

ICON43 Programming Descriptions

FRIDAY, 5-11 PM

Hall Costume Contest

FRIDAY, 5-7 PM & 9-11 PM

Melty Beads

Make fun designs with plastic beads, then melt them with an iron so they stay together. Take your creation home and glue it to a hair clip, attach it to a key ring, or hang it from your car mirror. Instant fan cred ensues.

FRIDAY, 5-7 PM

Kirkwood Eagle Bots

Come play with Robots! The Kirkwood Eagle Bots are setting up a game of Radiation Clean-up. Drop in and play.

FRIDAY, 5-7 PM

Silent Films

Watch some original moving pictures from the early 20th century. The films are short, and will be showing on re-peat, so drop in any time before opening ceremonies.

FRIDAY, 6-7 PM

Volunteering at ICON

Volunteering can get you free membership, free merchandise, or con bucks to use in the dealer's room and art show. Help out and get stuff! It's a win/win proposition. Find out more at this panel.

FRIDAY, 7-2 AM

Karaoke

FRIDAY, 7-9 PM

Opening Ceremonies

FRIDAY, 9 PM

ConSuite Grand Opening

Join Mike Mullen and the ConSuite Goddesses for the unveiling of the Volcano cake at ConSuite's Grand Opening. Careful the volcano may be active!

FRIDAY, 9-11 PM

Wylde Nept Concert

Wylde Nept is a cast of colorful characters that specialize in charging up a crowd with raucous pub tunes from all over the Celtic and sea-faring world. Whether playing tunes of rebellion, mirthful ballads, sea chanteys, popular originals, or just good, old-fashioned drinking songs, the goal is always to give the crowd a rollicking evening of friends, music, and merriment.

FRIDAY, 9-10 PM

Game of Thrones - last season speculation (TV show)

The final season of "Game of Thrones" will air in 2019. What will happen? Who will die? How will it end? Let's speculate!

FRIDAY, 9-10 PM

GOH Challenge - silent film narration

Our GOH will ad lib narration for some old silent films.

FRIDAY, 9-10 PM

DAGOBDAH Readers Group

Join the DAGOBDAH monthly readers group as they discuss the books they've recently read. Be prepared to discuss the SF, fantasy and horror books you've read and would like to recommend. Audience participation is welcome!!!

FRIDAY, 10-1 AM

Adult Gaming / Cards Against Humanity

FRIDAY, 10-1 AM

Werewolf - the game

FRIDAY, 10-1 AM

Open Filking

Fill the room with song and filk to your heart's content!

FRIDAY, 11-12 AM

Wolfie Answers All and Tell More

Wolfie B Bad may not be a large wolf, but he has a HUGE attitude, and is just awesome incarnate. Come and discuss the world and his view of it, as well as give advice to any questions you may have on any subject, if he doesn't know the answer he'll make it up.

SATURDAY, 9-10 AM

First Time Attendees Breakfast

Grab some food from the con suite and join some expert ICON attendees for tips on how to enjoy your first con.

SATURDAY, 9-10 AM

Knights & Castles

Foam crafts for kids & Kids at Heart

SATURDAY, 9-10 AM

Representation in SF/F

Women, LGBT, people of color, people with disabilities...and more. There are a lot of communities to represent in writing. Let's talk about representation in Science Fiction and Fantasy.

SATURDAY, 9-11 AM

Saving Brinton Movie Screening

When an eccentric small-town collector discovers the show reels of the man who brought moving pictures to the Heartland, he begins a journey to restore the legacy of America's greatest barnstorming movie man and save these irreplaceable cinematic treasures from turning to dust. (There are scenes shot a past ICON in the movie can you spot them?)

SATURDAY, 9-10 AM

Whose Con Is It Anyway

Join our brave improv actors for a fannish version of the TV show Whose Line Is It Anyway? See them thrown into unfamiliar scenes, and left with nothing but their wits to devise sketches on the spot. Audience participation is expected.

SATURDAY, 10-11 AM

Children of the Corn Robotics Club - in Lobby

Come see the Children of the Corn's robot!

SATURDAY, 10-11 AM

Living with an Author/Artist

What's it like living with an author or artist? Hear it from their significant others. The good, the bad, and the ugly. Have your own stories of living with an author or artist? Share them here.

SATURDAY, 10-12 PM

Author/Artist Meet & Greet

Come and meet the Authors & Artists attending ICON!

SATURDAY, 10-11 AM

Coins and Chains: Developments on Money in the Future

Last year's discussion about our economic future was hot. This year's panel will continue the discussion with developments in cryptocurrency and the blockchain technology behind it.

SATURDAY, 10-11 AM

Make a Volcano

Vinegar and baking soda volcanos for the young & young at heart.

SATURDAY, 11-12 PM

Supernatural Fan Chat

SATURDAY, 11-12 PM

Rusty Hevelin Update

Updates on the Rusty Hevelin Collection at the University of Iowa.

SATURDAY, 11-12 PM

Body Painting

Art doesn't just happen on canvas, paper and computer screens. Come watch our artists create beautiful temporary works of art on the human body.

SATURDAY, 11-12 PM

What's it like to be the subject of a Documentary?

Mitch Thompson will interview Mike Zahs on What it was like being the subject of a documentary. Audience questions welcome.

SATURDAY, 11-12 PM

How to Fall

Learn how to properly fall from Bill Pitcher so you are prepared to pop back up if you trip while running from rabid fairies, alien invasions, or erupting volcanos.

SATURDAY, 12 PM

Happy Birthday Frankenstein!

Frankenstein turned 200 this year. Come sing happy birthday and eat a piece of birthday cake. Rumor is the cake is a piece of artwork worthy of a 200th Birthday!

SATURDAY, 12-2 PM

Art in About an Hour (or two)

This is a chance for Con Attendees to see artists at work. In this program artists sit and create a piece of work in an hour or two. We ask artist's to then donate their pieces to the charity auction.

SATURDAY, 12-1 PM

Open Mindbridge Meeting

Open Meeting of the Mindbridge Foundation, the organization which sponsors ICON, Gamicon, and Animelowa.

SATURDAY, 1-4 PM

Artemis Simulator

Ever wanted to explore the stars? Have you dreamed of serving on a ship like the Enterprise? Then come and try your hand at piloting the Artemis. In this Spaceship Bridge Simulator, you and five or your friends assume the jobs of Captain, Helm, Science, Communication, Engineering, and Weapon Control. Together you operate your ship and defend the sector from evil aliens. Also, all are welcome to come and watch the game. Sign up for a thirty minute session, signup sheet located by registration.

SATURDAY, 1-2 PM

Adaptations Gone Wild

Sci-fi and fantasy literary adaptation in TV and Movies. Every year more and more hit the big and small screen. Examples: Game of Thrones, American Gods, etc. Which ones do we love and which ones do we love to hate? If it was bad, let's talk about what went wrong and should there be a do-over. If it was good, let's talk about why it worked. What other stories do we want to see adapted.

SATURDAY, 1-2 PM

Legos with Pygmy

Let the Pygmy help you become a Master Lego Builder!

SATURDAY, 1-2 PM

Who are the great SF writers that you love and hate?

Join the DAGOBAB readers group as we recommend writers that have had great success and great failures. John Scalzi, Jack McDevitt, Robert Sawyer, Charles Stross, Neal Stephenson, David Weber, Robert A. Heinlein, Lester Del Rey, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Robert E. Howard, J.R.R. Tolkien, J. K. Rowling, Andre Norton, etc. Bring your recommendations to add to the list.

SATURDAY, 1-2 PM

Weird Human Parasites

Dr. Alan Koslow tells us about the things that live in all of us. Creepy but true science.

SATURDAY, 1-3 PM

Violet Realm

The Iowa Writers' Rooms' Violet Realm is meeting at ICON! Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers are invited to join them for an hour or two. First hour will be a presentation the second will be writing.

SATURDAY, 1-2 PM

The Brintons

Mike Zahs on the The Brinton Entertainment Company. The family that brought moving pictures to the heartland.

SATURDAY, 2-3 PM

Author Reading: Bill Otto & Karren Otto

Bill Otto & Karren Otto share passages from their books.

SATURDAY, 2-3 PM

Doctor Who Fan Chat

SATURDAY, 2-3 PM

Botnik

Join Jim Hines to find out what Botnik is and to read some examples of literature created by the collaboration of machines and humans.

SATURDAY, 2-3 PM

Weird Animal Parasites

Dr. Alan Koslow on Zombies of the Animal Kingdom. Creepy but true science.

SATURDAY, 2-3 PM

Building the Brinton Airships

William Franklin Brinton didn't just travel the world and show silent films in the heartland, he also build airships. Join Mitch Thompson to learn about these ships and how Mitch went about re-creating some of them.

SATURDAY, 3-4 PM

Author Reading: Gregga J Johnn & Gene Wolfe

Gregga J Johnn & Gene Wolfe share passages from their books.

SATURDAY, 3-4 PM

Out of the Basement

Gaming in the modern world.

SATURDAY, 3-4 PM

Game of Thrones Fan Chat

Come discuss all things "Game of Thrones" TV and Book fans welcome.

SATURDAY, 3-4 PM

Creating Distinctive Characters

Do your characters sound too much alike? Do they have the same beliefs, attitudes, and catch phrases? Join us to talk about ways of creating characters without having one of them speak like Yoda.

SATURDAY, 3-4 PM

Joe Haldeman Author Reading

SATURDAY, 3-5 PM

Rainbow Room

The Iowa Writers' Rooms' Rainbow Room is meeting at ICON! Are you part of the LGBTQIA+ community and looking for a safe location to write and learn together? The Rainbow Room is the place to be! Join us for an hour or two. The first hour will be a presentation the second will be a write in.

SATURDAY, 4-5 PM

The REBOOTS are coming!

Is it just me or are the reboots taking over? Why are we remaking these sci-fi/fantasy TVs and Movies? When is too soon? We'll also discuss reboots gone wrong or right and why? Also, are there some we want to see or some we would never want touched and why?

SATURDAY, 4-5 PM

Anime Fan-chat

"Raise your flag!" There are a variety of anime shows out there, some strange, some motivating, but all with purpose and something that we can find love for. Come share your favorites in a fun-filled romp!

SATURDAY, 4-5 PM

Guest of Honor Interviews

Our toastmaster, Jim C. Hines, will interview our Guests of Honor. Come hear what they reveal!

SATURDAY, 4-5 PM

CySat, NASA, and beyond

Rami Shoukih shares his experiences as the former project lead of CySat, a Make to Innovate project at Iowa State that designed, built, and flew a 3U cube satellite. He is now interning at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

SATURDAY, 4-5 PM

Using RPG Mechanics to Balance Written Characters

One way of giving a structure to written characters is to create character sheets. This lets their powers and abilities have a numerical framework. On the other hand, there is a danger of referring them to their class. Let's talk about ways of using RPGs to create characters but also hiding those details from the reader.

SATURDAY, 5 PM

Blockbuster Cake Reveal

Come see the cake inspired by the summers hit superhero blockbuster. What oh what could it be? Come see!

SATURDAY, 5-6 PM

Outlander Fan Chat

SATURDAY, 6-7 PM

The Road from Dream to Reality

Mackenzie Kilcoin, current project lead of CySat, a 3U cube satellite slated for launch in April of 2019, shares her experience of getting a real-world spacecraft off the Earth and into orbit. Topics will include integration, launch parameters, current work, and next steps for CySATURDAY,-1.

SATURDAY, 6-7 PM

Ghosts of ICONs Past

Join ICON's founders for stories about ICONs beginning and the shenanigans that have occurred over the years.

SATURDAY, 6-7 PM

Author Reading: Cassie Leigh & Beth Hudson Wheeler

Cassie Leigh and Beth Hudson Wheeler share passages from their books.

SATURDAY, 6-7 PM

Cosplay Aid

For those last minute costume props and finishing touches, go see what our cosplay group has. They can help add that special something you needed, as well as help out with that makeup technique for the hard or soft look.

SATURDAY, 6-8 PM

Art & Charity Auction

SATURDAY, 7-8 PM

Abandoned Places Author Reading

Authors: Chris Bauer, Chris Cornell, Doug Engstrom, George Galuschak, Ransom Noble, Shannon Ryan, Catherine Schaff-Stump

SATURDAY, 7-8 PM

Masquerade

Fans and guests alike come in their very best costumes for your viewing pleasure and amazement.

SATURDAY, 7-9 PM

Lanterns of Obon

The Festival of Souls also referred as Obon, is celebrated during July in Japan. During the 3-day Bon festival, families hang lanterns outside their houses and beside the graves of loved ones to guide and welcome the souls back to the earthly plane. A variety of foods are offered to the souls of the ancestors during the celebration. Join me in decorating our own lanterns for Obon adding light, and using them to guide the spirits of the ancestors to Icon to enjoy a new kind of Festival. This panel is brought to you by Animelowa.

SATURDAY, 8-12 PM

Room Escape Game

Players are 'locked' in a room and must uncover clues and hidden objects to escape. Sign up by registration for a time slot.

SATURDAY, 8-9 PM

Paradise ICON Reading

Authors: Chris Bauer, Brent Bowen, Chris Cornell, Doug Engstrom, Athena Foster, George Galuschak, Ransom Noble, Shannon Ryan, Catherine Schaff-Stump

SATURDAY, 8-9 PM

The Creation of Frankenstein

Special Collections at the University of Iowa Library has a wealth of original material relating to the creation of Frankenstein, it's author, Mary Shelley, her family, fellow authors, and friends. Curator Peter Balestrieri will give a presentation that features rare highlights from the life of Mary Shelley and Frankenstein.

SATURDAY, 8-1 AM

Karaoke

SATURDAY, 9-10 PM

Round Robin

A communal story, made up on the spot!

SATURDAY, 9-10 PM

Tales From the Gazebo

Gather around and share your best tales of gaming adventures. Audience participation encouraged.

SATURDAY, 9-12 AM

Phen Feud

Phen Feud is ICON's version of Family Feud where we will have teams compete against each other for the most popular responses to phen friendly questions in order to win THE ULTIMATE ICON GAMING TROPHY and maybe a little something more.

SATURDAY, 9-10 PM

Wrightson's Creature

In the 1970s, Bernie Wrightson created a magnificent illustrated edition of "Frankenstein". Find out about his masterwork, and its various incarnations.

SATURDAY, 9-10 PM

Stranger Things and the Resurgence of the 80s

A panel discussing the resurgence of titles from the 80s in the modern age, such as the hit show Stranger Things. Why is it at this moment in time we are seeing so many remakes and callbacks? What is it about the nostalgia of these movies that is so popular not only with old audiences, but new ones?

SATURDAY, 10-1 AM

Open Filking

Fill the room with song and filk to your heart's content!

SATURDAY, 10-1 AM

Werewolf - the game

SATURDAY, 10-1 AM

Adult Gaming/Cards Against Humanity

SATURDAY, 10-11 PM

The Unknown Panel

What are we going to discuss? Who knows? Come and find out.

SATURDAY, 11-12 PM

SF/F Erotic Read-Aloud

First came the Invasion. Next was the Redemption. This year, it's SPACE RAPTOR BUTT ASCENSION! Come enjoy more erotic fan reading, this year with our special friend and ICON GOH Wolfie B. Bad! Attendees need to be 18+. Audience participation is likely. You have been warned.

SATURDAY, 12-1 AM

Chocolate Ceremony

Chocolate: Revered by the Mayans, Adored by Con Goers. Join us for the "ancient" traditional ICON Pagan Chocolate Ceremony. Pay homage to chocolate in many of its decadent forms. Yum-yum!

SUN 10-11 AM

What are you making?

Whether it's plush, hardwood, or just plain cool, come brag about your latest geeky project, share ideas, and get inspired by your fellow fen.

SUN 10-11 AM

Star Trek Fan Chat

SUN 10-11 AM

Author Reading: Dylan Moonfire & Alexandra Penn

Dylan Moonfire and Alexandra Penn share passages from their books.

SUN 10-12 PM

Rusty Hevelin Oral Histories

Have memories of Rusty Hevelin to share? Peter Balestrieri from the University of Iowa Archives is recording oral histories for the Rusty Hevelin Collection.

SUN 10-11 AM

After Happily Ever After

SF/F characters who are in committed relationships, have children, and all that life stuff. Or everyone who isn't a perpetual batchel(or/ette) or falling in love.

SUN 10-11 AM

How is Taekwondo Like Writing?

Participants learn how to become better writers, and a little bit about the Yellowstone super volcano. The importance of determination, resilience and grit in achieving goals is also covered. Includes a taekwondo demonstration!

SATURDAY, 10-12 PM

Galaxy in a Jar

It's Sunday! Come make a calm down jar (otherwise known as a glitter jar or galaxy in a jar) to help with stress relief.

SUNDAY 11-12 PM

SF/F What to watch on TV

What's good, what's not. Join us for a discussion of the SF/F TV shows to look for or avoid.

SUNDAY 11-12 PM

Harry Potter / Fantastic Beasts FanChat

SUNDAY 11-12 PM

Humor Backstage

Come hear humorous stories from backstage in theater and film. Have some of your own, be prepared to share them.

SUNDAY 11-12 PM

Let's Talk About Those Punks

Cyberpunk, steampunk, solorpunk...and those others. What makes a punk a punk and how does one go about writing one.

SUNDAY 11-12 PM

The Big Boom

What will happen to your city when Yellowstone erupts?

SUNDAY 12-1 PM

Star Wars Fan-chat

SUNDAY 12-1 PM

Bulwer-Lytton Contest

Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton was known for his ultraviolet prose: come write the worst opening sentence to a novel your fevered brain (or sleep-deprivation) can provide!

SUNDAY 12-1 PM

The Big Bang Theory

What do we know of big bang theory and its origins in history? Einstein's relativity was developed in 1919 Fr. Georges Lemaitre's conclusions drawn from Einstein's relativity. Follow this with the discovery of the red shift.

SUNDAY 12-1 PM

The Creative Process

Come and talk about the different creative processes.

SUNDAY 12-3 PM

It's a Thing Thing

Is your thing a doing Thing?, a watching Thing? maybe a teaching Thing or a learning Thing? Well whatever your Thing is - this is the place to do your Thing. Whether you are a writer, an artist, a crafter or just interested in new and different things, come and join us for this interactive workshop panel Bring your crochet, knitting, writing, art supplies and spend time with others to chat and create. Ask questions and try what your neighbor is doing, or try our project and make your own sketch/color book with materials provided. Make it yourself or as part of a group and exchange some custom pages. No matter what you do, it will be the Thing you remember. Brought to you by Animelowa.

SUNDAY 12-1 PM

Dungeon Master Workshop

Want to be a Dungeon Master? Are you already a DM, but could use some help with your campaign? Maybe you're a DM and you love the idea of helping others. Maybe you're just curious? If you answered yes to any of these, this gathering is for you! We will host and help with the following: Basics of being a DM, Preparing for a game, Tips and Tricks behind the screen, building your campaign, constructing a world, and any other questions you may have.

SUNDAY 1-2 PM

Book to Movie fan discussion

It's always worse than the book, but is it worth watching? Lots of SF/F books have been making it to the big screen let's talk about it.

SUNDAY 1-2 PM

How did we do?

Loved it, hated it? How did you like ICON43? Come share your thoughts with us so we can make ICON44 even better!

SUNDAY 1-2 PM

Vogon Poetry Contest

The Vogons are known for writing the third worst poetry in the galaxy: can you do worse?

SUNDAY 1-2 PM

Mike Mullen Author Reading

SUNDAY 1-2 PM

Animation Nation

Let's talk about animation's current state and how far it has come. The music and composers, current animated TV shows such as Steven Universe that are breaking barriers, what makes animation different as a genre, especially in the United States where it is often treated as kid's entertainment, what brought on the era of CG animation, and so many other things. It would be a great time!

SUNDAY 2-3 PM

Author Reading: Adam Whitlatch & ML Williams

Adam Whitlatch and ML Williams share passages from their books.

SUNDAY 2-3 PM

The Expanse Fan-chat

SUNDAY 2-3 PM

FanFiction Author Read-aloud

Have you written some fanfiction? Want to share it? Here is your chance. Come listen and share your fanfiction.

SUNDAY 2-3 PM

Pun Off

Pun. noun - a joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words which sound alike but have different meanings. Pun Off. noun - a game where we discover who the master of puns is at ICON. There will possibly be prizes.

SUNDAY 2-3 PM

Comic Book Cinematic Universe Discussion

Both the Marvel and DC comics have been seeing an increasing number of stories make it to the silver screen. This year saw the culmination of years of continuity build up to a climax. Who are your favorite heroes? What did you like/dislike about how they were portrayed on in the movies? Do you like the idea of a shared universe between multiple movies? Come, let us know!

SUNDAY 3-4 PM

Closing Ceremonies