"What the heck is this little blue book filled with micro-type and why is someone trying to give me one?!?"

F.A.Q.



OR,

WELCOME TO THE LACON III TRIVIAL OLYMPICS!

Mysteries, prizes and a chance to prove that you're not just ANY squishy, donut-shaped alien to be pushed around! This event will re-prove the adage that all knowledge is contained in fandom and act as a stimulus for social interaction at this *large* gathering (*ie*, dust off those obscure degrees and go out and *meet* people!). The rules are loose and easy: gather as many points for your team as you can. You are *encouraged* to exchange answers with other people, ask experts-in-their-field, and generally just keep your eyes open for many of the answers that are in plain view all around you!

The Teams

You might have noticed a four letter code above your membership number. That is your team ID—the letters represent medical classifications of aliens taken from James White's *Sector General* series of stories. Try to take the time to find your other teammates—the more points your team gathers, the better it is for all of you! Two people with half the answers should cooperate: they could end up being two people with ALL the answers and double their scores for their team! Look for the Trivial Olympics set-up in one of the Hilton Ballrooms: there you can meet with other people on your team (the teams were assigned randomly), get a more visible ribbon with your team on it and even take a look at what the heck your team mascot looks like!

Playing

There are many ways to rack up points—everything from your personal store of trivia to noting who the other members of your team are. [Note: everyone was given a team code, but not everyone opts to play, so be polite!] Gather stickers from the different clubs; collect the membership numbers from other members on your team; Give (or have given) blood; volunteer! Check out the bonus points section at the end of the book!

Expert and Hint-Mongers: DBDG

If you're having trouble, keep an eye out for folks wearing a "DBDG" ribbon. These are experts in some field, ready to give you hints, help and even wholesale answers. They have been requested not to give out misinformation or red herrings (be careful with Bill Warren—he's a tricky one!), so you can generally take what they say at face value. [More politeness kibitzing: if they don't have their ribbon on, or look tired, busy or irritable, give them a pass, eh?] If you have any questions, try and find Lex Nakashima or one of his cronies (look for the DBDG ribbons) and *no*, you don't get points for finding him.

What's This For, Anyway?

Along with its pure distraction value, there are also *prizes*! The winning team will receive a handsome limited cloisonné pin, made just for this event! Every person on the winning team (point total) who turns in their booklet/answer sheet will receive a pin, no matter what your personal score was (it's a *team* effort, after all!). In addition, there will be other prizes for other teams with high scores, as well as some super-prizes for the person with the highest score and up to five members of the winning team whose names will be drawn to see who will get one of these prizes! These grabbers will be on display somewhere (eyes open, remember?), so look for 'em. One of the prizes is a spanking new Monte Blanc fountain pen!

Nit picky Bits

The selection of questions is very hodge-podge: if a group or area got left out or otherwise dis'd, it's only because we weren't able to get questions out of people in time. The quantity of questions for a certain area or group interest is almost entirely dependent on the number and quality of questions that we received. Also, if this seems organized under the direction of the Ghods of Chaos, it's because we're making this up as we go along...Please bear with us!

BONUS POINTS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF WAYS TO GET BONUS POINTS:

- A. Donate blood -120 pts.
- B. Volunteer at the con 9 pts/hour worked
- C. Copy your answers onto an answer sheet 50 pts.
- D. Collect different stickies from any convention bidders, clubs or organizations *attending* this convention 2 pts./unique stickie.
- E. write down the membership number of other people on your team 3 pts. per unique name & number.
- F. Get your book/answer sheet stamped at the "passport" stamps scattered at locations around the convention 2 pts/unique stamp.
- G. Voting for the next Worldcon 10 pts.
- H. Get one of the hard-to-find Mystery Stickers: you'll need to check into the LACon III/Sector General Trivial Olympics headquarters (in a Hilton ballroom) to find out what this sticker looks like and learn where to get them — 7pts.

Note: you MAY leave the stamps and stickies in your booklets and still be eligible for the 50 pt. bonus for copying your answers onto an answer sheet—we just want to avoid having to check the answers of a billion teeny booklets answered in micro-type!

Lex Nakashma, for the Trivial Olympics

Trivial Olympics



FAQ, part deux

"Hey, I look like some kind of squishy monster! Why can't I look like something else?"

Straight lines aside, You-Is-What-You-Is. On a bright note, most aliens designations have either some cool ability or are represented by really neat characters in James White's novels. (Besides, there are worse things to be—lookit what your boyfriend is...)

"So, I've filled this booklet out, given blood, volunteered, collected stickies, stared at '180,000,000 name badges (including 37 Disneyland badges, 43 hotel staff and 1 City of Anaheim Police badge) and worn a bunny suit. Now what?"

Turn your booklet and *answer sheet* in to the Trivial Olympics table located in the Exhibits area just outside the dealer's room by the DEADLINE at Noon on Sunday!

"Why doesn't your ribbon match your letter-code?"

A good question! There should be only one group of people whose ribbons don't match their badge-code: **Helpers!** These are some of the folks who helped put together the questions for the trivia contest. You can ask them for help, hints, etc. They letter code is **DBDG**. They may be more willing to help if they are (badge-wise) the same letter code as you, but don't count on it! If you want hints, etc., don't pester them or ask at inopportune moments. If you see someone wearing a ribbon that doesn't match their code, and the ribbon is *not* DBDG, then they're probably a spy. Don't trust 'em!

"Where can I get those cool rainbow pens?"

Just ask.

"Where can I get one of those books with the questions?"

The Trivial Olympics books are available at registration of from me (trusty canine companion), while supplies last. Helpful hint: on the Very Proper little blue T.O. booklets you'll see two large rectangles—one is for your name and badge number (helps lost&found) and the other is for your letter code. Both of these help us to score these things and give proper credit.

"Hey, What's The Name Of The Crossword Puzzle?"

Left out in the booklet, the title of the TO crossword puzzle is, "The Numbers Racket." I'm told that the title is key to these things...

Prizes!

We got 'em! And such prizes! Everyone on the winning team who enters will receive a lovely cloisonne pin, made especially for the Trivial Olympics. Lela Dowling designed the aliens, based on the James White books and the highest point scorers from each team will win the original art of their team's alien! The top six trivia question scorers (correct answers only, but you can still get the bonus for the answer sheet) will win one of the books autographed by Larry Niven with the inscription, "Congratulations! Now get a life!" The Grand Prizes & Really Big Prizes include a Monte Blanc fountain pen, a 1982 Santino dessert wine, an 18 yr. old (legal!) bottle of the Macallan single malt scotch, a Super-special prize from Wizards of the Coast, two boxes of Amazon (from the CCG *Rage*), a booster box of ST:TNG (original black border edition), books from White Wolf Publishing (including H.E.!) and some cool stuffies. Find the display of prizes that Gary is putting up in the exhibits area. **Bonus points** (5): What section of the exhibits area are the prizes being displayed in?

Grand Prizes & Really Big Prizes— How do you win?

The highest scoring player will get first pick of the prizes. After that, names will be drawn from a weighted drawing (based on point total) from the pool of players from the winning team. You must be there or have a representative there to win! Players will use the validated covers of their TO booklets as their ID (or for their representative to use). Only one Really Big Prize per player. Time and location of the drawing will be announced.

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Bonus Questions

Check out the Trivial Olympics booth early (well, not before noon-ish) and often: I will periodically put out Bonus Questions. These will be worth 3 points each and may make the difference in tight race!

The Ice Cream Social (or, Fans Really Do Inhale Ice Cream!)

Yes, it went that fast (and there was a -lot- of it!). Fortunately, there was a good opportunity to get ribbons and meet other members of your team (kudos to the GNU team conspiring way in the back! That's the way to do it!). The Trivial Olympics may even run or co-run a party on Saturday night — your last big chance to get ribbons, trade answers, get names & numbers, look for bonus questions and get hints. You may also turn in your books/answer sheets then, if Noon Sunday is too early for you!

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The LACon III Trivial	77	159
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