

## Rangernauts: Information for Parents



“Rangernauts” is the name of our Childrens’ Programming, a fun and exciting part of LoneStarCon 3 for children ages 6 to 12. Rangernauts will build on the ideas, work, and experience from seven years of Worldcons, with both new and experienced people, to provide a fun, safe, and secure place for young children to enjoy their Worldcon.

This page provides the answers to some of the questions that you might have about Rangernauts. If you have a question that is not covered here, please contact the Rangernauts staff directly. We can be contacted at: [rangernauts@LoneStarCon3.org](mailto:rangernauts@LoneStarCon3.org).

In addition to Rangernauts, LoneStarCon 3 will be offering professional childcare for children aged 0 to 12 years old as part of Member Services. This service is **not** part of the Rangernauts program, and must be signed up for separately. Full details can be found at <http://www.LoneStarCon3.org/services/childcare.shtml>.

### **Please note the following before signing up your child or children for Rangernauts:**

- Rangernauts is not a child-minding service, but rather, Worldcon programming geared for children ages 6 to 12.
- Parents are expected and required to volunteer time to spend with their children, and to assist Rangernauts.
- Parents must be with children in Rangernauts at all times, and identified as such with a ribbon.
- Parents may give permission for their child to be unaccompanied, with in and out privileges, by getting them a special “Ranger” ribbon. This permission level will start at about 8 years of age, and will be given on-site, after consultation and agreement with the Rangernauts Core Team. It is a privilege that can be rescinded by the Core Team or parent if deemed necessary.
- An “Astronaut” ribbon will be given to those children not allowed to leave Rangernauts on their own; this denotes that they must be accompanied by a Core Team member or their parents when leaving for any reason.
- Parents are expected to come back to check on their children every few hours, and to hydrate and feed their children.
- Parental contact details must be noted on a sticker on the back of their children’s Worldcon badges. We must be able to contact a parent during our hours of operation, and we ask parents to leave their mobile phones on.
- There is no extra charge for LoneStarCon 3 members to be part of Rangernauts.

### Rangernaut program hours during LoneStarCon 3

DATE	OPEN	CLOSE
Thursday, August 29 <sup>th</sup>	noon	5:45 p.m.
Friday, August 30 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	5:45 p.m.
Saturday, August 31 <sup>st</sup>	10 a.m.	5:45 p.m.
Sunday, September 1 <sup>st</sup>	10 a.m.	5:45 p.m.
Monday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 a.m.	2:45 p.m.

**Please note:** On all days save Monday, activities will cease at 5:45 p.m. and the rooms will close at 6 p.m. sharp, so please ensure you keep this schedule in mind. It's a long day for us, so please make sure that your children are picked up by that time. On Monday, activities cease at 2:45 p.m., with our early close due to LoneStarCon 3 Closing Ceremonies.

### The Rangernauts Core Team

Alissa McKersie and James Bacon are in charge of Rangernauts. Alissa previously managed the Cave Creek Black Belt Academy in Arizona, works professionally with children, and worked on the children's programs for the past two Worldcons. James is a railroad engineer, and worked on the children's program in various capacities for the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011 and 2012 Worldcons.

We will be using volunteers with a record of childcare as the Core Team. In addition to Alissa McKersie and James Bacon, this team will consist of Mary Miller, Corry L Lee (our scientist), Linda Wenzelberger, Lia O., Gaye and Scott Ludwig, and James Shields, all with three or more years of experience.

Photos identifying the Core Team will be posted online. The Rangernauts Core Team members will also have a special Rangernauts ribbon so that they can be easily identified at all times during LoneStarCon 3.

Should an issue or complaint arise, please immediately bring it to the attention of the Rangernauts staff member present, and before leaving the Rangernauts area. Any concern or issue that Alissa and James are unable to resolve will be referred to Terry Fong, the head of the Program Division. If deemed necessary, the matter will then be turned over immediately to the Convention Chair, Randy Shepard.

### Reporting chain of responsibility:

1. Parents and Rangernauts volunteers
2. Rangernauts Core Team: Mary Miller, Gaye and Scott Ludwig, James Shields
3. Area Heads: Alissa McKersie and James Bacon
4. Division Head, Program: Terry Fong
5. Convention Chair: Randall Shepherd

There will be three adult Rangernaut Core Team members on hand at all times in the room, with at least one female and male to provide a gender balance, and one at the door.

Please read the Code of Conduct for the Rangernauts Core Team and Volunteers so that you know what standards of behaviour will be expected. The Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.LoneStarCon3.org/services/rangernauts-coc.pdf>.

### **Volunteering with Rangernauts**

Recruitment of volunteers working with Rangernauts will require referral and confirmation.

Parents and all adults must identify themselves as such to the Rangernauts team upon their entry to the Rangernauts area. Parents will receive a special "Rangernaut Parent" ribbon if they are staying to participate. Parents are welcome to visit Rangernauts at any time.

The Rangernauts team are volunteers and will not tolerate any misbehavior from adults. Due courtesy must be shown at all times, on both the part of the volunteer and the parent. We ask parents to be considerate and not jeopardize their invitation to be at Rangernauts by being discourteous or unreasonable. In turn, we beg patience and understanding. We will be spending our Worldcon helping your children to have as good an experience as possible. We really need you to work with us, and in return, we will be as prompt and courteous as possible with you.

We welcome parental participation with Rangernauts, and hope parents will volunteer and get involved. This helps ensure that programming is fun for everyone. No real skills are required—all we ask for is a desire to enjoy and nurture creativity, and to have fun!

### **Security and safety within Rangernauts**

LoneStarCon 3 wants to be sure you are comfortable leaving your child at Rangernauts with us, and that the activities in Rangernauts harm no one. To that end, the safety and security of your child is of paramount importance to us.

The Rangernauts team may ask any person to leave the Rangernauts area, and withdraw the invitation to be in that area at the team's discretion. Any person refusing to leave the Rangernauts area when asked risks being asked to leave the convention.

As a rule, adults who are not participating with their children and who do not have a legitimate reason to be present, or who are not there at the request of the Rangernauts Core Team, should not loiter in or enter the area, and will be asked to leave.

LoneStarCon 3 is fully insured. We have first aiders in the Rangernauts team, and have access via LoneStarCon 3 Operations to other first aiders if needed.

Some activities will require parental supervision and direction, such as moulding with molten lead or crafts where hand tools may be used. Glue guns available for crafts may only be used under the supervision of the Rangernauts team or a parent.

### **Behavior while in Rangernauts**

Parents should encourage their children to tell a Rangernauts Core Team member if there are any occurrences that make them unhappy or uncomfortable. Parents who are informed of an uncomfortable situation by their child need to inform the correct level of authority within the Rangernauts and LoneStarCon 3 structure immediately.

When discipline is used, it is with the clear intention of teaching or reinforcing appropriate behavior. It will not be used impulsively, to gain power, or to embarrass or humiliate a young person. Two people must be present to explain what was unacceptable. Discipline is used to develop a sense of responsibility for behavior, respect for others and their property, reinforce positive behaviour or attitudes; and reinforce awareness of health and safety aspects of the activity.

We will have a "chill chair" and quiet space to assist in calming down any upset.

Parents will be informed if a Rangernauts participant is to be spoken to over inappropriate behaviour.

Rangernauts has a "3 strikes and you're out" policy. Given the nature of young people, we will allow two minor incidences of misbehavior before Alissa and James, in consultation with the relevant Rangernauts staff, will make a decision to withdraw a welcome to an individual.

### **Enjoying your time at Rangernauts**

Please look through the program, discuss it with your children, and prepare appropriately. Consider packing spare or old clothes and the right pieces of kit to heighten involvement for your children, which can make all the difference in their enjoyment of the program. However, we will have ample materials and equipment for everyone.

If your child has special needs of any kind, we encourage you to remain with your child during their time with Rangernauts. We are not professionals educated in their care; in case of an emergency, we feel that a parent would know how to respond best to their child's needs. Because we are likely to have many children participating in the activities, we are unfortunately unable to provide particular special attention for any individual child.

At Rangernauts, we'll be encouraging creativity and imagination. Through activities, sometimes exciting ones, we want to help children learn, understand, and appreciate science fiction in all its many and wonderful forms. We'll be doing this in a safe, friendly, and fun environment for all, so we look forward to welcoming you and your child to Rangernauts at LoneStarCon 3 in August!