



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 **The Tropics of Capricon**

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

You're in luck as we have overview tours of the Convention on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Our tour guides are friendly and extremely knowledgeable about Capricon. Tours begin at Registration. Please check 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 the Info Desk. That's why they're there (Plus, they have chocolate).

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 fun.

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! Customized 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. He'll also be walking around the convention from time to time, so say "Hi" when you see him. Just don't "Baaa" as that would be considered a "sheep shot."

How do I Know Where to Go and When?

There is a map of the hotel on page 75 of your program guide. The map 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.

Here's a time-tested tip for making sure you don't miss that once in a lifetime panel. 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 up 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 (or scan the QR code on page 4).

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, Operations (Oak), Info Desk, & Registration.

New this Year! For members with hearing aids or cochlear implants fitted with a “T” switch, a hearing/audio induction loop is available for Opening and Closing ceremonies as well as many of the events in Botanic A and River C.

Visit the Info Desk (and relieve them of chocolate).

What Are The “Don’t Miss” Activities?

Thursday afternoon you can meet all the GoHs at 3:30 pm in Birch A.

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. The program guide lists the event schedule for each GoH. Here are a few “don’t miss”

GoH events:

- **Trungles will be holding a sketchbook tour at 4 pm Friday in Ravinia A**
- **Tobias Buckell will be in conversation with Brandon O’Brien in Ravinia B, Saturday at 10 am**
- **Listen to Lillian Sams talk about the Life of a Barfleet Captain in Birch B Saturday at 11:30 am**

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 41 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 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 Sothebys – think “Storage Wars”).

Walk through the **Dealers Room**. 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 Lake Michigan A to see what the **Game Room** has to offer.

- Sign up for one of the many scheduled games, or just pick a game to play from our library
- Our friends from the Pathfinder/Starfinder Society will be running RPG sessions all weekend
- Finally, don’t forget to check out the Starship Bridge Simulator in Birch A

New this Year! Sign up for a **Kaffeeklatsch** for a small group experience with one of our knowledgeable attendees. Perhaps you’ll even find out what Kaffeeklatsch means. Please note you **MUST** sign up in advance at the Info desk for all Kaffeeklatsches.

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

What Can I Do at Night?

Visit the room parties on floors 15 and 16 (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 tropical 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.

Take in a film or anime that you’ve been dying to see or re-experience a classic.

Soothe your savage beast with music. Learn what “Filk” is, or attend one of the many concerts or experience Open Filking.

Go to Gaming (Lake Michigan A) for a pick-up game. It's open 24 hours (Friday to Sunday) so you never have to rush!

Programming doesn't end at 7:00 pm. Enjoy after-dinner panels; participate in the Art Auction; Attend the Starlight Radio Dreams staged reading & podcast taping; or enjoy the improv group, SpaceTime Theatre.

What do you have for the younger fans?

Capricon has an entire track of programming dedicated to kids and we have a Teen Lounge where your teens can safely hang out. Both include adult supervision.

What Do I Do About My Growling Tummy?

There are several options depending on what you're willing to "stomach."

1. The ConSuite (Lake Michigan B) 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 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.
2. Have you a sweet tooth? You'll definitely want to visit Kaldi's Capricious Café. The Café is in River C, and also serves as a central location for author readings, concerts, and other creative demonstrations. The Café specializes in baked goods, fancy teas, and coffees. Everything is complimentary, however donations in the tip jar are much appreciated and go to Capricon's charity of choice!
3. Dine out or carry-in to your room (or the ConSuite). There is a wealth of good restaurants up and down Milwaukee Avenue. You also might consider patronizing Spears, our official restaurant sponsor. Show your badge at Spears and get 15% off your meal.

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 Oak 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 826CHI, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write.

Their programs connect students to caring volunteers throughout the school day, after school, on the weekends, and in the summer.

All funds from the tip jars in the Café and at the 826CHI ambassador table as well as specially denoted charitable items at the Art Auction will be donated to 826CHI.

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 fen; 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 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.

Sample Schedule

Thursday:

- 6:30 pm - Convention Tour
- 8:00 pm - Opening Ceremonies
- 9:00 pm - Fan Guest Birthday Celebration

Friday:

- 11:30 am - Chocolate
- 4:00 pm panel: Tropical writers you should know
- 9:00 pm - Party Crawl Tour

Saturday:

- 10:00 am Steven Silver and Neal Litherland Reading
- 11:30 am panel: Tarot art and History
- 2:30 pm panel: Pirates are not just in the Caribbean
- 7:30 pm Klingon Pop Warrior concert

Sunday:

- 11:30 am Toast and Jam
- 3:00 pm Closing Ceremonies and feedback session

Use the QR Code below to find our online program guide on your phone or tablet. You can also go to guide.capricon.org

SCAN ME



Written by Ed Friman,
Phandemonium Board
President and Marketing
Head – Capricon 40

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 the Info Desk by Ravinia B.