



dailydragon.dragoncon.org

# The Daily Dragon

Dragon Con 2024

## Needles and Pins: Blood Drive by Daily Dragon Staff

A Dragon Con tradition continues: the Robert A. Heinlein "Pay It Forward" Blood Drive! This is the 21st anniversary of the blood drive, founded by Dr. Alan R. Koslow in 2003. Come open a vein and maybe save a life! All donors and volunteers will get a t-shirt and special badge ribbon. And if you like pins, you have the opportunity to get up to three.

Everyone who donates gets a SF donation heart pin. If you schedule an appointment, you get a special pin, and if you donate on Saturday, the special edition Marriott carpet donor pin is yours. Finally, everyone who donates can enter to win one of two rooms for four nights in a host hotel, donated by The Dragon Con Connection (not affiliated with LifeSouth, Dragon Con, or the Heinlein Society). Directions for how to enter will be available at the Blood Drive.

Reminder, the Food and Drug Administration has removed most restrictions on men who have sex with men or who take PrEP. In addition, restrictions on living in Europe or on having chemotherapy were removed in 2022. For complete details, visit <https://www.lifesouth.org/fda-update/>.

LifeSouth will be set up to accept donors on the Conference level (LL3) in the Hyatt Regency Atlanta during the following hours:

Thursday 10AM-7PM

Friday 10AM-7PM

Saturday 10AM-7PM

Sunday 10AM-7PM

Monday 9AM-3PM

Donors must be 17 years of age or 16 with parental consent, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, and be in good

health. Photo ID is required.

When you make an appointment, make sure you designate what type of donation you're making: whole blood, double red, platelets, or plasma.



### DragonConTV

#### DCTV

Hyatt: 55 Marriott: 61  
Courtland Grand: 46 Westin: 43  
Hilton: 51

#### DCTV LAND

Hyatt: 56 Marriott: 60  
Courtland Grand: 47 Westin: 44  
Ritz-Carlton: 43  
The American: 3  
Hotel Indigo: Lobby

Streaming Channels and Schedule:  
<https://dragoncon.tv>

### Give Blood! Get a T-Shirt!



## Dragon Con's Official Charity: The Arthritis Foundation by Daily Dragon Staff

For 2024, Dragon Con's Official Charity is the Arthritis Foundation, which leads the fight to conquer arthritis, affecting nearly 60 million men, women, and children in the United States. It was founded in 1948 with a goal to attack the challenges of arthritis through a national program to fund medical research and provide better support to patients.

For over 75 years, the Arthritis Foundation has boldly pursued a cure for America's #1 cause of disability while championing the fight to conquer arthritis with life-changing science, resources, advocacy, and community connections.

The Arthritis Foundation brings hope to children with juvenile arthritis and their families through life-changing programs and funding for advanced treatments through committed partners.

No matter where you are in your arthritis journey, you are not alone. The Arthritis Foundation is here with resources and support to help you live your best life.

Dragon Con will match all donations up to \$125,000!

[bit.ly/DragonConGivesBack](https://bit.ly/DragonConGivesBack)

# The Intersection of Science and Culture

by Nancy Northcott



Regular Dragon Con attendees may know Dr. Stephen Granade primarily as the director of the Science Track or the co-host of the daily morning *The Late Show*. He's also an award-winning game designer, a short story author, and a physicist who has worked with NASA and the Discovery Channel.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** *What was your first involvement with Dragon Con?*

**Stephen Granade (SG):** One of my undergraduate degrees is in theatre arts. Some of my friends were volunteering for TechOps and said, "Hey, you know how sound boards work and how to run cables. Come volunteer with us!" I joined TechOps and never looked back.

**DD:** *How did you become director of the Science Track?*

**SG:** The previous Science Track direc-

tor heard TechOps had a pet physicist. He tracked me down and asked me to give some talks on the track. I loved getting to talk science at con. When Dragon Con needed a new Science Track director, they turned to me since I already had volunteer experience and knew the track.

**DD:** *What's the most challenging part of assembling the track schedule each year?*

**SG:** We're lucky enough to have a big roster of people who both know the science and can make it interesting. It forces us to have a wide range of topics, given their different areas of expertise.

**DD:** *What's the most fun part of that?*

**SG:** Two big things. One, I and my volunteer team get to pick topics that we're interested in but don't know much about. Two, we get to come up with events that make us giggle, like this year's "Mating Rituals of Kaiju and Other Fantasy Creatures."

**DD:** *For those who don't roll out early enough to catch The Late Show, please tell us a little about it.*

**SG:** It started as a way to let folks know about schedule changes but quickly turned into a chance for us to highlight guests and events that viewers might not know about. Dragon Con's a huge beast. *The Late Show* lets us help people find new things at Dragon Con to

do.

**DD:** *What inspired you to write fiction, and what was your first published story?*

**SG:** I've always loved reading, and that led me to want to write. When I was a teenager, I wrote terrible short stories that you'll never see. For a while my fiction impulses went into creating video games, but a few years ago I got the fiction bug again.

My first published short story was "Physics by the Numbers" in the SF magazine *Escape Pod*, about physicists dealing with AI algorithms that dictate whether they can stay at a university. Since then, I've published a mix of science fiction and fantasy stories.

**DD:** *What's next for you?*

**SG:** I co-founded and co-edit a science fiction and fantasy magazine, *Small Wonders*, that publishes very short stories and poetry. It gives me something to do when I'm not doing my day job, or Dragon Con, or writing. (I fail at having free time, if you can't tell.)

For more information about Stephen Granade and his work, visit his website, <https://stephen.granades.com>, or check out his social media:

@granades.com on Bluesky

@sargent on Twitter

**Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon Website!**

## Parties & Events

### Sixth Annual MSFM Onesie Party

So many fandoms...so little time! At the Thursday night MSFM Onesie Mixer, you can meet & hang out with fans of all the different shows in our track as we get to know each other with fun & games! Come break the ice in your favorite onesie, costume, or comfy-casual con couture & chill with us. Thursday 7-9:30PM, Chastain DE (Westin).



### Bunny Hutch Party and Costume Contest

Start your Con with an Ode to the mash-up. Put your best spin on the classic Bunny or Hef for the contest, where creativity, process, originality, and construction is considered. Costumes are not required though themed cosplay is encouraged. Thursday 10PM-2AM, Atrium Ballroom (Marriott). Contest prejudging (advance sign-ups only), Thursday 5:30-9:30PM, A601-A602 (Marriott).



### Video Game Karaoke

Sing and dance your bits off to your favorite songs from video games and other sources as best you can in the empty orchestra that is karaoke! Thursday 7-9:30PM, Augusta E-H (Westin).

### 80s Prom Dance Party

Step into the glitz and glam of the '80s at our prom! Neon lights, big hair, and rad tunes await. Get ready to dance the night away in true retro style! Thursday 8-10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



### Dragon Comedy For-A-Cause: Arthritis Foundation

Let's kick off Dragon-Con with some stand-up comedy for a great cause! Showcasing a selection of the best local Atlanta comics, this show features the funniest people bringing you their best jokes to raise funds for the Arthritis Foundation! Thursday 8:30PM, Crystal Ballroom (Hilton).



### Geek Singalong!

The best possible way to kick off Dragon Con. Sing along to TV show and movie themes and songs with hundreds of your closest friends. Thursday 8:30-11PM, Grand West (Hilton).



### Star Wars Family Feud

We asked 100 fans... some very obscure Star Wars questions. Join us as we pit "Full of Sith" versus "Star Wars Explains" to see who can find the most

popular answers and win the first ever SW Family Feud at Dragon Con! Thursday 8:30PM, A706 (Marriott).



### Year of the Dragon Dance Party

The Year of the Dragon symbolizes strength, wisdom, luck, and prosperity through your skills on the dance floor!! What better way to kick off the Opening Night of Dragon Con 2024!? Thursday 9PM-1AM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



### Karaoke—Digital Media Style

Whether you love singing karaoke or can't carry a tune in a bucket, you're sure to have fun at this party. Everyone gets involved. This modern experience does away with three ring binders and slips of paper and puts the power of karaoke on your phone. Thursday 10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 7 (Hilton).



Check out the Parties/Events pages on the *Daily Dragon* website for more!

## Daily Dragon Tweets

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily\_dragon on Twitter!



### Just the FAQs

#### Registration Hours

THU: 10AM-10PM  
FRI: 8AM-10PM  
SAT/SUN: 8AM-9PM  
MON: 8AM-4PM

Pre-registration and Disability Services are located in the Sheraton. VIP Badge Pick-up is located in the Marriott: room L503 for Eternals, room L508 for other VIPs.

### Vendor Hall and Comic & Pop Artist Alley Hours

FRI/SAT/SUN: 10AM-7PM  
MON: 10AM-5PM

### Walk of Fame and Art Show Hours

FRI: 1-7PM  
SAT/SUN: 10AM-7PM  
MON: 10AM-5PM

### Dragon Con Store Hours

#### Marriott Store

FRI/SUN: 10AM-7PM  
MON: 10AM-5PM

#### Sheraton Store

THU: 8AM-10PM  
FRI: 8AM-5PM  
SAT/SUN: 8AM-4PM

### Blood Drive Hours

#### Hyatt Conference Level (LL3)

THU: 11AM-8PM  
FRI/SAT/SUN: 10AM-7PM  
MON: 9AM-3PM

### Parade Check-In

#### Sheraton Georgia Ballroom

THU: 10AM-10PM  
FRI: 9:30AM-8PM

Check the mobile app, the Quick Start Guide, or the *Daily Dragon* website for more information on hours and locations!



## Arcade Gaming with Joystick

Come get your "game on" at the pop-up from our friends at Joystick Gamebar, Atlanta's official retro arcade. Classic arcade cabinets and pinball machines are on FREE PLAY, located in the old Benihana space of our beloved food court in Peachtree Center Mall. Live long and party on! Thursday 6PM-1AM; Friday-Sunday 10AM-4AM; Monday, 10AM-5PM.