

## Smofcon 40 Questionnaire Instructions

Please **DOWNLOAD** this document and then answer all the questions in line. If a question doesn't apply to your bid, please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you will be able to provide an answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed to by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

We plan to make your responses available in PDF format on our website as well as having a limited number of printed copies at the convention.

Email back to [smofcon@mcfi.org](mailto:smofcon@mcfi.org).

## Questionnaire

### General

Name of Convention?

[Smofcon 43](#)

What dates will your convention run?

[4 - 6 December 2026](#)

What is your proposed convention host city?

[Washington, DC](#)

Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?

[We are seeking a hotel in a Washington, DC city center location.](#)

What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?

[We will utilize hotel function space and possibly one or more suites for hospitality functions.](#)

Who is your convention chair?

[Cathy Green and Michael Nelson](#)

Who is on your committee?

[Our committee is still assembling.](#)

What experience do they have in general?

[Members of the Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association \(bwawa.org\) have worked on Smofcon 22 in 2004, Nebula Awards Conference in 2010, World Fantasy Con in 2014, and the 2021 Worldcon, DisCon III, and numerous other national and international conventions.](#)

What experience do they have in running (insert appropriate convention here, i.e. Worldcons/NASFiCs/Smofcons)?

[Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association \(bwawa.org\) has hosted Smofcon 22 in 2004, Nebula Awards Conference in 2010, World Fantasy Con in 2014, and the 2021 Worldcon, DisCon III.](#)

If applicable, have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along-Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70%?

[NA](#)

What is the sponsoring organization?

[Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association \(bwawa.org\)](#)

Is the sponsoring organization a 501(c)(3) or otherwise a non-profit? If not a 501(c)(3) but a non-profit, please explain.

[Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association \(bwawa.org\) is a 501\(c\)3 organization.](#)

Is the sponsoring organization tax-exempt for local taxes, especially sales tax?

Currently, no. We allowed our local tax-exemptions to expire after DisCon III. We will renew these exemptions if we win site selection.

What is your website and/or Facebook group?

Our main site is BWAWA.org. A Smofcon 43 website will be created if we win.

Who should people contact for additional information or questions (email preferred)?

Cathy Green [[cathydalek@gmail.com](mailto:cathydalek@gmail.com)] or Michael Nelson [[mrnelson@gmail.com](mailto:mrnelson@gmail.com)].

## Travel

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne, etc.?

We would prefer to defer this question until Smofcon 42 in 2025 in order to provide more accurate information.

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?

Dulles (IAD) and National (DCA) Airports in Virginia and BWI Airport in Maryland are international airports.

(Though it is an international airport, National has no immigration and customs facilities, with international flights restricted to those with U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities, including major airports in Canada and some destinations in the Caribbean.)

Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport?

We would prefer to defer this question until Smofcon 42 in 2025 in order to provide more accurate information.

Technically National Airport is the closest international airport. Dulles finally has its own Metrorail station on the Silver Line with direct access to downtown DC.

To reach the DC Metrorail system from BWI, you can take a shuttle from the airport to the MARC rail station and take a MARC train to Union Station. From there, you can transfer to Metro's Red Line.

Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

We would prefer to defer this question until Smofcon 42 in 2025 in order to provide more accurate information.

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport, shared ride service (Lyft/Uber/etc.), and taxi from that airport/train station?

We would prefer to defer this question until Smofcon 42 in 2025 in order to provide more accurate information.

What is the visa situation for citizens of foreign countries to attend your convention? What countries are eligible for ESTAs (Electronic Travel Authorizations which are generally a formality)? What countries would require visas? How long does it normally take to get a visa, and what does it cost?

We would prefer to defer this question until Smofcon 42 in 2025 in order to provide more accurate information.

## **Facilities**

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?

TBD

How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

TBD

What are your hotel room rates?

TBD

Do these rates include breakfast?

TBD

Do they include internet access in the room?

TBD

How firm are these rates?

TBD

What additional taxes and fees are there?

TBD

What does parking cost at your main hotel and/or convention center?

TBD

Do you have a signed (contingent) contract or letter of intent specifying the above?

Not yet.

What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?

We will be using hotel function space.

What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

We are seeking a hotel near a Metrorail station for easy public transportation.

In addition to Metro trains, buses, and garages, the SmarTrip fare card is also accepted on ART, DASH, Fairfax Connector, Cue, RideON, TheBus, DC Circulator, Loudoun County Transit, and Potomac and Rappahannock Transit/PRTC systems.

Taxi service, Lyft, Uber, electric scooters and bikes, bike shares, etc. are also available.

Where will your large events be held?

Hotel function space.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

In 2022, WalletHub named DC as #13 on a national list of 182 cities. DC was ranked high for diversity, accessibility, and quality but among the lowest in the country for affordability.

Once we have selected a hotel, we will provide a list of restaurants, bars, shops, attractions, etc. in the neighborhood.

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

A corkage/forkage waiver will be part of our hotel negotiation process.

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.

Smoking is prohibited in all enclosed public places in the District of Columbia. The law requires that virtually all establishments and businesses with employees be smoke-free.

## **Miscellaneous**

What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?

Daytime high temperatures early in December tend to be in the lower 50s F (11-12 C). A few of the warmer days can reach up to 64 F (about 18 C) or more. Overnight low temperatures at this time are mostly in the mid-30s F (1-3 C).

Snow does occur this month but measurable snowfalls, on average, occur on only 1 or 2 days with snowfalls of 1 inch (2.5cm) or more occurring on one day every year or two and snows of 3 inches (7.6 CM) or more falling only about once every 5 years.

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

Washington, DC, the U.S. capital, is a compact city on the Potomac River, bordering the states of Maryland and Virginia. It's defined by imposing

neoclassical monuments and buildings – including the iconic ones that house the federal government’s 3 branches: the Capitol, White House, and Supreme Court.

It's also home to Smithsonian and other iconic museums (many free to visit), the National Zoo, National Botanical Gardens, NASA Goddard Space Center (Maryland), and performing-arts venues such as the Kennedy Center. — *Google*

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as historically marginalized groups, young adults, seniors, or military?

Yes, but details have not been discussed yet.

How do you plan to recruit staff? Will there be a discount membership rate for staff? Do you plan crash space for staff? Etc.

Recruiting from local organizations such as the Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA), Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS), and Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) and anyone interested in supporting Smofcons.

Discount staff memberships, crash space, etc. are on the table to be discussed.

What is your vision for your convention?

To be determined. As an “Inside the Beltway” Washington, DC convention, we might focus on topics such as convention budgeting or dealing with fannish politics.

(Or possibly “WWPRD?” (What would Peggy Rae do?))

How do you plan to make it happen?

As with any project. We’ll define our goals, gain an understanding of our goals, create a list of actions, set a timeline, designate resources, and monitor the process.

What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your convention?

Many of our members are current or former employees or contractor employees of all branches of the U.S. federal government. For Smofcon 22, we had a

behind-the-scenes tour of the Library of Congress. We will be exploring similar events for Smofcon 43.

Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?

The BWAWA CoC is located at [https://bwawa.org/bwawa-main/?page\\_id=19](https://bwawa.org/bwawa-main/?page_id=19)

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

We believe recognizing and respecting diversity of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, education, national origin, etc. grants us different perspectives than our own and helps to more successfully achieve our goals as a con runner's convention.

We will strive to make all of our members feel included, involved, and respected and that their own experiences matter and are heard.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

Seriously, part of monitoring our progress in these areas will be asking ourselves, "What would Peggy Rae do?" Peggy Rae Sapienza was an early advocate for diversity and inclusion, especially in her support of convention volunteers because she knew volunteers were potential future committee members if treated with respect and made to feel like they belonged.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

Participation of all members whether this was their first Smofcon or their 43<sup>rd</sup>. Providing useful information on running small conventions just starting out and long-established regional cons and Worldcons.

What are your plans, if any, regarding handling the COVID-19 pandemic?

We would prefer to defer this question until Smofcon 42 in 2025 in order to provide more accurate information.

We will follow the 2026 local community and CDC/WHO guidelines and regulations in establishing our policy.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?



Yes. To what degree will need to be determined based on facility Internet access cost and available resources — human and equipment.

If applicable, are you prepared to run a site selection process should it be required?

Smofcon 44 site selection

If applicable, how do you plan to facilitate the Hugo Finalists input to your convention?

NA

Is there anything else you wish to add?