

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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POPULAR FANDOM EVENT RETURNS TO SUFFOLK FOR FOURTH YEAR WITH INTERACTIVE FUN FOR ALL AGES

SUFFOLK, VA (March 12, 2019) IconiCon, the largest free gathering of Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Comics, and Anime fans in the area, is coming back to Suffolk for a fourth year. The Suffolk Public Library launched this multi-fandom event in 2016 and it has grown each year with new activities being added to attract regulars as well as new attendees. This year, IconiCon will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Suffolk Library on Saturday, March 30, 2019.

The day will be full of hands-on opportunities for all ages. Panels and workshops will dominate the Computers and More area of the library, focusing on topics such as the phenomenon of fandom in U.S. society and the art of cosplay. An Actors' Place will offer two opportunities for people to take part in a Voiceover Workshop, where they will learn how to use their voice and a microphone. Adults can branch out and meet like-minded people in the Cosplay Speed Dating session which will focus on making connections with others who share their interests. The twist? Participants must remain in character while answering a list of designated questions.

Children attending will enjoy making fandom crafts and challenging themselves in a Superhero Training Academy course. Younger ones can listen to one of two themed

storytimes scheduled and elementary aged kids can interact with technology in the Mario Sphero Circuit robotics course.

Other activities will be set up throughout the day including table top gaming, karaoke, video gaming, a trivia contest, and a Smash Bros. Tournament. Those interested in participating in the trivia contest and gaming tournament will have the opportunity to register at IconiCon.

In 2018, The 501st Legion provided interactive opportunities for guests with storm troopers and other Star Wars characters roaming around the library. This year will bring balance to the Force as not only will The 501st Legion be returning, but The Rebel Legion will be joining in to help spread the joy of the Star Wars Universe. Old Dominion Daleks will offer interactive opportunities as well with their Daleks from the popular series, *Doctor Who*. Also representing the fantasy series will be The Tidewater Cosplay Association who is bringing their TARDIS for photo opportunities. Over twenty vendors will be at IconiCon this year providing fandom-themed merchandise ranging from apparel to artwork. Got Fish? food truck and One Girl Desserts will offer food for sale.

A demonstration by Red Dragon Martial Arts will lead into the cosplay contest. People are encouraged to dress up as a favorite character and enter the contest onsite. While judges are deliberating, the winners of the Library's annual Attack of the Fan Art contest will be announced. The art contest is open to entries through Monday, March 18th. There are three age categories: Ages 0 to 11, 12 to 18, and 19 and Over. People can submit their physical artwork to any Suffolk Public Library location or e-mail digital art to cbland@suffolkva.us along with the entry form found online. There will be four winners; one from each category and a fan favorite. See the entry form for full details.

Last year's event brought in over 1,000 people throughout the course of the day, providing a fun atmosphere for those with shared interests to come together as a community and make connections. Suffolk Public Library offers many events

throughout the year and IconiCon has quickly become a local favorite. Announcements, an event schedule, and more are available at www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com/iconicon and on the [IconiCon 2019 Facebook event page](#).

To learn more about the Suffolk Public Library, visit www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com. Follow the Library on Twitter @SufPubLib and check for updates on Facebook at Facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary.

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