



# **A Guide for the Newly Initiated or What am I supposed to do over the next four days?**

A brief primer on how to enjoy **Capricon 42**

## **Help! I don't even know where to start!**

Don't Panic! We have overview tours of the Convention on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Our tour guides are friendly and extremely knowledgeable about Capricon. Tours begin in the lobby near Registration. Look for someone waving a sign. Review your program book or pocket guide for exact times.

You can always flag down someone wearing a silver badge. There are NO stupid questions. We want you to enjoy yourself and would be happy to point you in the right direction.

Visit one of the two Info Desks. That's why they're there. One is right off the lobby and the other is on the first floor near the escalators.

## **Why Are There Silver & Gold Badges?**

Gold badges denote our Guests of Honor (GoHs).

Silver badges are used by the department heads, and their deputies, who make up the Capricon Convention Committee (ConCom) or the Phandemonium Board; they are volunteers helping run the convention.

## **Why Do Some People Have Ribbons on Their Badges?**

Collecting ribbons is a long-cherished activity for many conventioners (and not just at genre cons).

There are official Con ribbons (such as the ribbon you received at Registration as a first time Capricon attendee) and others that you can earn by partaking in activities.

There are also private ribbons that are given out by individuals. They may be promoting a book they've written, advocating for a cause they believe in, or just for grins.

One ribbon to look out for is anyone whose ribbon asks you NOT to take their picture. Please respect their wishes. Otherwise, most ribbons are just fun and purely optional.

**New this Year!** The Info Desks will also be handing out some of our older custom ribbons that we'll be discontinuing. They also have ribbons that allow you to display your preferred pronouns.

## **Who or What is Capricious?**

Capricious is our mascot, who just happens to be an anthropomorphic goat. We were flying in a shipment of custom 3-D produced "Astro-goats" in honor of CAP 42, but they were lost in space when our interstellar freighter was rammed by a hotshot pilot. Capricious volunteered to fly the Capraplane and try to scoop them up from near orbit. He's already returned with a batch of them that you can adopt from the Art Show and from the Info Desks. He hopes to make it back before the Con ends, so fingers crossed! We'll also be offering vintage Octogoats for adoption (unopened, in their original wrap!).

## **How do I Know Where to Go and When?**

There is a map of the hotel in your program guide. It illustrates all function rooms and the hours they are open to attendees. You will also find the pocket program indispensable. It is small, portable, and even more up to date than the program guide. This year you will also receive a separate hand-out that does a much better job at illustrating a map of the hotel than you'll find in the printed program guide.

Here's a time-tested tip for making sure you don't miss that once in a lifetime event. First, go through the program guide slowly and circle everything that appeals to you. Include panels, author readings and autographing, films, anime, gaming and special events. Now sigh heavily as you realize you've circled

nearly the entire program book. Next, open your pocket program and highlight your chosen events. You'll quickly see your conflicts and can then prioritize and create your ideal day-by-day schedule (which is pretty much impossible to adhere to – so go with the flow). The program is also available online at [guide.capricon.org](http://guide.capricon.org) (or scan the QR code on page 4 of this guide).

Each morning pick-up *Goat Droppings*. It is a single, informative sheet of critical information for that day (with program changes). Copies are in the ConSuite (**Suite 3001**), Operations (**Wrigleyville**), the Info Desks, & at Registration.

Visit one of the friendly Info Desks where they know everything that's Rockin' in the Outer Realms.

## What Are The “Don't Miss” Activities?

Thursday afternoon you can meet all the GoHs at 4:00 pm in **Erie**.

If you're a reader, take in at least one **author reading**. It's a unique experience to hear the author reading their work directly to you. Spend time with the Guests of Honor. They wouldn't come if they didn't want to meet their fans. Here are a few “don't miss” **GoH events**:

- **Gene Ha will be holding a sketchbook tour at 5 pm Friday in Superior**
- **Tanya DePass will be discussing “I Need Diverse Games” as part of a conversation on identity and culture in video games in the Colorado room (and in virtual space Zoom Room #1), Saturday at noon.**
- **Cathrynne Valente will be virtually joining the David Bowie Panel Saturday at 2 pm in Zoom Room #2.**

**Attend Opening Ceremonies** Thursday evening. You'll be introduced to the GoHs and get an overview of the weekend. On Sunday, attend **Closing Ceremonies**. You'll find out what you can look forward to at Capricon 43 and you can participate in the feedback session immediately following Closing Ceremonies. We want to hear from you. Let us know what went well – and what could have gone better.

**Go to the Art Show (Riverwalk A)** and look at all the cool shiny stuff. On Saturday evening, spend time at the Art Auction (this is not a staid and stately auction run by Sotheby's – think “Storage Wars”). Right Before the Art Auction, don't miss the Artist Showdown at 6:30 pm Saturday in **Riverwalk A**. Based on audience suggestions, artists will square off against each other in a competition of wit and speed.

Walk through the **Dealers Room** (right next to the Art Show). You'll find new and vintage items that you just can't do without. Add to your collection or start a new one. Hint: This is also the best place to find books from authors that will be signing at the convention.

If you like games, stop by **Ontario** to see what the **Game Room** has to offer. Challenge yourself and learn a new game or borrow an old favorite from our library.

**New this Year!** Our friends from The Royal Manticoran Navy will be running games on site as well as a full magazine of virtual games both Friday and Saturday. Always with Honor!

Build your own **Blinkie!** What does that mean? Just “solder” on and find out in **Riverwalk B**.

## What Can I Do at Night?

Visit the room parties on the eighth floor (check for flyers on the official notice kiosks). The party hosts want to serve you tasty snacks, both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages (if you're 21 or older) and exotic space foods. They can win awards and they need your votes. Please be sure to wear your badge and bring your ID to the party floors. You can also join a Party Crawl tour on Friday and Saturday at 9 pm. They begin in the lobby area by the registration desk.

Take in a film or anime that you've been dying to see or re-experience a classic (**Suite 3055**).

Soothe your savage beast with music at the Galactic Stairway Café (**Mayfair**). Learn what “Filk” is, or attend one of the many concerts, or experience Open Filking.

Go to Gaming (**Online & Ontario**) for a pick-up game. It’s open late (Friday and Saturday) so you never have to rush!

Attend the one, the only DJ Scalzi’s Dancestravaganza Friday at 9:00 pm (**Superior**). Those who attended John’s Virtual Dancestravaganza last year had a blast.

### **What do you have for the younger fans?**

Capricon has an entire track of programming dedicated to kids in the **Tennessee** Room. A Capricon Concom member will always be onsite. Please note that younger children may need parental assistance with some activities. Also, remember that kids-in-tow do require a badged adult supervising them at all times.

### **What Do I Do About My Growling Tummy?**

There are several options depending on what you’re willing to “stomach.”

1. The ConSuite (**Suite 3001**) is always an option. All the food and drinks are included in the cost of your membership. Available items include - but are not limited to - cereal, bread, peanut butter and jelly, and a wide variety of other pre-packaged snacks. Please remember though, that the ConSuite is not a full-service restaurant, so make sure to check out the local establishments in the area. Finally, due to Covid restrictions there is no eating in the ConSuite itself (designated eating areas will be available).
2. Dine out or carry-in to your room. There is a wealth of good restaurants around the hotel and the Info Desks will have suggestions for you.

### **Where Can I Go if I Encounter a Problem or Have Questions?**

If anything occurs that you are not sure how to handle, or if you have questions, please go to either the Info Desk when they are open, or to Operations, located in the **Wrigleyville** room, which is open 24/7 during the Convention. You can also flag down anyone with a Silver Badge.

### **Does Capricon Support Any Charitable Foundations?**

Every year, Capricon sponsors a charity. This year’s charity is **GIRLS ROCK! Chicago** which is a non-profit organization which is focused on building a socially just community with girls, transgender youth, and gender non-conforming youth by developing leadership, fostering self-esteem, and encouraging creative expression through music. All funds from the tip jars in the Café and at the GIRLS ROCK! Chicago ambassador table, as well as specially denoted charitable items at the Art Auction will be donated to GIRLS ROCK! Chicago.

### **Con Terminology – or “What did you Say??!!!”**

As you walk through the hallowed halls of Capricon, you may come across fans using a strange and exotic language. Alternatively, if you accidentally come across a strange and guttural language, you’ve slipped into the Klingon hallway. In any case, we’re providing you a very incomplete list of some of the terms you may hear over the course of the weekend.

**Bid Party:** An open convention party sponsored by fans who are bidding against each other for the right to host a future convention, commonly the World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon). The idea is to promote good will (and possibly secure votes) for their bid.

**Board:** The Board of Directors of Phandemonium.

**ConCom:** Short for CONvention COMmittee. These are the fans who handle the details of putting on any given convention. This includes but is not limited to: making arrangements with the hotel, artists, dealers and performers; arranging the program; feeding the fan; marketing the convention; and providing technical or other services.

**Convention Chair:** Chairperson of a particular convention. At Capricon, this is the person who went before the Phandemonium board, pitched their idea for a convention, had it approved, secured the GoHs, and found the volunteers to help them make the whole thing happen.

**ConSuite:** This is the convention’s hospitality suite stocked with complimentary pre-packaged snacks and beverages.

**Fen:** Plural of fan.

**Filk:** A form of folk music that grew out of certain segments of the fannish SF community, and often addresses the interests of many fans, some even going so far as to say filk is music by fans and filkers, no matter what the subject. The term was a 1953 typo by Lee Jacobs for a piece entitled “The Influence of Science Fiction on Modern American Filk Music” about supposed SF incidents in folk song; but was actually an analysis of a number of thoroughly filthy “dirty songs.” Not long after that, Karen Anderson took Lee J’s typo and defined it as musical parodies written by SF fans.

**Ghost:** Someone who comes to the convention but doesn’t buy a badge. Don’t be THAT person.

**Gopher:** A volunteer at a con. At Capricon, if a volunteer works sufficient hours, they earn back the cost of their badge. One specific type of gopher is the Door Dragon who checks for badges at the door to specific function areas such as the Dealers room or the Con-Suite.

**Ops:** Operations (also acts as security at Capricon).

**Phandemonium:** The legal organization that runs Capricon and sponsors other SF-related events and outreaches during the year.

**SMOF: Supreme Minister of Fun.**

The Phandemonium SMOF serves as ombudsman for anyone who has a concern to take to the Board of Directors, but also keeps an eye on the Board and ConCom to help make sure everyone is having fun. This is, after all, a hobby.

**Worldcon:** The annual World Science Fiction Convention at which the Hugo Awards are given out. As a service mark, “Worldcon” should always be capitalized.

Use the QR Code below to find our online program guide on your phone or tablet.

You can also go to [guide.capricon.org](http://guide.capricon.org)

**SCAN ME**



## Sample Schedule

### Thursday:

- 5:00 pm – Convention Tour
- 8:00 pm – Opening Ceremonies
- 9:00 pm – Watch Space Fortress Macross

### Friday:

- 11:00 am – Planet Earth as Art: The View from Space
- 2:00 pm – Cathy McManamon Concert
- 7:45 pm – Dr. Horrible’s Sing-along Blog

### Saturday:

- 10:00 am – Fairy Tales in Space
- Noon: – Maker Event - Frankenstuffies
- 5:00 pm – panel: Afro-Futurism & the Mothership Connection
- 7:30 pm– Art Auction

### Sunday:

- 11:00 am – Just Jam! Open Jam session
- 2:00 pm – Closing Ceremonies and feedback session

Would you like to be reimbursed for your badge?  
Would you like to learn how conventions are run?  
Do you like helping others?

Ask about being a Volunteer at one of the Info Desks

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