



Want to meet men? Don't miss the 2010 Essence Music Festival in New Orleans, July 2-4.

Girls Just Want to HAVE FUN

Planning an all girls' getaway? Relationships Editor **Demetria L. Lucas** helps you make sure men are on your list of "things to see"

Too often when I vacation with my friends, we find a great locale with no Black man anywhere in the vicinity. That's fine during the day, but at night? I'm not trying to entertain my girls with my witty banter. Thankfully I've found a solution: Take your vacay in a city hosting a convention or festival sure to attract interesting, successful and professional brothers. Whether you're looking for love or just an excuse to dance on a table, pick an event and practice pretending you "just happened" to be in town when a gaggle of Black men descend.

14TH ANNUAL AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 23-26
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Web site: abff.com.

What it is: A four-day retreat. "Think Essence Music Festival by the beach," says Ericka D., 28, from Arlington, Virginia.

Who's there: Actors, filmmakers and fans.

You should attend if... You're a great networker who can schmooze your way into a star-studded party.

Opening line: "Did you see [insert film shown at festival]?" I'd love to hear your thoughts."

Insider scoop: The HBO party is this fest's must-hit event.

OMEGA PSI PHI GRAND CONCLAVE

JULY 23-30
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Web site: omegapsiphi.fraternity.org.

Who's there: Brothers in their twenties and thirties. But note, the abundance of cuties may not work for shy types. "The number of men was overwhelming," says Erin W., 28 from Atlanta.

Opening line: You don't need one; show up and let the men come to you.

Insider scoop: There are lots of guys, but choose wisely. Omega men don't like to compete against their own.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 15-18
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Web site: cbcfinc.org.

What it is: A four-day event which includes forums and back-to-back parties.

Who's there: Elected officials, industry leaders and civic-minded gentlemen.

You should attend if... You'll be the first Black female POTUS and need your very own Barack Obama by your side.

Opening line: Ask anything about the expected outcome of the 2010 census.

Insider scoop: "D.C. loves to dress for special events," says Jessica C., 30, from Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Wear a tasteful outfit in an eye-popping color!

NATIONAL BLACK M.B.A. ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 21-25
LOS ANGELES

Web site: nbmbaa.org.

Who's there: C-suite execs to hustling entrepreneurs. "Men had no problem striking up conversation," adds Iyasha T., 34, from L.A.

You should attend if... You want an ambitious partner.

Opening line: "Did you go to [insert university] with me?"

Insider scoop: The cocktail receptions are perfect for mixing and mingling.

