

Consuite FAQs

1. Why doesn't the consuite serve meals?

The consuite serves snack food primarily. Our mission is to ensure that we always have some kind of food available whenever the consuite is open. We do not have the budget or staffing to serve meals for hundreds of people. However, the snack food we have available is designed to cover a wide variety of types of food. We have meats, cheese, vegetables and fruits as well as cakes, cookies, breads, chips, candy and nachos. In addition some of our wonderful volunteers supplement the basic offerings with special foods as well. These are different each year.

2. Why isn't the consuite open 24 hours a day?

Consuite is open from after opening ceremonies on Friday to 2 am Saturday morning, then open from 8 am Saturday morning to 2 am Sunday morning, then open from 8 am Sunday morning to after closing ceremonies. We do not have the level of staffing needed to keep the consuite open for 24 hours a day. Remember, that all of our staff are volunteers, and the consuite head can't stay awake for 72 hours straight. Closing down at 2 am means the consuite head can get 4 hours of sleep before arriving at 6:30 or 7 to clean up the mess from the night before and start the coffee and put out breakfast food.

3. Why do we have canned pop instead of a soda fountain?

Unfortunately, only the Pepsi company still has the old fashioned soda fountains for rent, and they have only two for the entire state of Iowa. The newer fountains require us to run a water line, which the hotel does not allow, and which is really not possible with the current setup anyway. One advantage of canned pop is that there can be more of a selection of types of soda pop. We currently have Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Sprite, Dr. Pepper, Orange Crush, and Root Beer. Those who remember the fountain days when we had only Dr. Pepper and Diet Rite products may judge for themselves if this is better. It turns out to also be less expensive.

We keep the canned pop cold on ice in the bathtub and in the purple tub at the front of the consuite. For this reason, occasionally you may need to reach through ice or ice water to get your beverage. Non-chilled soda is available upon request. The hotel has water stations everywhere, so we do not usually have bottled water.

4. Why isn't there alcohol in the consuite?

This is due to the extreme cost of insurance without which we can't risk serving alcohol to the public. Insurance is roughly the cost of the entire consuite budget for the two days which we would need to have it. The only alternative would be to have the hotel

set up a bar and either charge by the drink (ie, not free) or pay the really huge fees for alcohol by the drink ourselves which would vastly inflate cost of the consuite and convention. Alcohol is available at room parties, since, as private parties they can serve drinks without the legal constraints the convention has.

5. What can I do to help?

Volunteer! We always need help setting up, tearing down, and running the consuite. There is nearly always something that needs doing, from stocking food, to washing dishes, to bringing out more pop, and to just be there so that the consuite head can occasionally get away. We'd love to have you!