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CHESAPEAKE, VA. LAUNCHES STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR MEETING PLANNERS
Gateway to Savings program offers credit rebates for meetings booked in Chesapeake

CHESAPEAKE, Va., May 4, 2009 – In this time of economic adversity, the city of Chesapeake, Va., understands that businesses are more conscious than ever about their travel expenses. To help make meeting travel and accommodations a bit easier on the wallet, Chesapeake Conventions and Tourism is offering meeting planners and businesses their own stimulus packages in the form of the new Gateway to Savings program, which offers a credit of up to \$3,000 toward any meeting or convention booked in Chesapeake through December 31, 2009.

From April through December 31, 2009, businesses, sports groups and tour & travel organizations holding events in Chesapeake are eligible to participate in an exclusive rebate program. Events that have a two-night minimum will earn \$1,000 for booking 50-100 rooms, \$2,000 for 101-150 rooms, and a full \$3,000 for 151+ rooms.

Need to book a meeting for next year? The Gateway to Savings Program rewards groups for thinking ahead. To demonstrate dedication to savings, Chesapeake will extend the event date deadline to December 31, 2011 for multiyear meetings. That means that groups who book meetings for 2010 and 2011 before this offer expires will receive rebate credit for *both* meetings.

Group business must be booked through Chesapeake Conventions & Tourism to receive credit. For more information, meeting and event planners should contact our sales manager, Jamie Mitchell, toll-free at (888) 889-5551 or email her at jhmitchell@cityofchesapeake.net. Call toll free (888) 889-5551 or visit <http://www.visitchesapeake.com/meetingplanners> and start saving today.

About Chesapeake, Va., Conventions & Tourism

Based in southeast Virginia, the city of Chesapeake boasts more than 4,000 available hotel rooms and some of the strongest attractions, accommodations and meeting spaces in the area. Chesapeake Conventions & Tourism (CCT) strives to promote, market and sell the city as a destination for meetings, conventions and individual travelers, fostering economic development and benefiting and supporting members and the overall business community.

Because of its location and highway network, Chesapeake provides easy access to several other cities in the Tidewater region including Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Williamsburg, all of which are less than an hour away. The City of Chesapeake is home to several stops along the Civil War Trail and its Great Dismal Swamp is nationally recognized as a stop on the historical Underground Railroad. In addition to rich history, Chesapeake is home to the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and hosts a thriving outdoor community with thousands of unspoiled acres for kayaking, birding and fishing.

Chesapeake is a part of the statewide Virginia Green program which aims to reduce the environmental impact of the tourism industry. Chesapeake is also rated by the FBI as one of the top five safest cities of its size in the U.S., and *Money* magazine proclaimed it as one of the six best places in America to live. For more information on Chesapeake Conventions & Tourism, visit www.visitchesapeake.com.

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