

DRAGON TALK

September 2–5, 2016 | Atlanta, Georgia

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THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Over the Labor Day weekend, more than 75,000 people are expected to pack downtown Atlanta as Dragon Con, the internationally known pop culture, sci fi, fantasy, and gaming convention, celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Dragon Con fans will travel from every state in the nation and a few foreign countries to participate in the four-day convention, where they can meet their favorite actors, artists, authors, and creators, and talk about the stuff they love.

Want to make sure you're prepared? This newsletter will serve as a quick guide to our app, parade, highlighted events, FAQs, maps and more!

We look forward to seeing you and all the Dragon Con members September 2-5!

Now to the important question: Have you packed yet?

IT'S HERE! DOWNLOAD THE DRAGON CON APP TODAY

We know you've waited with bated breath. The 2016 Dragon Con app is finally here! Returning to iOS, Android, Blackberry, and mobile browsers, this year our app will feature enhanced maps, LocateMe Shuttle Buses, and a native iPad version. Download your app from the the iTunes or Android market today by looking for "Dragon Con" or use the QR code to the right.

Already have last year's app? Then you won't need to download a new one! Simply open your app and select "2016" from the "Show List." Your app will update with all the new and exciting information about our 30th anniversary show as soon as it's available!



This dragon was nice enough to let us update the QR code on his paper. Give it a scan and see where it takes you! (Spoilers: it's to download the app)



DRAGON CON PARADE TO BE TELEVISED

For the first time, the annual Dragon Con Parade will be broadcast live on television by Atlanta's CW69 on Saturday, Sept. 3 beginning at 10 am, with a rebroadcast at 8 pm.

The parade route remains the same as last year. Beginning at the intersection of Peachtree Street and Linden Avenue, the parade will head south on Peachtree, east (left) on Andrew Young International Boulevard and north (left) on Peachtree Center Avenue. It will end on Peachtree Center Avenue between John Portman Boulevard and Baker Street, in front of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. The route is convenient to three MARTA stations – North Avenue, Civic Center and Peachtree Center. Parking downtown is expected to be tight, and We encourage parade spectators to consider taking MARTA.



SHUTTLE UPDATES FOR 2016 PARADE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - 7:30 AM 12:30 PM

The Dragon Con Parade Shuttle will run during the times listed above and will pick-up/drop-off at 12 areas around the Dragon Con area. Those stops include the Sheraton, Marriott, parade participant stop, Crown Plaza Atlanta, Hyatt House, Americas Mart Bldg 2, Hilton, Embassy Suites, Omni Hotel, Glenn Hotel, Holiday Inn, and the Ritz Carlton. Please visit [our website](#) for full shuttle details and times.



DRAGON CON SURVIVAL GUIDE

GET YOUR BADGE, SECURE YOUR BADGE, SHOW YOUR BADGE

First things first...swing by the Sheraton and pick up your badge. Did you pre-purchase your membership? If so, be sure to bring your postcard. We made some awesome upgrades to the registration system in 2011 and the lines move much quicker than they used to. Once you have your badge, you must secure it and show it at all times. You will need your badge to get into the events at the host hotels, as well as the Vendor Halls at the AmericasMart. We will also be requiring a badge or room key at the host hotels during peak hours to cut down on congestion, and to help keep our members safe. Lost badges are not replaced. So have your badge ready, secure, and visible!

PLAN YOUR TIME

Dragon Con is four non-stop days of 24 hour fun! There are almost forty individual programming tracks and even more special events, contests, gaming, and parties. We hate to break it to you, but you can't do everything you want, so you'll have to prioritize. The free app and pocket program will tell you where all the activities and guests are and when. Make a plan and allow time to wait in line for a big event or popular panel. Lines for events in main programming will begin when the group for the previous panel has been seated. An important note, we clear the room after each panel in the larger rooms. But if

your plan falls through, try to go with the flow. There's lots to do and you'll have fun if you don't stress too much.

CARRY A SURVIVAL BAG

Sure, you think you will swing by your room or the store to pick up what you need. In reality, the elevators, the time, the distance and the crowds will make you rethink that trek.

WEAR COMFY SHOES

The convention takes place in five hotels and the AmericasMart; you'll be doing a lot of walking! Wearing a costume with special shoes? Bring a pair of plan "B" shoes for your off times...you'll thank us later! Pro tip: Start walking more before you get to the show to build up your stamina.

FOLLOW THE 5/2/1 RULE

We encourage our volunteers to adhere to the 5/2/1 rule. Get a minimum of five hours of sleep, two meals, and one shower every day, please. It works for everyone.

Sleep: We know you are probably not going to get enough sleep at the convention, but you'll have a lot more fun if you at least try. So shoot for at least 5 hours sleep at a minimum in one stretch.

Food: You can usually find a hamburger and hotdog vendor anywhere. Here are some other options: Each of the hotels has somewhere to buy café and deli style food and salads with some open 24 hours. This year the Sheraton Atlanta will host a number of food trucks including Sweet Auburn BBQ, Gezzo's Surf & Grille, Nana G's Chik-n-Waffles, and King of Pops. Peachtree Center has a food court and mall that is accessible via the skywalks from the Hyatt, Marriott, and the Peachtree Center parking garage. You can find a wide variety of quick food options as well as fine dining restaurants nearby. Carry some snacks with you so you can eat something when you get hungry and don't have time at that moment to track down food. There is a Publix located approximately one mile north of the host hotels on Piedmont Avenue. And don't forget about the ConSuite. It's a sci-fi convention tradition located in the Hyatt where you can get snacks and some soda.

TIP YOUR HOTEL STAFF

The hotel staff gets a kick out of the convention and they work pretty hard to take care of us! So remember to tip the maid service, bartenders and other hotel staff that provide a service to you.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

There are a lot of questions we know you need answered! The Dragon Con office has put together an FAQ so you can get a quick answer that you need!

WHEN DOES THE DRAGON CON APP GET UPDATED WITH 2016 SHOW INFORMATION?

The full schedule of events will be released 1-2 weeks ahead of the show, and will be found on our website in various formats and on most all smart phone devices and tablets (Android and Apple) that use the Dragon Con app. It utilizes its own internal search function to help give you an idea of where (all 5 host hotels and America's Mart Buildings #1 & #2) and when everything is...including such things as your fave celebs, and family friendly events.

I NEVER GOT MY POSTCARD, OR LOST IT...WHAT DO I DO?

No need to panic! You just need to show your photo ID to get your badge. It's really that simple. You still get to stand in the pre-sales line with everyone that does have their postcard since you were also issued one. Clearly, we want fans to keep up with their postcards to streamline the process as much as possible, but understand that sometimes they just don't make it into the hands of their owners.

WILL YOU SELL OUT OF MEMBERSHIPS IF I WAIT TO BUY THEM AT THE DOOR?

We always have memberships at the door! Well, at least this year. We have a 7th building for programming to allow even more awesome attendance growth. More info can be found [here](#).

HOW MUCH ARE DRAGON CON MEMBERSHIPS?

On Sept 1st, memberships will resume sales at

the Sheraton hotel in the Registration area, as early as 10am for \$130. All other types of memberships are only sold at the door. More info can be found [here](#).

HOW DO I GET A PHOTO WITH A CELEBRITY GUEST?

If your favorite Guest is selling pre-photo op tickets, that info will be made available on Epic Photos own [website](#).

WHERE DO I GO TO GET A CELEBRITY'S AUTOGRAPH?

The Walk of Fame is where about 120 media celebrity Guests are given a table and allowed to sign for fans. With the tally of about 400 Guests that come to the show each year, not all of them are granted...or some don't even want to...autograph. When the schedule is released, there's even a floor map to help guide you to which table belongs to which celebrity. Most literary guests do not charge for their autographs, but our media guests are able to...and will...charge whatever they want. They typically range from \$20-\$75 per autograph, and unfortunately are not known by Dragon Con in advance. They are usually game to sign anything that the fans bring, aside from their own personal 8x10s on display at their tables (provided that whatever the fan brings to sign is something appropriate and in good taste to what they would sign). What any of our guests might charge is left completely up to them and their agents, so we know at the same time the fans do... when we read the signs on their tables. So, always keep a keen eye out on our website and social media for more details!!



WRESTLING: NOW ON A NEW NIGHT!

Alright DCW fans and DCW Hooligans, it's time once again for another amazing DCW in the HOUSE! This year we are mixing things up and moving the show to Thursday night. Yep, that's right, we said Thursday!

You know it won't be a show without some smack talk and people jumping off the top rope. This is our 15th year of running DCW so of course, we have several "secrets" up our sleeves. You know us, we like to plan out lots of surprises, because the guys always change things on us at the last minute. You know where we are DCW fans, the Hyatt, pool level - 7pm Thursday night September 1st.



THE DRAGON AWARD

Welcome to the first annual Dragon Awards! As a part of our 30th Anniversary as the nation's largest fan-run convention, we are introducing a new way to recognize excellence in all things Science Fiction and Fantasy. These awards will be by the fans, for the fans, and are your chance to reward those who have made real contributions to SF, books, games, comics, and shows. Not only can you nominate and vote, the Dragon Awards lets you share your support with others!

For more information check out the awards [website](#).



DRAGON PWN

Crowd-favorite Geekbar, Battle & Brew will be hosting "Dragon PWN" On Saturday, September 10, 2016, the bar will open their doors to Dragon Con members and fans alike, giving everyone an opportunity to reuse their favorite cosplays before packing them away for another year!

Your Dragon Con badge gives you \$5 off the \$15 door price and members with the code DCON30 will get \$5 off the \$10 advance admission rate. Click [here](#) for more information.



2016 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS



NATIONAL PUPPET SLAM

The Center for Puppetry Arts and Dragon Con are proud to present the 2016 National Puppet Slam! Experience the beauty, ingenuity, and hilarity of some of the best, original short-form puppetry from across the country. Nominated by their respective slams, the nation's best slam performances will be on display for three nights only. See more from the [National Puppet Slam](#) puppeteers in this year's Puppetry Track! Tickets available at Center for Puppetry Arts' website. Funding made possible in part by the [Puppet Slam Network](#).

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DRAGON CON MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS...ALL YEAR LONG!

We are always on the lookout for ways to make your Membership even more valuable. Here are some additional Member Benefits, including discounts, free publications, workshops, and year-round group events.

Six Flags Discount Day

On Saturday October 29, 2016, experience Dragon Con Discount Day at Six Flags Over Georgia! Tickets are only \$41.99 a person and include a buffet and free parking. Enter promo code **DRAGONCON** or click [here](#) to grab your tickets.

Enterprise Rental Car

Get discounted rental car rates with Enterprise and National Rental Car. Click [here](#) or use the following codes: Enterprise code: **XZ03A67**, pin: DRA or National code: **XZ03A67**

Parking Panda

Enjoy [exclusive discounts](#) at parking garages, lots, and valet spaces around the host hotels, and book early to ensure you have a reserved parking space for your visit! For overnight assistance, call (800) 232-6415.

Publications

This year we are happy to announce that the Program Book, the book you pick up at registration with your badge, will be in full color! See the updated publication with our Gaming Guide and Pocket Program!

Social Media

Throughout the year, the Dragon Con social media pages will give you the latest up to date convention information, guest announcements, and even give-aways! Check us out on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) today!

Dragon Con Store

Members receive 25% off Dragon Con Store merchandise purchases in the hotels and Vendor Halls. But your discount is also good in our [online store](#) all year long on great Dragon Con gear and souvenirs!

Olympus Worldwide

Olympus Worldwide Chauffeured Services offers members 10% off their services. Roll up to the convention or your next special event in style! Call 1-877-OLYMPUS, and mention the discount code **Dragon Con**.

Delta Air Lines

Members receive special discounted fares on flights to and from the show on Delta Air Lines. Discounted rates are available on both domestic and international flights. Click [here](#) and enter **NMMWP** under Meeting Event.

Scootaround

Scootaround provides Dragon Con rentals for around \$60 a day, plus \$30 off the total if you rent all five days. Plan ahead and rent [online](#). Year-round, you receive 10% off any rental taking place in Orlando, or Las Vegas. Call 888-441-7575

