

# FIRST TIMER INFORMATION

## Things to know during the convention

- Remember that everything convention related will be found at <https://miniatures.org/26Cal>. This will include registration links, packet pages and ALL important information you need to know.
- Mark your calendar for when registration for the convention and activities open. Some of the activities will fill up very quickly so make sure you register for what you want first to ensure you reserve your spot.
- Just because you put the activity in your cart does NOT mean that spot is being held for you. Whoever pays for it the fastest gets it the registration/activity.
- Ask questions! Make sure to ask questions at any time you are not sure about something, we are here to help. Reach out to the office at [kim@miniatures.org](mailto:kim@miniatures.org).
- READ EVERYTHING!!! Go through each packet page on the website, read every email or communication you are sent. Watch the Gazette for articles and information posted in the Newsletter.
- **Packet Pages:** Make sure to go through each packet page. Some have deadline dates if you want to participate or donate. If you are not able to print your form, then email the information the form is asking to the chairman listed on the form. Make sure you watch to get a response, so you know they received it.
- Make sure to get your hotel reservations made before the cut off deadline on the form. The group rate is not available after that date.
- Sign up to volunteer! It's a great way to get to know people, learn about the various parts of the convention and how they work and best of all the committee who has been working so hard to make the convention the best time ever for us needs our help and will really appreciate you for stepping up. The convention is a lot of work, and they need us to step up and help in any way you can. Worried, you won't know what to do? We promise we will make sure you are not thrown into the deep end without knowing how to do your assigned task.

## Things to know during the convention

**Registration:** Make sure you watch the schedule for registration times. You must go to registration to pick up your packet which will have your badge in it. Your badge must be worn at all times during the convention, so we know you are registered and authorized to be in the convention space. Please do NOT leave the hotel with your badge on for your safety. Signs will be posted each day with a map and schedule of where things are each day so you will easily be able to find the rooms you need to go to. Come down a couple of minutes early so you can check the map for that day's events, so you know where you need to be. Make sure you check your registration packet and put your schedule for your badge and any other important finds in your envelope in your badge or totebag so you have them at all times. That badge schedule will be extremely important for you to have at all times, so we suggest putting that in your badge first thing.

**Thursday Opening Lunch:** This will be the opening of the convention. You will get to know your table mate and announcements will be made to get us started for a fun time!

**Saturday Evening Banquet:** Unless you are at a non-exchange table, you will need 9 table favors to give to each person at your table. They are typically wrapped in a gift bag or box and around \$5-\$10. You will need 1 exchange gift around \$10-\$15. They will let you know when to exchange this. Again, it would need to be wrapped in some way. (Both of these items are optional but are part of the merriment.)

**No Host Cocktail Party:** A cash bar will be provided before the Saturday night banquet. This is a great way to mingle and meet new friends, not to mention enjoy those who are dressed in theme-related costumes. Feel free to dress in costume too!

**Sunday Banquet:** Don't miss the Sunday banquet. They will draw for one person at each table to win the centerpiece on the table that day. You must be present to win!

**Roundtables:** Start saving your \$5 & \$10 bills for Roundtables. This is super-fast so making change slows things down so it's always helpful to have exact change. The display cases with each roundtable will be in the registration area with shopping list. Make sure to stop by and see which ones you can't live without, so you know which roundtable seller you want to visit. It's best to have a game plan and strategy ahead of time.

**Bring a Totebag!** It is great to have a bag for shopping in the salesroom, buying roundtables, shopping at the garage sale and to keep your souvenirs and gifts from being lost at the meal functions. Having one will make your life so much easier!!!!

**Basic Tool Kit:** Many instructors list the tools and special items needed for their class in their workshop description. If you need more than a basic toolkit the instructor will reach out to you with a list of things that will be helpful for you to bring. Otherwise pack a basic toolkit to bring. If you need ideas of what to put in your kit check out the basic tool kit list in the packet pages.

**Garage Sale:** They line up EARLY so grab your totebag and find your spot in line.

**Auction:** Watch the schedule for the silent auctions and don't miss the live auction. This is a great way to add some fantastic minis to your collection.

**Houseparty Helpers:** Make sure to purchase your tickets and place them in the box for the item you want to win. Winners will be drawn at the Saturday night banquet and you must be present to win. Make sure to check them out and we hope you win one or three! It's always so much fun watching the first timers win a Houseparty Helper. Make sure you whoop it up and show your excitement when they call your name.

**Gala:** A great time for auctions, entertainment and food. Make sure to register!

**Pre-Convention Workshops:** These are workshops that take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They are normally 8am-5pm.

**Registered Workshop:** These are workshops that take place on Thursday and Friday from 7:30-11:30 am.

**Theme Luncheons:** They take place on Friday and Saturday from Noon-1:30 on Friday and 12:15-1:45 on Saturday. You will have lunch and a scrumptious dessert while enjoying a presentation from your luncheon presenter. You will receive a special gift made just for your luncheon.

**Mini Swaps:** You will bring 21 labeled, identical unwrapped items with you. No kits or printies. Your swap should be valued at \$5 or more. You are welcome to participate in more than one scale.

**Hospitality Room:** Great place to sit and work on puzzles and other activities while meeting new people, receive gifts and surprises each day while visiting as well.

**Exhibit room:** You won't want to miss out on seeing all the displays and minis our members have brought to display and share with us. So much talent and creativity in one room. We would love for you to share one of your mini scenes with us!

**Home Improvement Seminars:** These Seminars are absolutely free so watch schedule and make sure to grab your notebook and stop by as many as you would like to attend. Great way to learn something new!

**Regional Meetings:** Make sure to visit your regional meeting and get to know other members in your region. It's a great way to find out what is going on in your region and give some feedback to help your regional team.

**Business Meeting:** This meeting is important because you will meet your board members, awards will be handed out, we will vote on any new bylaws that need to be addressed and updated and have your voice heard. You will hear the board reports to find out all the things they have worked on during the year and find out all the latest information on new and exciting things that were voted on at the board meetings that week.

**First Timers Meeting:** This meeting will be held for all those attending their first Convention. We know this meeting is early, but you won't want to miss it. You are going to have questions, and you are going to hear questions and answers you didn't know you needed to know. Best part is that you receive great gifts for attending. If you don't attend, you don't get the gifts.

**Just have lots of fun! SIGN UP FOR EVERYTHING!!! You won't regret it.** If you have any problems onsite or not sure where to go or what to do...find a committee member and ask them. They will all be wearing a special apron, so they are easy to find.

**We look forward to seeing you in California!!!**