New to Dragon Con? We’ve got three ways to get you oriented!
Meet others new to Dragon Con and get a tour with some veteran con-goers starting at 2:30PM Thursday at Marriott A601–602. Tours leave every 30 minutes, and the last tour leaves at approximately 4PM.

After your tour, head back to Marriott approximately 4PM. A601–602. Tours leave every 30 minutes starting at 2:30PM Thursday in Marriott. Meet others new to Dragon Con and get a tour with some veteran con-goers.

Open a Vein, Save a Life
Give the gift of life and donate blood this weekend during Dragon Con’s annual Robert A. Heinlein “Pay It Forward” Blood Drive.

For LifeSouth, which serves more than 40 hospitals in the Atlanta area and more than 110 hospitals in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, Dragon Con is a major donation venue. The Blood Drive will be held at the Hyatt on the Conference Room level (LL3). Hours are listed on Page 2. If you find yourself with some free time during con, you can even sign up to help out.

Don’t miss out—join us, give blood, get a free T-shirt!

Rocker and Rocket Scientist David Hewitt

Cosplay is great, but some among us are truly living their dream. Meet real-life rocket scientist David Hewitt. Although David is returning to Dragon Con’s science- and tech-centric tracks, he also exercises his artistic talents playing bass and singing with fellow space fans in the nerd rock band Foot Pound Force. David will appear at Dragon Con in the Science, Space, Makers, and Flik Tracks.

Daily Dragon (DD): So, David, tell us what it’s like to really be a rocket scientist?

David Hewitt (DH): Life as a rocket scientist is both thrilling and boring. What you see us do in the movies and on TV is not really what we do. There is a fair amount of boring work involved with getting ready to launch. It is very challenging because like Scotty said, “I cannae change the laws of physics.”

One thing this field has taught me is that there is no substitute for an intense attention to detail. Of course, this is my dream job and I worked really hard to get here, but as someone once said, if you align your passions with your career, you never work a day in your life.

DD: When should future enthusiasts begin learning about the possibilities of living and working in space?

DH: As early as possible. I am a lifetime space nut—my earliest space memory was watching the first space shuttle launch in 1981 on TV. I was hooked after that at age four. There are so many resources out there, iage-appropriate books, toys, and games that can help to kindle the spark of interest. In fact, in this day and age we have so many more resources than when I was growing up.

DD: How does creativity factor into work in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)?

DH: It goes hand in hand. I can safely say that the vast majority of people I encounter in STEM are creative super geniuses in many different ways. Dragon Con is a great gathering place. I am always recharged after a weekend at the con because of the inspiration and conversation that I have with creative super geniuses in attendance.

My path was a winding one into my career with several detours, one of which being my pursuit of other creative passions as a musician and songwriter. I’m in a nerd rock band of engineers called Foot Pound Force, and we have been performers at Dragon Con for several years now, including a couple where we were guest performers. All four of us are in STEM careers, and we have so much to say about the geek culture. Read the complete interview on the Daily Dragon website.

The 8-Bit Bash
The Video Gaming Track is back again this year with its Thursday night retro dance party, now with classic arcade cabinets! Enjoy classics from the ‘80s and ‘90s, and you won’t even have to put down a quarter for the next game. Costumes optional, but always welcome. 21+ event, ID required. Mature Audiences Only. Thu 10PM, Whitehall Ballroom at 200 Peachtree St.

Bunny Hutch Party

Unleash your inner playbook/girl in this geek-meets-chic Con kickoff party. Embrace your sexy side; come dressed as your version of a bunny or Hef. Be creative and mash it up with your favorite fandom. Enter the contest, or just enjoy the party. Mature Audiences Only, Thu 10PM, Grand Salon (Hil).

Check out the Parties page on the Daily Dragon website for more!
2019 Dragon Con Charity: American Heart Association

The official Dragon Con charity for 2019 is the Atlanta Affiliate of the American Heart Association. This year’s charity selection is a very personal one, done in honor of former Comics Director Thom Trainor, who lost his battle with heart disease in July 2018. Dragon Con will again match dollar for dollar, up to $100,000, any money raised for this charity at the 2019 convention.

To raise the most funds possible, Drag-on Con holds several charity events throughout the show, including the main charity auctions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The Art & Books auction runs 11:30AM-2PM on Saturday, and the Main Charity Auction is 10AM-2PM on Sunday, both in Hyatt Hanover C-E.

The Charity Events Booth in the Marriott Marquis Level Registration Booth (one floor below the hotel registration desk) is open from 10AM-7PM Friday and Saturday. The booth will display items that have been donated and is available to accept additional donated items. If you need help with your donation, come by the booth and a staff member will guide you to pick up the item. Without donations from people just like you, Dragon Con would not have been able to raise over $115,000 last year for Literacy Action!

Other planned charity events:
- The Military Sci-Fi Media Track will hold the 12th Annual Don S. Davis Memorial Charity Auction 4PM-6:30PM on Sunday in Hyatt Hanover C-E. The track also hosts MSFM Charity Games & Crafts, a kid-friendly event, 8:30-9:30PM Saturday, and MSFM Charity Team Trivia Night, 10-11PM Saturday, both in Westin Chastain DE.
- The Ultimate Geek Trivia for Charity contest will be held 8PM-9:30PM Friday in Hyatt Regency VI-VII.和 then round two: Late-Night Ultimate Geek Trivia for Charity, hosted by Lt. Moxy Magnus, Friday 10PM-12:30PM, also in Hyatt Regency VI-VII.
- The Classic Sci-Fi Charity Theater showing for this year is Mac & Me, Friday at 8:30-11:00 PM in Marriott M103-105. For this event, you have to donate to get OUT.
- Coloring for Charity, Friday 8:30PM-12:30AM in Hyatt Regency V, offers each, coloring book or coloring page for a suggested charity donation. A late-night version will be offered at 11:30PM Saturday in Hyatt Embassy EF.
- The Star Wars Game Night will be collecting charity donations, so join in Friday 10-11PM in Marriott A706.
- Donations will be collected during the 3rd Annual Can’t Stop the Signal Dance, Friday 10PM-2AM in the Westin Peachtree Ballroom.

Lend your voice to the fun, and enjoy some classics and new additions for this year. Lyrics provided. Thu 8:30PM, Grant East (Hi).

Sci-Fi Sing-Along!
Start off the con right with a few hundred of your closest friends as you sort-of remember the words to your favorite geek-related songs. Thu 8:30PM, M103–105 (M).

Metalsome Live Rock Band Karaoke
Sing your lungs out to some of your favorite songs with the backing of a live band. Thu 9PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).