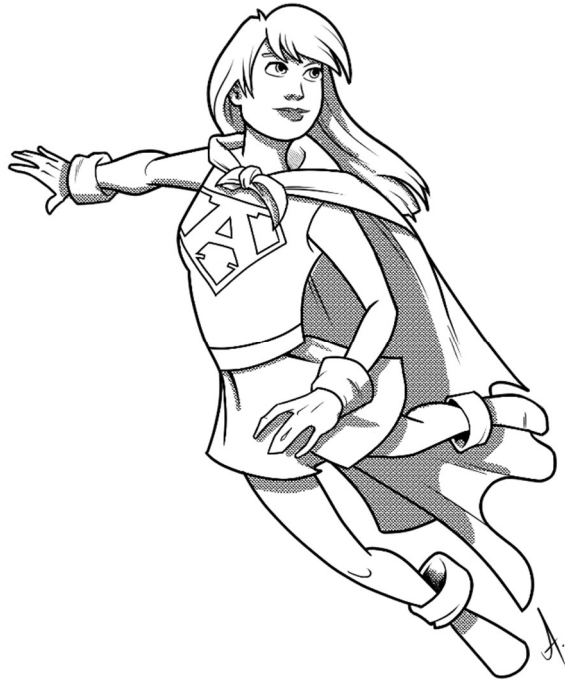




2018 Edition

# Arisia

## Family-Friendly Guide



## Welcome to Arisia!

Whether this is your 10<sup>th</sup> year coming to Arisia, or your first time attending a con, attending with your family is a wonderful experience. Here are some things you should know:

*The following is a summary of Arisia's Youth Policies, which can be found at <https://www.arisia.org/youthpolicies>*

### CHILDREN UNDER 12

- Ages 2-6 with fully paid membership and preregistration can attend Turtle Track (Childcare).
- Ages 6-12 can attend Fast Track (see the Pocket Program).
- Children under 6 are welcome in Fast Track with a parent.
- Kids without paid membership can be a **Kid-in-Tow (KIT)**.  
**NOTE:** Arisia Policy: One adult per three KITs.
- Under 8 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

### ROAMING RIBBONS

- For children aged 9-12.
- Paid Membership & Green Ribbon = Allowed to roam on their own.
- Paid membership & Red Ribbon = No roaming without grownup.
- Free-Roaming privileges can be revoked due to repeated inappropriate behavior. (See <https://arisia.org/YouthPolicies> for full details.)

**Turtle Track Location:** Ask at Ops Desk (Stone 2W).

**Fast Track Location:** Webster and Hancock Rooms (Lobby Level). See Pocket Program and handout for hours and programming.

**Teen Lounge:** A teen-run space dedicated for the teenage fan to hang out with others aged 13-19 only. Located in room 466/467. Hours: Fri 4pm–10pm, Sat/Sun 10am–10pm, Mon 10am–2pm.

**Teen Unconference:** A group of panels designed for teens, by teens. Information boards can be found on the Harbor level next to Carlton / Video Games.

# Helpful Contacts and Locations

What is it?	Where is it?	What should I know?
The Watch (Security) Voice & Text	Stone 2W	(617) 863-2472
Lost & Found	Westin Front Desk	
Information Desk	Lobby Near Elevators	
Teen Lounge	466/467	Ages 13-20
Fast Track	Hancock/Webster (2W)	Ages 6-12
Turtle Track (Childcare)	See Ops (Stone 2W) for location	Ages 2-6



## Youth Services Leadership Contact Email

- Fast Track Area Head: Aimee Bouchard  
fasttrack@arisia.org
- Turtle Track Area Head: Rev. Ocean Thundermoon  
babysitting@arisia.org
- Teen Lounge Area Heads: Imogen Watts, Susan Fabijanic  
teenlounge@arisia.org
- Teen Unconference: Catherine Burroughs:
- Division Head: Nicole Robinson  
youth-services@arisia.org
- Assistant Division Head: Jaelen Hartwin
- Assistant Con Chair over Youth Services: Diana Hsu
- Arisia 2018 Con Chair: Jaime Garmendia

# Ongoing Items

**Arisia Art Show** Harbor Ballroom II/III (3E). Be sure to remind the young ones to look, but not touch.

**Anime**, Griffin (2W) and **Video**, Revere (2W). The full schedule, movie descriptions and ratings are located in the Pocket Program.

**Gaming** – Tabletop Harbor I (3E). Scheduled games are listed in the Pocket Program. There are also open tables that can be used for pick-up games or reserved at the con. The Tabletop room has quite the library of games, including some you could win and bring home! Tabletop room staff are happy to assist in finding games appropriate for age and time requirements.

**Gaming – Video** Carlton (3E). Families can find, and try, age-appropriate games and learn about different games and platforms. The older players and Game Underground (who runs the room) are very knowledgeable and patient with the little ones. Open 10am to 1am. Under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

**Duck Hunt** Be on the lookout for rubber ducks around the hotel! If you find one of the waterfowl hidden for the annual Duck Hunt, bring it to Team Arisia Headquarters (Quincy) and get a reward!



## MUSIC AT ARISIA

Filking, concerts and dances. Oh, my! Consult the Pocket Program for musical-themed events and programming.

## Family-Friendly Programs & Events

*This is a guide, not a complete list, just to highlight some items you may not have considered for your family. See the Pocket Program for more information. (Note that some activities and events meet several times, but only one is listed in this guide.)*

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### Friday

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<b>Fast Track Open Play Time</b>	5:30 PM
Meet other kids and the Fast Track crew as we warm up for the weekend.	
<b>Video Gaming Open Free Play</b>	5:30 PM
Under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.	
<b>Dragons!</b> All about dragons from around the world. Which dragon would <i>you</i> like to be?	8:30 PM Faneuil
<b>The Princess Bride: Greatest Modern Sword Fight</b> Celebrate the book's anniversary with a demonstration swordfight.	8:00 PM Grand Ballroom CD
<b>Wand Dueling</b> Learn to use tactics like aurors. Wands will be provided if you left yours at home.	8:30 PM Grand Ballroom A
<b>Drum &amp; Dance</b> Kids welcome if attending with an adult	10:00 PM Grand Ballroom A

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### Saturday

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**Geeky Playdate** A casual, drop-in space for parents and their children. See back of guide for details.

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### Saturday

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<b>Decorate a Mini-Hat / Fascinator</b> Join us to create your own mini-hat! \$5 materials fee. Limit: 15. SIGN UP IN PROGRAM NEXUS.	10:00 AM Independence
<b>Family-Friendly Renaissance Dance</b> Learn some of the fun dances from Ren Faires. Children 8 and up are welcome.	10:00 AM Commonwealth ABC
<b>Singing in the Pool</b> Parade through the hotel to the pool to play with its acoustics. Bathing suit suggested.	11:30 AM Pool
<b>Young Adult Fiction Reading</b> Hear authors reading from their own original works. Science fiction, fantasy, and even a few bedtime tales.	11:30 AM Bulfinch
<b>Wonder Woman, Worldwide Phenomenon!</b> Panelists discuss the comics history of Wonder Woman from her Golden Age origins onward.	1:00 PM Marina 1
<b>Project Cosplay</b> Young fans make their own masquerade costumes. More information at <a href="https://www.arisia.org/ProjectCosplay">https://www.arisia.org/ProjectCosplay</a> .	1:00 PM Webster-FastTrack4
<b>The Year in Science</b> This annual panel looks out at space, down at particles, around at medicine, and in at psychology! And that's never all!	2:30 PM Burroughs
<b>En Garde! SCA Rapier Fencing Demo</b> See 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> century rapier techniques up close.	2:30 PM Commonwealth ABC
<b>3DS StreetPass Meetup</b> Bring your own 3DS and StreetPass with other gamers.	3:00 PM Carlton
<b>Tactile Tour of the Art Show</b> Touch selected art to complete our mental image. Clean hands recommended.	4:00 PM Harbor Ballroom III

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## Saturday

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<b>Wild About Craft Foam!</b> Making masks and accessories with craft foam. Limit 15. SIGN UP IN PROGRAM NEXUS.	4:00 PM Independence
<b>Princess Bride Shadowcast Performance</b> The Teseracte Players return with their version of this classic - a new family-friendly Arisia tradition.	5:00 PM Grand Ballroom CD
<b>Young Adult Fantasy Reading</b> From Frankenstein to Fae, authors read their own original works.	7:00 PM Hale
<b>Nerf War: Revolution 3018 Session 1</b> Kids and parents together can join the revolution.	8:30 PM Webster
<b>Teen Writers Late-Night Slumber Party</b> Enjoy writing in a non-preachy, kids rule and silly environment. Suitable for ages 8 and older.	10:00 PM Bulfinch

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## Sunday

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<b>Classic Cartoons</b> Classic cartoons to start the day	7:00 AM Arisia TV
<b>Gaming with Kids</b> Panelists discuss enjoying LARPS, game days, video games and more with your kids.	10:00 AM Hale
<b>International Folk Dance</b> Learn dances from around the world. Enjoy the live music!	12:00 PM Commonwealth ABC
<b>Parents with Infants and Toddlers Meetup</b> You've run into them around Arisia. Now meet them properly.	1:00 PM Paine

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## Sunday

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<b>Soldering 101</b> Learn to solder by building a simple circuit that blinks. This year, it's a custom Lensman themed badge. Limit 15, SIGN UP IN PROGRAM NEXUS. Materials fee: \$5 per participant. Kids under 10 may participate but must have an adult "assistant."	2:30 PM Independence
<b>English Country Dance</b> Where else in New England can you try Jane Austen-style dancing with the likes of Darth Vader?	3:00 PM Commonwealth ABC
<b>Meet Arisia's Comics Guest of Honor: Shannon Watters!</b>	4:00 PM Marina 4
<b>Open Jam: Irish and English</b> Bring an instrument, bring your voice, or just enjoy listening.	5:30 PM Harbor Prefunction
<b>Scottish Dance Lesson and Dance</b> Come and skip along as we cover some basic figures and perform some easy dances together!	6:00 PM Commonwealth ABC
<b>Which Book First: Introducing SF to Kids</b> Which book do we hand first to kids?	7:00 PM Marina 2
<b>Masquerade</b> The 29th annual Arisia Masquerade. Come watch the entrants perform short vignettes to show off their costumes.	8:00 PM Grand Ballroom AB

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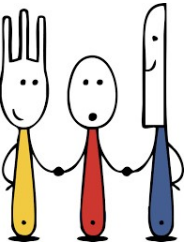
## Monday

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<b>Classic Cartoons</b> Classic cartoons to start the day.	7:00 AM Arisia TV
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## Monday

<b>Splendid Teapot Racing</b> Navigate your radio-controlled teapots through an obstacle course.	10:00 AM Grand Ballroom C
<b>When in Doubt, Go to the Library</b> Why public libraries are fandom's greatest friends.	10:00 AM Marina 2
<b>When Your Child Discovers Fan Fiction ... And More</b> Panelists discuss the joys of parenting a fan and navigating fandom with kids.	11:30 AM Marina 2
<b>The Great Sorting Panel</b> Throw any fictional or historical character at the panel to be sorted into the house where they belong.	1:00 PM Marina 3
<b>Monday Nerf Wars</b> Family-friendly Nerf wars after fast track closes	1:30 PM Grand Ballroom C
<b>Teen Unconference</b> Enjoy the final session of the program created at Arisia by and for teens.	2:30 PM Bulfinch

	<b>Dining Tips:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have snacks on hand for the kids.</li><li>• The Con Suite (1E) is a place for snacks, not full meals.</li><li>• MJ O'Connors has a great kids' menu!</li></ul>
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### HOTEL POOL HOURS



Friday-Monday  
8:00 AM – 3:00 AM  
Located on the Mezzanine Level

## Youth Services Programs

### Turtle Track (Childcare for ages 2-6)

Given the large number of families who come to Arisia, we are happy to be able to provide programming for our youngest fans. By prior registration, we provide supervised childcare for those too young to enjoy the convention on their own. All children using this service must have special Turtle Track memberships to the convention.

#### 1. Who staffs Turtle Track?

On every shift you will find staff that are either professional child care providers or parents. There are a few teen volunteers, but every teen is paired with an adult and ratios of child to staff are designed to follow state mandates (which means there won't be more than 5 kids to any staff member).

#### 2. Can I stay with my child?

Parents are ALWAYS welcome in Turtle Track. You are not required to leave your child nor are you committed to have your child with us every moment we're open; YOU set the pace for how much or little time your child spends with us - no one knows your Little One better!

#### 3. What happens at Turtle Track?

Turtle Track is not a place where we hold kids hostage so parents have an opportunity to explore Arisia - Turtle Track is part of Arisia! There is a daily schedule of events with everything from Arts & Crafts to Yoga and Story Time. We are aware that Turtle Toddlers have short attention spans and have created the schedule to avoid overwhelming them. The Quiet Room is also always staffed and always available. There are usually two events taking place so a Turtle Toddler can opt for either one.

#### 4. What happens if my toddler is cranky/sick/sad?

The policies for Turtle Track are handed out to caregivers when they bring in a Turtle Toddler for the very first time. Every childcare session will include a Quiet Room. This room will be used for children who need to relax in a mellower environment, children who miss parents/caregivers, children who are interacting with difficulty or children who are not feeling well. PLEASE be aware, in the case of prolonged crying, illness or violence toward staff or children, parent/caregivers will be contacted promptly. "Promptly" is subject to interpretation, but the guidelines are based on how inconsolable the child is and how the child's expression of emotion is impacting other Turtle Toddlers.

## Turtle Track cont'd.

### 5. Does my toddler get fed at all?

We have formal Snack Time but we certainly wouldn't starve a hungry Turtle; they get snappy when they're hungry! Snacks will be made available at other times if needed. The staff is very concerned with good health so you can feel confident your child/ren will eat well while in our company - no high fructose corn syrup or red dye #72! There is, of course, one small exception to this (we like to make candy necklaces....and then EAT them!!) but for the most part, your lil' darlin' will be enjoying dried fruit, trail mix and organic, free range cookies. Parents are welcome to leave favorite munchies for their own Turtles, and are encouraged to do so in the case of particular dietary concerns.

**Turtle Track is a nut-free zone to ensure the safety and health of our future fen.**

### 6. Besides the schedule of events, what else can I expect for my child?

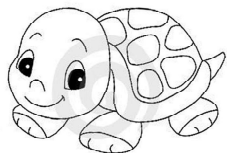
We have toys for our Turtle Toddlers, too, so they can take advantage of our "free play" times: blocks, trucks, dolls, tea sets, dinosaurs and animals and such.

### 7. What about security? I don't want my child being given to just anyone!

When you first arrive at Turtle Track, you will be asked to fill out a detailed registration form. Please make sure all questions are answered; this allows us to provide the best possible service. There is a line to enter a password. A password (like "melon" or "pigfoot") allows the caregiver to send someone for pick up who might not be on the initial authorized list (in case of emergency or convenience).

### 8. What if there's an emergency?

There are members of the Turtle Track staff that are CPR trained but parents and emergency services would be called INSTANTLY in any situation more serious than a little trip or bump. In the case of an evacuation emergency, all children will be bundled in warm attire (please bring coats to Turtle Track) and brought via the stairs to the hotel-designated evacuation location. All other pick up protocols will be in place, e.g. checking IDs, asking for passwords.



## Fast Track (Programming for ages 6-12)

Arisia's Kids' program, known as Fast Track, is designed as a con-within-a-con for our younger fen. With a purchased registration, they have access to a wide variety of program items, including crafts, costuming, a magic show, science, exercises, discussions, demonstrations, storytelling, and games. **We welcome teen volunteers!**

Fast Track is **not** child care and **cannot provide snacks and meals.**

Arrangements must be made to feed your children. No food is allowed into the Fast Track area for safety concerns.

**Guardians - you are responsible for picking up your child** by the time Fast Track closes. Children with a red ribbon may only be picked up by an adult listed on the release form. Children not picked up within a half-hour of Fast Track's closing will result in the child brought to The Watch, which will follow procedures to ensure the safety of the child. Repeat instances of not picking up your child on time will result in the replacement of the child's Fast Track membership with a Kid-in-Tow membership.

## Hours of Operation

Guardians or authorized adults may pick up and drop off their children at Fast Track any time during open hours.

Day	Morning	Afternoons
Friday		4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	1:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Sunday	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	1:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Monday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	

## Fast Track Attendance Policy

### If you are... Your Fast Track access is...

Child under six (6) or Kid in Tow (KIT)	Only when accompanied by a parent/guardian or another adult or teen whose name has been provided to Fast Track.
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Child ages six to eight (6-8) with a Fast Track membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowed to attend unaccompanied.</li> <li>• CANNOT leave without an authorized adult.</li> </ul>
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Child aged nine to twelve (9-12) with a Fast Track membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowed to attend unaccompanied.</li> <li>• Allowed to leave without an adult IF guardian consent is given.</li> </ul>
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Adult wanting to volunteer	Allowed pending approval from Fast Track Area Head & Staff Services.
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Adult to participate in an activity <b>with</b> a child.	Allowed while accompanying a child.
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Adult to participate in an activity <b>without</b> a child.	No admittance.
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## Fast Track Memberships

**Green Ribbon** (“Comet”, Free Roaming): 9-12 years old with guardian permission to roam the Con; does not require adult supervision in convention spaces.

**Red Ribbon** (“Satellite”, Non-Roaming): Children with Fast Track memberships who may be unsupervised in Fast Track but may not leave without being signed out by an approved adult.

Any child who excessively misbehaves or engages in inappropriate, disruptive or dangerous behavior is subject to having free-roaming privileges or their entire membership revoked.

## Geeky Play Date (Sat/Sun/Mon Morning 8:30 – 10:00 AM)

Looking to meet up with other parents and kids at the con? Geeky Play Date is a casual, drop-in space for you and your children. Located in Fast Track, kids can bring their favorite toys and make new friends! Parents can do the same! Please note: this is NOT a babysitting service/venue; plan on tending to your children.

Location: Fast Track



## Teen Lounge (Meeting space for ages 13-19)

Teen Lounge is a space for teens only: it is run by teens, for teens. The Teen Lounge can be used to hang out, meet other teens, play games, and generally relax and have fun over the course of the con in a safe, comfortable space.

The hours of Teen Lounge will be posted on the door. All members are asked to respect the rules posted in Teen Lounge for the enjoyment of all the teen members. Teen Lounge is staffed by at least one teen volunteer at all times.

For more information on Teen Lounge, please contact [teenlounge@arisia.org](mailto:teenlounge@arisia.org).

<b>Location:</b> 466/467	
<b>Hours:</b>	
Friday	4:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Saturday-Sunday	10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Monday	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## Teen Unconference

**Panel Brainstorming: Friday, all evening  
Outside the Video Game Room in Carlton**

A con-within-a-con for teens! For the teen unconference, teens can propose their own topics and hold their own discussions on them. Stop by outside the Video Gaming any time on Friday evening to propose your own ideas and see when things will be happening. Then come by starting Saturday afternoon to see the schedule and decide which events you want to attend. You can also keep your eye on the #A18Teen hashtag for updates.

Day	Time	Location
Saturday	11:30 AM	Hale
	5:30 PM	Hale
	7:00 PM	Bulfinch
	8:30 PM	Bulfinch
Sunday	1:00 PM	Bulfinch
	4:00 PM	Bulfinch
	5:30 PM	Bulfinch
	10:00 PM	Bulfinch
Monday	11:30 AM	Adams
	1:00 PM	Bulfinch
	2:30 PM	Bulfinch



## Helpful Dos and Don'ts

**DO** Read the Pocket Program. It is your bible for all things happening at Arisia! Items that are in the children-specific programs will be marked with a star symbol.

**DON'T** Leave children unattended in areas that aren't dedicated spaces (Fast Track, Turtle Track). The Gaming Areas, Con Suite, Anime and Film Rooms are not a drop-off space for your young ones.

**DO** Make sure any toy weapons your child is carrying around are peace bonded by The Watch (Arisia Security) located in Stone 2W.

**DON'T** Assume your child will be as interested in the same panels you are. If there is a chance they may be bored or cause a disturbance during the session, consider an alternate activity.

**DO** Be aware some panels are inappropriate for eyes and ears under 18. Arisia and its members should follow local and federal laws.

**DON'T** Forget to feed your child. Pick them up from Turtle Track and Fast Track for lunch and dinner. While Turtle Track has snacks, Fast Track does not.

**DO** Seek out and talk to other fan Families! The Geeky Play Dates, Con Suite, or other communal spaces are great locations to meet and chat.

**DON'T** Forget many of the costumes, the outfits the attendees will be wearing, and the displays in the exhibit areas may be made of delicate and easily damaged materials that your child should not handle without permission.

**DO** Provide suggestions on what you think would add to your family's Arisia Experience! Come to a Feedback Panel, or post to an Arisia community on Facebook.

**DO** Make sure your contact information is on your children's badges (even KITS) in case you get separated!