

2014 RoberCon

Code of Conduct Policy

Introduction

The primary purpose of RoberCon is for our attendees to have fun. To ensure that the greatest number of people achieve this objective we have established certain rules of conduct. By them we seek only to ensure that the behavior of any one small group does not disturb the RoberCon membership as a whole, nor does it detract from the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere of the convention. RoberCon membership is defined as any Fan Group or Vendor given a RoberCon specified Vendor or Fan Group Badge, Presenters, and paying guests with RoberCon admission badges. RoberCon welcomes all parties with an interest in anything Sci-Fi however, the convention's management reserves the right to deny or revoke the membership of any individual at any time for any reason. RoberCon also reserves the right to amend these rules at any time without prior or posted notice and reserves the sole right of interpretation. In any dispute, the general rule above will apply. If you have any questions, please contact the convention operations staff for assistance. Anyone who accepts a Vendor or Fan Group or paid visitor badge agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Roberson Memorial Inc. dba Roberson Museum and Science Center from any claim for personal injuries or other damages or equity arising out of any individual's activities at RoberCon, even if such injury or damage is caused by negligence by or on the part of Roberson Museum.

As a condition of membership, all RoberCon attendees are required to abide by these standards of conduct for the entire duration of their stay, even prior to Opening or after Closing.

General Rating of the Convention

All convention areas are considered to be family friendly at all times, with no exception. Attendees may not wear clothing which is overly revealing or inappropriate to the atmosphere of the convention. The decision on whether clothing is overly revealing or inappropriate is solely at the discretion of Roberson Museum management.

Public Decorum

No water pistols, silly string, or any thrown or projectile-type toy may be used in any area of the Museum. RoberCon attendees must abide by instructions given by Roberson Museum staff. Failure to do so will result in loss of membership privileges. Any disputes or concerns may be addressed onsite Roberson Museum management.

There is no smoking in any area within Roberson Museum. Smokers are asked to use designated smoking areas provided by the facility, and comply with any other smoking rules of the facility. Cigarette butts must be disposed of properly and not left on the ground.

Attendance by Minors

Any attendees under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Weapons Policy

No actual weapons or any item that can be easily mistaken for one may be carried either openly or concealed at any time on Westin or on Convention Center property, regardless of any government permits which you may possess. Exceptions may be made only for duly appointed law enforcement officers by prior arrangement with the Security Chief. Personal pocket knives with single-edged blades less than 4 inches long are permitted.

Realistic weapon replicas are permitted as part of a costume only during costume events and must be appropriately peace-bonded; They must be cased or otherwise secured when being carried outside of costume.

Harassment

Harassment of any kind, including physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, or unwelcome physical attentions, will not be tolerated. If people tell you "no" or to leave them alone, your business with them is done. If you continue to attempt to have contact with those people, you may be removed from the premises. In general, we can take no action to prevent a person from attending the convention unless that person has made a specific and credible threat toward the convention itself or if another individual can produce a legal restraining order.

Physical Boundaries

Do not physically harm or endanger other people. Do not touch people or their personal effects without an express invitation. If you want to invite physical contact, do so verbally or with a friendly gesture, such as holding out a hand for a handshake. Be mindful of your surroundings. Leave other people a clear path to the exit. We can all get excited, but please remember that there are panels and discussions going on, so please be mindful of the volume of your voice. Be respectful of other people's personal space.

Social Boundaries

If someone has told you or indicated that they do not wish to interact with you, then don't. Further attempts to force interaction may result in you being asked to leave the premises. It is not acceptable to verbally attack people. Do not use slurs, or make derogatory or sexual comments about a person, group, or category of people.

Pet Policy

Robercon does not allow pets. This is for the protection of the pet, the pet owner, and our attendees as a whole. Service animals are permitted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Other Museum Matters

Any act of vandalism, deliberate or excessive damage to Robercon Museum property, or interference with any Museum or Convention staff in the performance of his or her duties will result in permanent revocation of Robercon membership, criminal prosecution, fines, or any combination thereof. Do not affix anything to the walls of the Museum, to the elevators, to Robercon signage, Museum doors.

Sales of Merchandise

The offering for sale of any merchandise at the convention may be undertaken only in appropriate areas of Museum and only by those members assigned as vendors; in all cases the sale will be governed by the rules applicable to those areas. It is illegal to sell any other merchandise or services in any other areas."

Substance Abuse

The sale or other distribution of any illegal or controlled substances is not welcome at Robercon. Any individual found to be distributing such substances will be removed and reported directly to the local authorities.

Media Relations and Use of Robercon Images or Footage

All journalists, media photographers, and any other members of the press are required to display an official RoberCon Press Badge provided by Roberson Museum.

RoberCon members should be aware that audio and/or video recordings are frequently made in convention areas and that their likenesses may appear in those recordings.

Individual members agree to assign without compensation the use of their likeness(es) at Robercon for the use of promotional material such as the highlights videos.

The name "Robercon" and the Robercon logo are registered service marks of Roberson Museum, and must not be used in any fashion that disparages or dilutes that mark.

Members agree to remove from circulation or publication any image or recording that in the sole opinion of Roberson Museum misrepresents or defames its service mark.

Payments to RoberCon and other money matters

Please note Roberson Museum and Science Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. As such, donations to the organization are deductible from individual U.S. Federal income taxes. Checks that are presented against insufficient funds will be charged a fee of \$30 per check. RoberCon also accepts VISA, MasterCard, and Discover cards. Chargebacks (denying a charge) that are made for the sole purpose of avoiding payment, that are made without sufficient cause, or that are made without first attempting to resolve the dispute with RoberCon may result in permanent revocation of membership privileges and possible legal action. Members who have an outstanding balance due to RoberCon must settle that balance before being permitted to attend the convention. RoberCon cannot involve itself in financial disputes between individual members, and cannot divulge information about an individual member to any party other than to banking officials or legal authorities.

REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

If you feel someone's behavior is dangerous or harmful to you or others, if someone's behavior makes you feel afraid or uncomfortable, or if someone is actively making it difficult for you or others to fully participate in the convention, we would like to know about it. You may report a problem by approaching any convention staff member (identified by a staff badge or volunteer tshirt) or speak with a staff person at the registration desk. You may also email info@roberson.org although because of our small staff we cannot promise to reply immediately during convention hours.

If you make a report, RoberCon staff will meet with you in private to listen to your report, and take other information as necessary. That information will be taken to the director of RoberCon who will decide whether immediate action needs to be taken. After the convention, the report and any actions taken will be reviewed by RoberCon staff to determine whether further action needs to be taken, or to determine whether changes to the safety policy need to be made.

Miscellaneous notes

The standards of conduct for RoberCon will be strictly enforced by RoberCon security volunteers. Please remember that your con badge is the property of Roberson Museum and must be presented and/or surrendered to any Staff member requesting it. If you have any problem with any action taken by a Staff member you may take the matter up with the management. Please be reminded that these rules involve, of course, "worst-case" scenarios and are put into place to ensure the safety and comfort of our members. They are also not all-inclusive; in all cases, the singular rule that supersedes all others is, "Any action or behavior that causes significant interference with convention operations, excessive discomfort to other attendees, or adversely affects RoberCon's relationship with its guests, its venue or the public is strictly forbidden and may result in revocation of membership privileges." We anticipate no difficulties, as our members as a whole are rational and responsible. RoberCon is prepared to deal with any or all of the above scenarios in as rapid and efficient a manner as possible should they occur. We thank our members for their cooperation and for their continued assistance in making this a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Have fun - just please remember to be courteous of those around you while doing so!