

## Welcome to WisCon!

We are so happy to have you here!

Whether this is your very first con ever or just your first time at WisCon, here are some things to help you get a running start. (All hours and locations are listed in your Pocket Program Book.)

**SAFETY FIRST!** Look for the people in the neon vests. These are members of the Safety Team and they are here to help you. If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable in a situation, look for a Safety volunteer or make your way to Registration and ask them to contact Safety. If you cannot find a volunteer and Registration is closed, you can ask the Hotel desk for assistance. Of course, if it's an emergency please dial 911.

**"Ask Me!"** Look for the "Ask Me!" on some name badges. These are members on the Convention Committee (concom) and any time their badge says "Ask Me!" (sometimes it may not) they are happy to answer any questions you might have or refer you to someone who can. There is no question too small.

**Interaction Indicators:** These are for people who may need a little more space for whatever reason. RED (stop sign): STOP don't talk to me! YELLOW (triangle): I only want to talk to people I know in person, not strangers or people I only know from the Internet. GREEN (circle): I would like to talk to people but I may have trouble initiating conversation. WHITE (square): I can manage my own social interactions. It is always okay to respond to people who approach you to talk. Please try to respect these badges. (And we understand if you might not notice them at first, you'll get used to them and learn to look for them!)

**Pronouns:** Different people identify in different ways. Some people are fine with gendered pronouns (she/her or he/him) while others might prefer they/them or zie/zer or something else entirely. These may be indicated on a person's badge or stated during a panel or someone may correct you in the course of conversation. Whatever the case, we just ask that you do your best. You're probably not going to remember every single person's choices every single time and that's okay. Just try and keep trying!

**Tell us what you need!** We are dedicated to making WisCon as accessible as possible. Tell us what you need—from a wheelchair to get to a nearby restaurant to a disposable respirator so you can safely check out The Gathering to a large print Pocket Program Book—and we may be able to help. A Registration volunteer can connect you with the Access Team.

**Registration:** Registration not only gives you your badge (and candy), but they can answer your questions or refer you to someone who can. Registration is also where you can buy Dessert Salon tickets, add your name to the waiting list for tickets if it's sold out, or take advantage of the Sunday afternoon ticket bourse.

**The Program Book:** The Pocket Program Book contains not only a schedule and descriptions of all the different panels, presentations, and parties that happen over the weekend but invaluable information about all the extras that make WisCon so awesome. You can find all of the info listed here in the Pocket Program Book.

**Staying informed:** You can pick up a paper copy of the **At-Con Newsletter** every day at Registration or check out [wisconnews.blogspot.com](http://wisconnews.blogspot.com), [twitter.com/wiscon39](https://twitter.com/wiscon39), and [facebook.com/WisCon](https://facebook.com/WisCon) for all the latest updates. You can also check in with the **Message Board** near the art supply area to the right of Registration.

**Maps:** Maps of the hotel can be found in your Pocket Program Book.

**The Gathering:** The Gathering is a great, low-pressure way to get comfortable in con space and maybe even start meeting people. You are welcome here!

**First WisCon Dinner:** First-timers and those who want to welcome them can gather on the second floor outside the Wisconsin Ballroom at 5:15 on Friday where the group will split up and head out to different restaurants. It's a great way to get to know fellow Firsties and those who have been around awhile and ask all the questions you can fit in between bites! There are restaurant options to fit most budgets.

**The Con Suite:** The Con Suite is free of charge. They serve a variety of veggies, dips, chips, soda, and other snacks with options to fit most dietary needs. It's also a great place to meet people!

**Safer Space for People of Color:** The Safer Space is for those who identify as POC to decompress while taking advantage of an opportunity for face-to-face networking and problem solving.

**Genderqueer/Transgender Safer Space:** The new Genderqueer/Transgender Safer Space is a place for those who identify as genderqueer, trans, or otherwise fluid to hang out in company.

**Panels:** You already know there are panels and you might even have an idea of which ones you want to attend, but did you know panels are suggested and staffed by people just like you? Anyone can suggest and then volunteer for panels. In fact, panel suggestions are open on Friday so if something sparks an idea, jot it down then submit it ASAP. We also offer two **Spontaneous Program Rooms** on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor for those discussions that just won't wait a year.

**The Green Room:** The mysterious place next to the Art Show that's always crowded between panels, The Green Room is where program participants can meet up, relax, and grab a snack before their panels. Unlike the Con Suite which is open to everybody, The Green Room is open only to panelists. It's one of the perks of volunteering!

**Parties:** Parties are for everyone! Whether you wander from one to another or find a comfy chair and park, parties are great for both meeting new people and people-watching. There are snacks and beverages and often fun activities. There's always something to see or do!

**Taxi Vouchers:** If you live within the city of Madison or if you are staying at a hotel within the city of Madison, you can pick up a taxi voucher at Registration or the Concourse Hotel desk to get you safely home at night. Vouchers are good Thursday-Monday nights after 10:30 p.m. If you're able, the drivers deeply appreciate tips.

**Restaurant Guide:** Don't know where to find a good meal? Check out the Restaurant Guide in the Registration area for a list of nearby restaurant options.

**Quiet Rooms:** For those who need a little breather, we offer **The Quiet Place** on the second floor. It's a space to rest, meditate, or just get away for a few minutes. We also offer a **Quiet Reading Room** on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Lingo:** You may hear terms or acronyms you're not familiar with or references to events past. Don't be afraid to ask! If you're too shy to ask the speaker, look for an Ask Me! Badge or ask at Registration.

**Spending Your Money:** In addition to our **Dealers' Room** full of awesome things to buy, we also have the **Art Show**, the **Tiptree Auction**, the **Tiptree Bake Sale**, and the **Dessert Salon**. If you can bring a little extra cash, you might just find a good home for it.

**Volunteer:** We run on volunteers. If you find you have an unscheduled bit of time, check out **The Volunteer Board**. Volunteers who give 6 hours or more (including panelists), can earn a \$20 refund and there are even gifts!

**Dress code:** Be yourself! Dress as comfy or as fab as you'd like, but please remember WisCon and the Concourse Hotel must adhere to state and local laws and health codes. Shoes must be worn in the Con Suite, the hotel restaurant, and the hotel bar. If you'd like to get super-fancy, Sunday night's Dessert Salon and The Floomp dance party are great dress-up opportunities.

We want you here, we want you to have an awesome time, and we want you to want to come back. When you get your Pocket Program Book or download the **WisSched** app for your iPhone or Android device, you can read more about all of our programs and services. You'll be a WisPro in no time flat.

When your weekend is over, let us know how we've done at **The Post-Mortem** on Monday at 2:30 p.m. and/or complete **The Online Survey**. (You can find a link to it on the WisCon webpage at <http://wiscon.info>.) With your suggestions we can work to make next year's WisCon even better.

Once again, welcome to WisCon!