars.” Other receive a stipend and categorized as “postdoctoral fellows.”

G. Banking and Finances
   • Below is a map of all ATMs located on campus at MUSC:

   ![Map of ATMs at MUSC](image)

   • There are many local banks to select from, the above list is not complete, but is representative of banks located on campus. For establishing your first credit card account, you may need to get a secured credit card. Make sure to call and check with the bank if they offer this option for internationals and make an appointment.

H. Visa, i-9 compliance
   • Please follow the instructions for New Employee Orientation
     http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/university/new_emp/
   • After you receive clearance from Employee Health Services, please visit Human Resources in Harborview Office Tower, Room 105 to complete new hire paperwork. To verify work eligibility, please bring identification found on the list of acceptable documents for the Form I-9 and Department of Homeland Security E-Verify program. We also ask that you bring a copy of your social security card to verify the number with the Social Security Administration to ensure proper reporting of your wages. International
employees are required to provide their Visa and any supporting documentation (I-797, I-94, etc). For inquiries, please call the Office of International Support at (843) 792-7083 or the Department of Human Resources Management (843) 792-2237.

I. Information for Dependents
J. Documentation for covered dependents
K. H1-B Dependents
L. J1 Dependents

M. Health insurance and other insurance info
- Please be advised that the health insurance may only cover part of your expenses. Some offices include separate fees for both facility use and doctor’s fees/services. You may also be responsible for a co-payment at the time of your visit depending on your insurance plan. Make sure you are familiar with the benefits you have available to you as part of the insurance plan you select. Annual routine/preventative care services may be covered as benefits in some insurance plans. Additional information on coverage, options, and selection of insurance plans will be given during orientation.
  - [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/university/benefits/insurance/ins_health.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/university/benefits/insurance/ins_health.htm)
  - Insurance Eligibility
  - Employee Benefits Information

N. Social Security Office - [link](#)
- For getting your first social security card, you will need
  i. Employer’s letter
  ii. Passport showing valid visa
  iii. Pay stub/salary statement
  iv. Address proof/lease/utility bill
  v. Valid I-20/DS2019

O. State ID/ Driver’s License for Internationals - [link](#)
- You will need:
  i. A letter stating you’re the resident of South Carolina from MUSC international office
  ii. A letter stating you have a job from your employer/PI/department
  iii. A rental car /insurance in your name
  iv. Proof of address
  v. Passport with valid visa
  vi. Employment authorization card/valid I-20/DS2019 other forms of ID if applicable
  vii. Utility bill

P. Ethnic and General Supermarkets, Pharmacy
- H and L Asian Supermarket- North Charleston (5300 Rivers Ave, Charleston, SC 29406)
- India Spice- West Ashley (1694 Old Towne Rd Charleston, SC 29407)
- Saigon Supermarket- North Charleston (7671 Northwoods Blvd, N. Charleston, SC 29406)
- Lucky Oriental Market- North Charleston (5341 Dorchester Road North Charleston, SC 29418)
- Euro Foods- West Ashley (1727 Ashley River Rd, #3, Charleston, SC 29407)
- Harris Teeter- Downtown (290 E Bay St, Charleston, SC 29401)
- Food Lion- Uptown (1015 King ST, Charleston, SC 29401)
- Rite Aid Convenience and Pharmacy- Downtown (261, Calhoun St, Charleston, SC 29401)
- Walgreens Convenience and Pharmacy- Downtown (380 King St, Charleston, SC 29401)
Q. Hurricanes & Other Emergencies

- Make sure you are registered with the MUSC alert system and notify the International office if you do not have your own transportation in case of an eminent hurricane. Visit the link below to view MUSC’s Severe Weather Plan or register for MUSC ALERT- MUSC’s emergency notification system.

- To receive emergency notifications through the MUSC Alert System including SMS text messaging, voice messaging, and desktop alerts, please register for the MUSC Alert Emergency Notification System at [www.musc.edu/muscalert](http://www.musc.edu/muscalert)


- [Charleston County Evacuation Routes](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/operations/Risk%20Management/emergency/)

- [SC Emergency Evacuation Preparation](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/operations/Risk%20Management/emergency/)

- [Red Cross Evacuation Shelters in SC](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/operations/Risk%20Management/emergency/)
3. LIFE AT MUSC

R. **Wellness Center**
   - Access to the MUSC Wellness Center is open to all University students & staff. Cost is $60 per month. It is located at 45 Courtenay Drive, Charleston, SC 29425. All members have access to the facility, plus group fitness classes. [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hsc/facilities/index.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hsc/facilities/index.html)
   - Visit the MUSC employee wellness website [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/ohp/employee-wellness/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/ohp/employee-wellness/)

S. **Meal Card Services**
   - The MUSC Debit Card system is a cashless system that allows MUSC employees the freedom to purchase their meals with the quick swipe of their ID badge (purchases deducted from payroll directly). The debit card can be used at any of the MUSC dining areas. [http://www.muschealth.org/nutrition/dining/debit-card.html](http://www.muschealth.org/nutrition/dining/debit-card.html)

T. **Tax (Federal and State) Services**
   - **International Tax Information**
   - Tax seminar - International Programs hosts an International Tax Seminar in February.
   - Tax forms must be filed every year by April 1st and there are services and software’s that International tax seminar educates about.
   - **Contact**
     - David de Werff – [dewerff@musc.edu](mailto:dewerff@musc.edu)
     - Controller’s Office
     - Phone: 843-792-2732
     - Fax: 843-792-5185

U. **Student Activities**
   - The Office of Student Activities and Student Programs is located inside the MUSC Wellness Center at 45 Courtenay Drive, Charleston, SC 29425.

V. **Daycare & Lactation Stations**
   - MUSC Hospital Administration provides employee breast pumping space outfitted with a Medela Symphony pump (you must supply your own Symphony breast pump kit).
   - **Lactation Consultation Service**
   - **Pump Room Consultation**

W. **Psychological Services and Counseling at the Residents Clinic (Postdocs)-Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**
   - “As an employee at MUSC, you encounter many new experiences which challenge your personal strengths and require new problem-solving skills. EAP seeks to facilitate your growth and development by helping you to enhance your personal assets, increase your self-understanding, and develop more effective coping strategies. Through our services we hope to help you gain the most from your experiences at MUSC.”
   - [http://www.muschealth.org/psychiatry/professionals/eap.html](http://www.muschealth.org/psychiatry/professionals/eap.html)
   - For students, MUSC offers counselling services by appointment at CAPS [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/caps/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/caps/)

X. **Some Religious Centers near campus**
   - St. Matthew’s German Evangelical Lutheran Church (405 King St, Charleston, SC 29405)
   - Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (110 Calhoun St, Charleston, SC 29401)
   - St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church (89 Hasell St, Charleston, SC 29401)
• Congregation Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (90 Hasell St, Charleston, SC 29401)
• Hindu Temple and Cultural Center (1740 Jervey Ave, Charleston, SC 29407)
• Charleston Central Mosque (1082 King St, Charleston, SC 29403)
• Charleston Tibetan Society (12 Parkwood Ave, Charleston, SC 29403)
4. DIVERSITY INCLUSION & ORGANIZATIONS

Z. Postdoctoral Association (PDA)
   - Like and follow the MUSC Postdoctoral Association on Facebook to keep up to date on all events, socials, trainings and seminars around campus!
   - Get subscribed to postdoc list serve (email Dr. Ed Krug)
   - Check the PDA website (URL above) for current events and happenings around town and on campus as well

AA. Toastmasters Club (for communication skills)
   - [https://musc.toastmastersclubs.org/](https://musc.toastmastersclubs.org/)

BB. iSpeak (English as 2nd Language)
   - [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/international/english.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/international/english.html)

CC. Apple Tree
   - “The Apple Tree Society seeks to foster dialogue and activity related to the scholarship of health professions teaching through campus and national partnerships.
     
     **Goals:**
     i. Expand the faculty development opportunities related to teaching and learning on campus and beyond.
     ii. Initiate programs that recognize and enhance the value of the scholarship of teaching and learning.
     iii. Explore and support innovative methods and technologies for teaching and learning.
     iv. Promote professional development of current and future educators across all colleges.
     v. Foster networking opportunities and conversations about teaching, learning, and educational technology.”
     - [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/appletree/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/appletree/)

Below are some other student organization on campus that can be resourceful

DD. Office of Student Diversity
   - The Office of Student Diversity offers information regarding campus diversity workshops/programs, Multicultural Student Organizations on campus, financial opportunities for multicultural students, and much more. It is located at 45 Courtenay Drive (SW 213), Charleston, SC 29425.
   - [https://www.musc.edu/diversity/](https://www.musc.edu/diversity/)

EE. Graduate Student Association (GSA) (for students)
   - “The MUSC GSA is comprised of all students of the MUSC College of Graduate Studies.
   - The purpose of the GSA is:
     i. To serve as a liaison between the graduate students and the administration and faculty.
     ii. To provide a forum for the discussion of matters pertaining to the welfare of graduate studies.
     iii. To aid in the process of integrating new students into the graduate school.
     iv. To sponsor social and community activities to improve student life in the graduate school.
     v. To provide representation for the graduate student body on the MUSC Student Government Association (SGA).”
     - [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/grad/gsa/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/grad/gsa/)
FF. MUSC Student Government Association (SGA) (for students)
   • “The Student Government Association (SGA) at the Medical University of South Carolina provides a collective voice of students on campus with administration and the community. In addition, the SGA provides a variety of events and activities each year to enhance the student experience.”
   • https://www.musc.edu/sga/

GG. Multicultural Student Organization
   • A list of current Multicultural Student Organizations on campus at MUSC can be found at: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/grad/mgsa/

HH. International Student and Scholar Association
   • A list of current International Student and Scholar Association staff members on campus at MUSC can be found at: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/international/staff.html

II. MUSC Asian Student Association (MASA)
   • http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/student-handbook/Organizations/univwide.html

JJ. Presidential Scholars (for students)
   • The Presidential Scholars program is an inter-professional scholars program here at MUSC. The goal of this program is to bring together students from various health professions and explore issues in healthcare collaboratively.

KK. Student Leadership Society (for students)
   • “The purpose of the MUSC Student Leadership Society is to recognize those students who have made notable contributions to the university through their character, service and commitment to enhancing the university environment or in their actions and activities that reflect positively on the university. Students selected for the Society personify the ideals of the University as being caring, compassionate, ethical, proficient and creative individuals who have demonstrated the qualities needed to be effective leaders and members of inter-professional teams. They may be taking their programs of study on campus or online.”
   • https://www.musc.edu/studentprograms/studentleadership.html
5. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT RESOURCES

LL. Controller’s Office
   • Susie F. Edwards, CPA
     Controller
     843-792-5400
     Campus Mailing Address:
     Controller’s Office
     19 Hagood, Suite 505
     MSC 817
     Charleston, SC 29425-8170
   
   • Hours of operation:
     Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.
     Cashier’s Office
     Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
   • http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/finance/controller/

MM. International Programs
   • “MUSC Center for Global Health is committed to the internationalization of MUSC by providing appropriate
     services and support to international members and various University departments and offices. MUSC
     Center for Global Health seeks to enhance the academic, cultural, and social pursuits of students and
     scholars from abroad through knowledge and expertise in advising and cross-cultural programming. In
     addition, the office plans and promotes opportunities for cultural exchanges for everyone on campus and in
     our community through programs that enhance understanding of people’s differences and similarities.”
   • https://www.musc.edu/international/

NN. International Support Services
   • Rebeca Mueller
     University of South Carolina, BS
     RMIT University Vietnam, CELTA
     Harper Student Center
     Room 454
     Phone: 843-792-2156
     FAX: 843-792-0433
     muellemr@musc.edu
     http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/international/staff.html
   
   • Denise Smith
     Immigration Program Officer
     fowled@musc.edu
   
   • Erin Huley
     Immigration Program Coordinator
     huley@musc.edu
6. PUBLIC SAFETY

00. Escort

- The Medical University Department of Public Safety is committed to ensuring a safe environment for all students, employees and visitors at the University. To encourage personal safety, the campus escort service program was initiated. It provides personal safety escorts twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
  
i. [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/publicsafety/services/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/publicsafety/services/)

- Please take advantage of this service. Call 843-792-2261 and provide the following information to the dispatcher:
  
i. Your Name
  ii. Current Location
  iii. Baggage (if any)
  iv. Destination
  v. Physical description of yourself
7. TRANSPORTATION

PP. Affordable ridesharing service

- Uber
- Lyft

QQ. CARTA (Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority)

- Free to MUSC employees with a badge. CARTA offers local routes downtown and commuter routes from adjacent towns such as Mt. Pleasant, West Ashley, North Charleston, James Island. Connects local malls such as Citadel Mall and Northwood Mall.
- CARTA Bus Tracker
- MUSC Bus Schedules

RR. Office of Parking Management

- Help members of the MUSC community and MUSC customers obtain services and solutions for their MUSC-related parking and transit needs.
- Employee Parking Service
- Employee Parking Rates
- Parking during emergency weather conditions
- MUSC Carpool Program
- Campus Parking Map

SS. Car sharing

- Budget car rental and car ownership (from $8.50/hr and $69/day) – Zip Car
- Includes Gas, Insurance, and up to 180 free miles very day ($25 one-time non-refundable application fee)

TT. Buying cars

- Paperwork for buying a car in SC
- Lemon Law in SC (allows your vehicle’s manufacturer a certain number of repair attempts over a certain amount of time before it will likely need to either replace your defective vehicle or refund your money)
- Yelp’s 10 best Car Dealers in Charleston, SC
- Kelly blue book for car appraisal before buying it

UU. MUSC-affiliated Bike Rentals

- The entire MUSC Community is invited to attend the launch event for Charleston’s first official city-wide bike share program - Holy Spokes, Map of Corral Locations.
- Through this partnership, there is an exclusive pricing plan for all MUSC care team members (all university and health system team members) -- no annual fee and 60 minutes FREE ride time per day! For more information and to sign up, see the instructions below.

- MUSC exclusive discount details:
  - Annual plan for MUSC Care Team Members: $0 – annual plan fee waived!
  - 60 minutes of FREE ride time per day ($6/hour after initial 60 minutes)
  - 24/7 Access - Access to 25+ Corrals City-Wide
  - Four corrals on the MUSC campus: MUSC Horseshoe; MUSC Jonathan Lucas; MUSC Wellness Center and; MUSC Basic Science Building
8. EMPLOYEE PERKS

VV. MUSC Employee Perks & Discounts
- There are many different employee and student perks and discounts through MUSC. An updated list of the latest deals is available at: https://www.musc.edu/medcenter/index.htm
  i. (Click on "Employee Resources" at the top, then Perks and Discounts”)

WW. Charleston County Parks
- The Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission will improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs, and services.
- The park system features over 11,000 acres of property and includes four land parks, three beach parks, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, a historic plantation site, 19 boat landings, a skate park, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. The park system also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs, volunteer opportunities, and more.
- Charleston County Park Pass