



2019 Edition

Arisia

Family-Friendly Guide



Welcome to Arisia!

Whether this is your 10th 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 in full 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 (Commonwealth).

Fast Track Location: (Back Bay and Brandeis). 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 Gloucester.
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 4th floor by Holmes.

Helpful Contacts and Locations

What is it?	Where is it?	What should I know?
The Watch (Security) Voice & Text	Exeter, on the mezzanine	(617) 863-2472
Lost & Found Information Desk	Hotel Front Desk Mezzanine outside of Exeter	
Teen Lounge	Gloucester	Ages 13-19
Fast Track	Back Bay/Brandeis	Ages 6-12
Turtle Track (Childcare)	See Ops (Brookline, 4 th floor) 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: Freeman Kyne, Susan Fabijanec
teenlounge@arisia.org
- Teen Unconference: Nico Roman and Andy Raisbeck
- Division Head: Jesi Lipp
youth-services@arisia.org
- Assistant Con Chair over Youth Services: Diana Hsu
- Arisia 2018 Con Chair: Daniel Eareckson

Ongoing Items

Arisia Art Show Georgian. Be sure to remind the young ones to look, but not touch.

Anime and Video, Charles River on the 4th floor. The full schedule and some movie descriptions are located in the Pocket Program.

Gaming – Tabletop Statler. 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 Boylston. 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 (Hancock, on the mezzanine) and trade it in to get a reward or you can keep your found duck as your reward.

Ducks like water and shady places to rest but you'll never have to move any hotel property or climb anything to find them.



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 full descriptions. (Note that some activities and events meet several times, but only one is listed in this guide.)

Friday

Fast Track Open Play Time Meet other kids and the Fast Track crew as we warm up for the weekend.	5:30 PM Back Bay- FastTrack1
Pokémon Go Trainer Meeting All team affiliations and levels welcome! Make friends and exchange trainer codes with fellow enthusiasts.	5:30 PM White Hills
Practical Considerations for Costumers A panel of veteran costumers will talk about everything from pockets to safety tips for costuming in crowds.	7:00 PM St. James
The Big Necessities... IN SPACE! Sanitation and society – Enjoy a science panel on toilets and garbage that’s out of this world.	8:30 PM Beacon Hill
Sing-along: Songs from Classic Broadway Musicals Music Man, Guys and Dolls and more! Lyrics provided. Come sing!	10:00 PM Cambridge
Drum & Dance Kids welcome if attending with an adult	10:00 PM Clarendon

Saturday

The Lion King The Lion King follows the journey of Simba from outcast lion cub to King of the pride. Stunning visuals, catchy songs, and more make this a must-see.	8:00 AM Charles River
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Saturday

Geeky Playdate A casual, drop-in space for parents and their children. See back of guide for details. *(Also on Sunday and Monday.)* 8:30 AM
Brandeis-FastTrack3

Family-Friendly Renaissance Dance Learn some of the fun dances from Ren Faires. Children 8 and up are welcome. 10:00 AM
Grand Ballroom B

Parents with Infants and Toddlers Meetup You've run into them around Arisia. Now meet them properly. 10:00 AM
White Hill

Young Adult Fiction Reading Hear authors reading from their own original works of fantasy and science fiction appropriate for young adult readers. 10:00 AM
Holmes

Project Cosplay 1:00 PM
Fabrics, Pins, Imagination! Come make your own costume. Then, show off your creation in the Back Bay-FastTrack2
Masquerade tomorrow if you want.

An Introduction to Magic: The Gathering 1:00 PM
Learn about this collectible card game that has been around for over 20 years and try it out for yourself. Brandeis-FastTrack4

Beyond Hogwarts: A Young Fan's Reading List Harry Potter was great, but there are a lot more fantasy and science fiction books out there for kids and young adults. 2:30 PM
Brandeis-FastTrack3

YA Science Fiction & Fantasy Reading 2:30 PM
Authors will be reading their own original works of science fiction and fantasy appropriate for young adult readers. Holmes

Lighting It Up: Adding Sparkle to Your Projects This workshop covers how to design basic and intermediate LED and other illumination techniques for set decoration, events, or even home lighting. 4:00 PM
Winthrop

En Garde! SCA Rapier Fencing Demo See 16th and 17th century rapier techniques up close. 4:00 PM
Grand Ballroom B

Saturday

Tactile Tour of the Art Show	Touch selected art to complete our mental image. Clean hands recommended.	4:00 PM Georgian
Teen Sword Fighting	Swords! Swords for teenagers! Come learn sword-fighting! Teenagers will learn the martial art which was practiced by knights and sword masters in the medieval era.	6:30 PM Grand Ballroom B
The Year in Science	This annual panel looks out at space, down at particles, around at medicine, and in at psychology! And that's never all!	7:00 PM Clarendon
Princess Bride Shadowcast Performance	The Tesseract Players return with their version of this classic – a new family-friendly Arisia tradition.	7:00 pm Grand Ballroom A
Everything in *A Game of Thrones* Is Wrong	Personal combat and the conduct of war through the ages will be discussed to expose the myths of fantasy in books, films and TV shows. And completely family-friendly!	9:00 PM Clarendon

Sunday

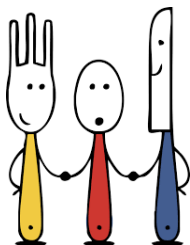
Math and Fiber Art	Panelists will discuss how to use science & math to make fabulous fiber arts and show examples of interesting mathematical shapes, including Klein Bottles and other conversation starting patterns.	10:00 AM Newbury
Readings for All Ages	Authors will be reading from works appropriate for both the young and young at heart.	10:00 AM Holmes
50th Anniversary of the First Moon Landing	What did it take to get to the moon using (what is now) 50-year-old technology?	1:00 PM Beacon Hill

Sunday

Medieval Street Fight A demonstration of unarmed grappling, dagger and longsword techniques from Italian mercenary and fencing master Fiore de'i Liberi. The demonstration will be followed by an introductory class in 14th century dagger. No experience necessary all equipment will be provided!	1:00 PM Grand Ballroom B
Geeky Parenting: Raising the Next Generation Come join our panel of parents to discuss the challenges and rewards of being a geeky parent.	2:30 PM Cambridge
Spoon-A-Pults Come and construct your own spoon-a-pult.	4:00 PM Brandeis-FastTrack3
All Words Are Made Up Is the time-consuming process of creating the words, grammar, and written language for a fictional culture worth it? Panelists will discuss their experiences crafting made-up languages, their successes and failures.	4:00 PM Newbury
Scottish Dance Lesson and Dance Come and skip along as we cover some basic figures and perform some easy dances together!	5:00 PM Clarendon
Open Jam: Irish and English Bring an instrument, bring your voice, or just enjoy listening.	7:00 PM Back Bay-FastTrack1
Eat Your Experiments The kitchen is your laboratory. How to play and have fun with chemistry and biology in the kitchen.	7:00 PM Beacon Hill
Masquerade The 30th annual Arisia Masquerade. Come watch the entrants perform short vignettes to show off their costumes.	8:00 PM Grand Ballroom A
The Last Starfighter Enjoy a rousing space adventure in which a videogame player saves the universe.	8:30 PM Charles River

Monday

Make your own Slime! It's a simple recipe but lots of fun! Come make your own slime to bring home.	10:00 AM Brandeis- FastTrack3
Magical Lands in Comic Books This panel discusses mythical and magical lands of comic books while also touching on how many of these magical places are full of every type of person except white men.	10:00 AM Franklin
Splendid Teapot Racing Navigate your radio-controlled teapots through an obstacle course.	11:00 AM Grand Ballroom B
Swords of Chivalry 3 Hands-on swordsmanship lessons for kids. Come use safe foam weapons to learn the skills a knight would have used! (<i>Other sessions on Saturday and Sunday at 10AM.</i>)	11:30 AM Back Bay- FastTrack2
Last Day Open Play Is there a craft you wanted to try or a game you wanted to play? Let's get in some last-minute fun before we say Goodbye to Arisia for this year!	1:00 PM Back Bay- FastTrack2
Teen Unconference Enjoy the final session of the program created at Arisia by and for teens.	1:00 PM Holmes



Dining Tips:

- Have snacks on hand for the kids.
- The Con Suite (Presidential Suite, 15th floor) is a place for snacks, not full meals. It has limited hours; check your Guidebook; signs will be posted as well.
- MJ O'Connors, adjacent to the hotel, has a great kids' menu!

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 li'l 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?

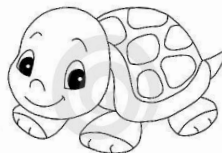
We have toys for our Turtle Toddlers, too, so they can take advantage of our "free play" times: blocks, trucks, dolls, tea sets, dinosaurs and animals and such.

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 fans. 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...
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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"> • Allowed to attend unaccompanied. • CANNOT leave without an authorized adult.
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Child aged nine to twelve (9-12) with a Fast Track membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed to attend unaccompanied. • Allowed to leave without an adult IF guardian consent is given.
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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 with a child.	Allowed while accompanying a child.
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Adult to participate in an activity without 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 – 9:45 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.

Location: Gloucester

Hours:

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 in Holmes

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 Holmes 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 #A19Teen hashtag for updates.

Day	Time
Saturday	11:30 AM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM
Sunday	1:00 PM 2:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:30 PM 10:00 PM
Monday	1:00 PM



Helpful Dos and Don'ts

DO Read the Pocket Program. It is your bible for all things happening at Arisia! A great many sessions, particularly those that run during the day, are kid-friendly. Programming that's targeted specifically to kids are marked "Fast Track" in the Pocket Program's titles.

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!