

Pre-Con Advice and Checklist
Collected and Published by Homeless Network - 221B Con
UPDATED FOR THE NEW 2018 HOTEL

Atlanta Airport Marriott
4711 Best Road
Atlanta, GA 30337

Many people were kind enough to provide us with pre-con advice. Thank You!!

Please read the [221B Con Harassment Policy](#)

Keep up to date during the con by following these accounts:

- **Twitter:** @221bcon & @221bconHN (official and us, respectively)
- **Tumblr:** 221bcon.tumblr.com & 221bconhn.tumblr.com (official and us, respectively)
- **Facebook:** 221bcon & hn221bcon (official and us, respectively)
 - (also join closed group **221bacon**)
- **Instagram:** 221bcon & 221bconhn (official and us, respectively)

BE SURE TO VISIT US IN THE HOSPITALITY SUITE FOR MOVIES, GAMES, AND PRIZES!

- **(No longer NEW HOTEL) GENERAL INFO:**
 - Yes, you must pay for parking. Use self-parking to get the \$5 rate (normally \$21). If you use valet, you will pay full price.
 - But...TPTB have your back. Keep your badge handy! We will receive a 15% discount at all hotel outlets (excluding the alcohol)!! This will MORE than offset your parking fees. DO ET!
 - There will be a food truck. TPTB have negotiated this considering the lack of local eating places. We strongly advise you take advantage of this! In addition, there are a variety of onsite restaurants. There is a steakhouse and a sushi bar, too! Menus are available on the [hotel website](#). Gluten Free items are available **ON REQUEST** (you must ASK for them to make it GF). Room service is available 24/7. You can also have Fresh Bites menu items delivered to you in common areas of the hotel or arrange to pick up your order at the Starbucks in the lobby.
 - The breakfast bar at this location IS GOOD! But be prepared if you have food situations.
 - There are no safes in the rooms, however there are safety deposit boxes available at the front desk.
 - **Rollaway beds are not available at this hotel.** They aren't stingy, they don't have any. BUT the rooms are large and can easily fit an air mattress. The KING rooms have a lounge chair that can easily be used as a bed. (I slept on it myself, it's fine, it's all fine).
 - The Starbucks here is real, y'all. (We tested it a few times just to be extra sure.)
 - There is an Airport Shuttle that runs to the domestic terminals. Shuttles run from 5am – 12am every 15 minutes and from midnight to 5am shuttles run every 30 minutes. They do not provide car seats for children although they are recommended to be used. Per the Marriot website a cab is estimated at \$7 and per info sent to us an Uber is estimated at \$12. Walking is NOT an option.
 - This hotel does have recycling.
 - For your door decorating needs (yes, we will award winners again this year) the doors are approximately 31" x 78".
 - There is a gym by the pool. The fireplace you've heard tell about is in the outdoor pool area where you see a pavilion.
 - Can you find the Tiny Door?
 - Amazon Now delivers to the hotel! That means, if you've got a Prime membership you can have a 2-hour delivery of groceries etc. directly to the hotel! This is NOT the regular Amazon Prime. It's a different App all together, so be sure you have the right one.
 - Also Instacart, Shipt, Doordash, Postmates, UberEats, and GrudHub.
 - There is a sundries store with limited supplies in the hotel, much more of a selection from the last hotel.
 - Here is a link to local stuff! <http://bit.ly/221Bmap> (Restaurants, Booze, Etc. THANK YOU, RIN!)

- **The party actually starts on *Thursday***
 - As people begin to arrive for the con, the hotel bar and lobby fills up! Join in the fun!
- **Your ID**
 - You'll need it to sign in at registration.
 - If you plan to attend an 18+ panel *they will card you*
 - To purchase the alcohol
- **Comfortable shoes/Clothes**
 - Cute shoes are cute, but you will do a lot of walking around. By Sunday you will want to be comfortable.
 - It's a con, no one cares if you have orange fuzzy socks or a onesie.
 - We suggest anything comfortable: the hallways get crowded and there are so many things you want to do at the same time and the last thing you want to do is not be comfy. This means comfy pants, shirts, hoodies, and shoes!
- **Make Up/Hygiene**
 - If you wear makeup or want makeup, I suggest you pack lightly on it (i.e.: eyeliner, mascara, the basics). You don't need to dress up. Unless you want to, no judgement here.
 - You should have all the basic things: hairbrush, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner (small bottles are super cheap at Walmart, they even have airplane approved packs in the travel section!) if you're traveling by plane, please read the limits or just buy a travel kit.
 - **There is a sundries store with limited supplies in the hotel, much more of a selection from the last hotel.**
 - It's really important to know how much you're allowed to bring when flying because they do check and they *will* make you throw anything out that is over the limit. And we know you don't want to worry about your shampoo while you're going through security checks!
 - Pads and Tampons will be available in the Hospitality Suite bathroom again this year.
- **Pillow/Luggage**
 - If you have trouble sleeping with unfamiliar pillows, then bring your own.
 - The hotel pillows are nice quality, but sometimes you need *yours*.
 - To save space in your luggage, look into space bags to compress your pillow to make packing easier. (HN Member Jahnya used space bags for a three-week trip to the UK. LIFESAVER!!)
 - You can ship things to the hotel if you need via (**address updated**):
Your Name, Guest
4711 Best Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30337
- **Water bottles**
 - Staying hydrated is key. They have been really great in the past with having water stations around but you can't always get to one.
 - The bottles of water available in the hotel rooms are not free and can be pricey. Bring your own.
 - We will have water available in the Hospitality Suite on a limited basis.
 - **Be careful drinking the water of unfamiliar areas. Different states treat their water differently. If you are sick or something is wrong let someone know to get help if it is serious!**
- **Snacks**
 - **VISIT US IN THE SUITE!**
 - Protein bars are good if you have panels you want to go to that interfere with lunch hours. Nuts, mini cheeses, or peanut butter crackers are good, too.
 - The rooms have a small fridge, but no microwave. There is room for sandwich type fixings and beverages. But no way to nuke oatmeal or a frozen burrito.
 - Fresh fruit and other snacks can be purchased at local grocery stores if you're flying into town (**or Amazon Now, Instacart, and Shipt**). We suggest shopping as soon as possible, you won't want to leave once you're there!
 - **THE SHUTTLE AT THIS HOTEL ONLY RUNS TO THE HOTEL AND BACK.**
 - **Research shows Sam's is closer than Costco.**

- **Camera/Pictures**

- You're going to see a lot you're going to want to remember.
- Bring a camera (other than your phone, because that dies fast.)
- **PLEASE ask before taking and posting pictures of ANYONE.** Ask names, URLs, etc. Don't assume that just because someone is in costume means they're cool with you posting pics of them.
- If you do plan to use your phone for pictures you'll want to make sure you have plenty of memory.

- **Alcohol**

- That is if you are of age and want to drink.
- There is a bar and themed drinks. (We miss you, Josh.)
- There are also local package stores, too.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages by anyone under 21 years of age is grounds for expulsion from the convention without refund. (official con rule)

- **Fundage**

- Bring both cash and debit/credit card. There is an ATM in the lobby if you need it.
- If you are traveling from out of town, let your bank know.
- Consider getting a second account at your bank for travel or if you can't then get a reloadable card at Target or Wal-Mart.
- If you get a reloadable card copy the account info. If it's stolen/lost you'll need it in order to report it.
- Don't carry more than you plan to spend that day. Leave the rest in your room.
- Put aside your 'going home' money as soon as you get to the con so you don't accidentally spend it before it's time to leave.
- Same with your hotel room. Most hotels will let you pay in advance, too.
- If you're buying items that are small and less than \$20 or \$10, having \$1s and \$5s is very helpful for vendors as far as change goes!
- Some artists/vendors will have CC access, but not all and sometimes even those fail.
- While I don't want to accuse ANYONE, identity theft is a reality. Keep your wallet close at hand.
- Not everyone in Artists Alley is a fandom artist. Some are people who vendor at cons for a living. (They still bring great stuff!)
- I think the key as far as budget goes is to choose the amount you *can* spend without filching on your rent and whatnot and stick to it.

- **Notebook/Cards/Pens**

- One that is small enough you can carry it around. You ARE going to make new friends and you ARE going to want their contact information. Grab one at a dollar store.
- Some people carry personalized cards they give out with their URL on them. You can get some printed with Vista Print or you can get a pack of blank business cards at a store and print them yourself!
- Bring a glue stick! You can put those cards in your notebook then add notes to the page to remember why you wanted the card. Great for vendor cards!
- If you are planning to go to panels you might want to take notes (especially the fan fiction workshop!).

- **Allergy/Other Meds**

- You may not normally have allergic reactions during this time of year back home, but different geographical areas have different environmental factor. Better to be safe than sorry. It's best to have OTC allergy meds with you before your arrival, just in case.
- April is the start of pollen season in Atlanta (source: residents). Pine pollen is reported to be the worst.
- Even if you don't get there in a yellow car, you will leave in one.
- Seriously, we're talking chalk dust all over everything amounts.
- Headache meds are useful. It can get loud in some places and the excitement of the whole experience can give those with low social tolerance a nasty headache.
- If you have a medical condition, bring your prescriptions with you even if you don't take them regularly. Better safe than sorry. I'm taking my glucose with me, just in case.
- Let your roommate(s) know what you take in case of an emergency or they need to fetch it from the room for you.

- **Electronics**
 - Bring chargers for everything. Phone, camera, laptops, etc. There are outlets all around the hotel.
 - Especially if you are sharing a room, you will probably run out of outlets in your room. Take a power strip with you and save yourself a headache.
 - HDMI cable if you want to connect your laptop to the TV and show someone the Oklahomo videos (or anything else). They had easy inputs.
 - We will have spare charger cables for use in the Hospitality Suite.

- **Toilet Paper**
 - When you're sharing a room with three (or more) people the TP can go fast.
 - Besides you can bring the good stuff from home (or buy at a local store. see Snack section).
 - Toilet paper will be available in the Hospitality Suite bathroom again this year.

- **Sturdy Folder/Poster tube/Portfolio**
 - If you plan to buy posters, prints or postcards you'll want to store them safely for transport back home, especially if you are flying.
 - A portfolio would be better if you're driving.
 - Hobby Lobby/Michael's always have a 40% off coupon on their website/app.

- **Mugs**
 - They do provide a coffee maker in the rooms (you can make either coffee or tea in them), but only a few of those little paper coffee cups.
 - There is a Starbucks, but not everyone likes Starbucks or wants to spend the money.
 - We're bringing our own full-sized coffee maker for the Hospitality Suite. Reasons.

- **Messenger Bag/Backpack**
 - Basically, something to carry your stuff around. You're going to collect swag and you won't want to run back to your room twenty times.
 - Speaking of swag, we're going to be giving some away so look for us!

- **Cosplay**
 - If you cosplay, bring it! Even if you've done it like, once, we want to see! Everyone is just SO supportive and lovely. It's like a family—BUT BETTER.
 - Cosplay emergency kit: scissors, thread of appropriate colors, needles, safety pins (a basic sewing kit), fray check, glue (fabric and super), fashion tape, makeup sealer, extra of anything that might come off, if possible (buttons, sequins, ribbon, etc.).
 - For a more comprehensive checklist of pre-con preparation see the end of this document.

- **Crafting**
 - Yes! Bring your knitting/crocheting/portable project(s) with you. They can keep idle hands busy during panels or just hanging out in the lobby.
 - The crafting room is back!
 - It's also a guaranteed way to make friends.

- **Do Your HOME Work (aka post-con prep)**
 - Clean up your room/house/abode before you leave for con. You'll find it easier to transition back when you don't have to wash dishes or find that favorite stuffed animal before crashing.
 - Have something at home easy-to-eat when you get back. Make your comfort food and freeze it for when you return.
 - If you have to return to school/work immediately after con have a set of clothes laid out so you don't have to think about it.

THE BIGGEST, BIGGEST THING BEFORE A CON...

Eat! Sleep! Hydrate yourself! Eat healthy things! Take a relaxing bath! You will probably be missing out on sleep at the very least, and you want to make sure you're giving yourself tons of TLC! Your body and mind will thank you when it's being dragged around the con floor all day.

Packing Check List:

- ID
- Comfortable clothes for day
- Comfortable clothes for sleeping
- Swim suit
- Under clothes / socks
- Shoes
- Water Bottle
- Pillow
- Bottle opener
- Toilet Paper
- Snacks
- Alcohol
- Cash, Debit, and/or Credit Card
- Notebook/cards/pens
- Medication / Vitamins
- Chargers/Power Strip
- HDMI cable
- Sturdy folder/Poster tube
- Mugs
- Messenger Bag/Backpack
- Cosplay ER items
- Sewing Kit
- Hairbrush / spray / pins / bands
- Toothbrush/paste/floss
- Deodorant
- Facewash / lotion
- Makeup
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Contact stuff/Glasses

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____