



WHAT TO EXPECT AT  
*Superstars 2024*

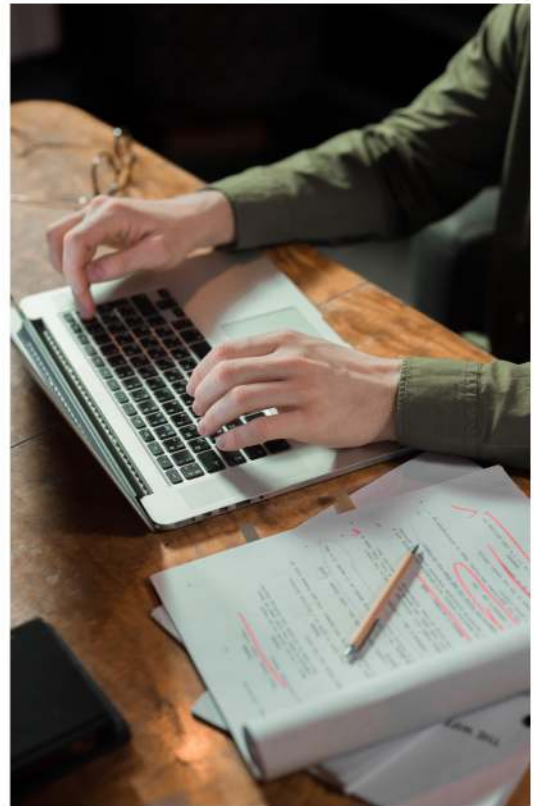
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[SuperstarsWriting.com](http://SuperstarsWriting.com)

## 2024 CONFERENCE GUIDE

# *Welcome Superstar!*

We're so excited you've decided to join us for the fourteenth year of our conference at the Antlers Hotel in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. Superstars Writing Seminars (SSWS) is an intense business seminar—a drink-from-the-fire-hose deluge of real-world information designed to help attendees better navigate the pitfalls of publishing—targeted to serious writers looking to break in or enhance their career.



Whether this is your first year or your fourteenth, this guide will help you get the most out of the conference, enjoy your stay at the hotel, and pack accordingly. Most importantly, we want you to get excited about all the learning, opportunities, connections, and new friendships you will make as a result of attending Superstars!

## *You Are Welcome Here*

Superstars Writing Seminars seeks to be an inclusive and safe space physically, mentally, and emotionally. Ongoing positive support across the Superstars family of instructors and attendees, not just during the annual in-person event but also within the virtual and digital year-long related platforms, is at the heart of this goal.

Superstars Writing Seminars is committed to diverse, equitable, and inclusive representation across the entire writing community, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, women, people with disabilities, neurodiversities, body sizes, religions, nationalities, ages, and all other marginalized and underrepresented people.



## WHO WE ARE

# *Our Founders*



### Kevin J. Anderson

Kevin has published more than 175 books, 58 of which have been national or international bestsellers. He has written numerous novels in the Star Wars, X-Files, and Dune universes.



### Rebecca Moesta

Rebecca is the bestselling author of many science fiction and fantasy books, both solo and in collaboration with her husband, Kevin J. Anderson.

## WHO WE ARE

# *Our Founders*



### James A. Owen

James has written and illustrated two dozen StarChild comics, the award-winning MythWorld series of novels, the bestselling series, The Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, and more.



### Brandon Sanderson

Brandon is a best-selling author known for his Cosmere universe, which includes the Mistborn series and The Stormlight Archive, along with his work on the Wheel of Time series.

## WHO WE ARE

# *Founders in Memoriam*



### **David Farland**

David wrote and edited more than fifty books. These include novels for adults, young adults, anthologies, middle-grade readers, and picture books. He was perhaps best known for his epic fantasy series *The Runelords*.



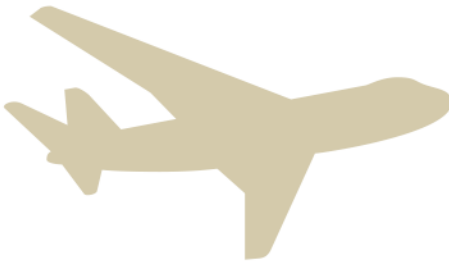
### **Eric Flint**

Eric was a best-selling author, best known for the 1632 series. In addition to the twenty-three novels he wrote in the 1632 series, he edited twelve anthologies of short fiction set in that universe. He was also the founder and publisher of Ring of Fire Press.

# Getting There

## WHAT TO EXPECT

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### FLYING

The two main airports you should use to travel to Superstars are Denver International Airport (DIA) and the Colorado Springs Airport (COS). The Colorado Springs Airport is the preferred choice because of its close proximity to the Antlers Hotel, but DIA is also a fine choice for a destination airport, particularly if you are traveling to the conference from outside the United States.



### DRIVING

Many people choose to drive to Superstars. There is plenty of covered parking at the Antlers Hotel for both hotel guests and non-guests.

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## FREQUENTLY

# *Asked Questions*

### Will I Need a Car for the Conference?

SSWS is entirely located at the Antlers Hotel in Downtown Colorado Springs. All of the conference events are located inside the hotel with the exception of the optional Garden of the Gods Walk. Carpool and rideshare options are available for these events.

### What About Food? Will I Need a Car to Get to Restaurants?

The Antlers Hotel offers many on-site dining options. In addition, there are a number of restaurants and eateries just a short walk away. As the Antlers is located in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs, rideshare options are plentiful. Most out-of-town attendees do not find they need a car.

### What Happens If My Flight Gets Delayed?

Our carpool volunteers work together to ferry tribe members to and from their destination airports. While we hope that you will try to choose daytime hours for flight arrivals and departures, we understand that winter weather can cause delays. We will not leave you stranded. Please see the additional information on carpools.



# *Tribe Carpool*

## WHAT TO EXPECT

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One of the many unique aspects of attending Superstars is our Tribe Carpool. Arranged by our wonderful Transportation Coordinator, Monique Bucheger, we provide a free, volunteer service to pick up and drop off all attendees. Our volunteers travel to both Denver International Airport and the Colorado Springs Airport day and night to ensure no one is left stranded or forced to rent a car if they don't want one. Rideshare services are also available at both airports if desired.

If you are flying in and want to take advantage of the Tribe Carpool, make sure you submit your flight information with your Superstars Registration. There are boxes for that information where you signed up via RegFox. Monique will begin creating the schedule as we get closer to Superstars. She will contact you with your driver's information. Please exercise patience as you may have to wait at the airport for the rest of the passengers in your car to arrive. If you are flying into DIA, be aware that there is additional drive time to get down to Colorado Springs.

If you wish to contribute some money for gas, it will be appreciated by your driver, but not required.

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## FREQUENTLY

# *Asked Questions*

### Who Arranges the Carpool and Pick-Ups/Drop-Offs?

Our Transportation Coordinator, Monique Bucheger, does all of the work to make sure our volunteer system of carpools run smoothly. We are so appreciative of her and her tireless work for the tribe! You can help Monique by making sure your flight information is entered with your registration details on RegFox at least a month before Superstars begins.

### How Do I Submit My Information to Get on the List?

When you signed up to attend Superstars, you did so through a system called RegFox. It is the same place you have been logging in to add additional registration options, such as Career Appointments and Craft Day Choices. There are boxes to enter your flight information. You'll also want to join the rideshare Facebook group and enter your info on the Google Sheet Monique will set up close to the conference.

### I'm Driving In - How Can I Help With Carpools?

First, THANK YOU! We really appreciate your time and efforts to help shuttle all of our tribe members to and from the two airports. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Monique Bucheger directly. She will provide you with next steps, instructions, and assignments.

# Food & Dining

## WHAT TO EXPECT

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The Antlers Hotel offers several dining options. The Antlers Grille is a great choice for breakfast, and you'll find many Superstars gathered there each morning. Sportivo Primo and Duca's Brick Oven Neapolitan Pizza serve lunch and dinner most days. There is also a Starbucks in the hotel and an expansive bar in the lobby.

Most rooms at the Antlers Hotel are outfitted with a mini fridge and coffee maker. During the conference, ample refreshments will be available in the form of water, coffee, and tea. Out of respect for the Antlers, please do not bring your own food into the conference rooms. Superstars-sponsored meals include the optional ticketed VIP Dinner, the Eggs Benedict Breakfast With James Owen, the Welcome Mixer, the Working Lunch, and Pizza and Game Night. If you are attending any of these sponsored meals, please contact Marie Whittaker if you have food allergies or special dining needs.

Outside the hotel, nearby dining options include Phantom Canyon Brewing, Springs Orleans, Jack Quinn's Irish Pub, Urban Egg, Saigon Cafe, Red Gravey, East Coast Deli, Jimmy John's, and more. A farther walk or short ride in an Uber allows you access to the full breadth of dining options in Downtown Colorado Springs.

## FREQUENTLY

# *Asked Questions*

### It's Cold in Colorado in February. Do I Have to Leave the Hotel to Eat?

No, you do not! The Antlers Hotel has options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. With a Starbucks in the hotel and free refreshments available during the conference, you'll have all the coffee and tea you could want. In addition, you can get room service or food delivered to the hotel.

### I Have Food Allergies or Special Dietary Needs. Who Do I Talk To?

If you have questions about accommodations for food allergies or special dietary needs at any of the Antlers Hotel Restaurants, please contact the hotel directly. If you are attending the optional VIP Dinner or any of the other Superstars-sponsored meals, please contact Marie Whittaker.

### Is the Antlers a Coke or a Pepsi Hotel?

The Antlers is a Pepsi Hotel. However, many Superstars who can't live without their Coke products plan a grocery store run to pick up what they need. If you're flying in and won't have a car, check this year's SSWS Facebook Group to see if someone is planning to go and can pick up something for you.

# What to Bring

## PACKING SUGGESTIONS & TIPS

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Colorado weather is nothing if not unpredictable. Wearing layers is the best way to be comfortable both inside and outside the hotel. Some of the conference rooms can be cold, especially the main room, while the smaller rooms are often quite warm. Outside, daytime temperatures can and do dip below freezing, with nights even colder. Snowstorms can also move into the region during the conference week.

On the following page, you'll find a list of suggested packing items you should bring alongside your normal travel items. We also recommend packing light as most people end up bringing home several new books and other items picked up over the course of the conference.

Suggested dress is business casual or whatever speaks to your personal author brand. You will be mingling not only with your peers, but authors, editors, agents, and other publishing professionals. Wear what you feel comfortable and confident in. Above all, please be yourself!

If you are attending the optional VIP Dinner, please bring one nicer outfit. If you plan to partake in the optional Garden of the Gods Walk, please bring appropriate outdoor wear.

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# What to Bring

## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

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Below you'll find a list of suggested packing items you should bring alongside your normal travel items. We also recommend packing light as most people end up bringing home several new books and other items picked up over the course of the conference.

- Winter Jacket
- Snow or Cold Weather Shoes
- Cold Weather Hat
- Cold Weather Scarf
- Pair of Gloves
- Sweater to Layer on Conference Days
- One Nice Outfit for the VIP Dinner (Optional)
- One Hiking Outfit for the Garden of the Gods Walk (Optional)
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Comfortable Backpack or Shoulder Bag to Use During the Conference
- Laptop, Tablet, or Notebook for Taking Notes
- Business Cards
- Electrolytes or Hydration Supplements Like Nune or Liquid IV
- Prescription Medicines & Over-the-Counter Medicines Including Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and Medicine for Treating Altitude Sickness

## FREQUENTLY

# *Asked Questions*

### Do I Need Snow or Cold Weather Gear?

We recommend bringing at least one warm jacket and snow or winter shoes. If you are planning to go on the optional Garden of the Gods walk, please dress in layers and bring good walking or hiking shoes. The walk is not intended to be strenuous, but you are at elevation in Colorado in February.

### Do I Need a Suit or Dress For the VIP Dinner?

If you are attending the VIP Dinner, please bring one nicer outfit to wear. A full suit and tie or fancy dress and heels are not required, however many people do dress up. A dress, skirt, suit, or sports jacket would not be out of place. That said, please be yourself and wear what you're comfortable in. Also, be mindful of the weather and time of year.

### If I Buy a Lot of Books, Is There a Way to Send Them Home?

It happens to the best of us! With a bookstore on-site and a gathering of authors, you're bound to pick up at least a couple of new books. If your purchases don't fit in your luggage or will make your bags overweight, shipping services are available at both the Antlers Hotel and with Laura Hayden at the Author, Author! bookstore.

# Surviving High Altitudes

## TIPS & TRICKS

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If you've never traveled to Colorado or spent much time at high altitudes, you may be apprehensive about what to expect. After all, Colorado Springs sits at 6,035' above sea level.

First and foremost, **HYDRATE!** Drink plenty of water in the days leading up to Superstars and all during the conference. Supplement with electrolytes if desired.

Limit your alcohol intake, especially on the first day/night. Take things easy and go to bed early to have a better conference experience in the days that follow.

Avoid strenuous exercise. A light walk or swim in the hotel pool is fine, but this is not the time to try a new HIIT workout at the gym.

Talk to your doctor if you have pre-existing medical conditions. You might be surprised which illnesses or medications react poorly with high altitudes. When in doubt, talk to an expert.

Symptoms of altitude sickness include headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, and loss of appetite.

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# Alumni Tips

## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM YOUR TRIBE

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"When we say tribe, we mean it. Do go to the Antler's bar at night, and the lounge area around it, even if you don't drink alcohol. The real socializing happens there."

-Wulf Moon

"To save on breakfast costs, bring dry cereal, granola bars, oatmeal, nuts, etc to eat in your room. It can save you a lot over the course of the week!"

-Shannon Fox

"Order the recordings; that way you can still experience the panels and talks you missed, as well as be able to relisten to the ones you did attend."

-Mia Kleve

"A big benefit of this conference is the networking and meeting others. Be prepared to mingle and talk and participate."

-Frank Morin

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# Alumni Tips

## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM YOUR TRIBE

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"Don't be afraid to join any group that you see talking. We gather in groups to go to lunch. With extremely rare exceptions, mainly being that a couple of people are going to discuss business, you can join pretty much any group you see."

-Gama Martinez

"Bring business cards if you have them because there is a LOT of networking and making new friends. "

-Jessica Guernsey

"Get lots of sleep before and after because you won't be sleeping during."

-Kim May

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# New for 2024!

## UPDATES FOR THIS YEAR

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We have two networking luncheons designed to connect new and returning tribe members!

### Pay It Forward at the Newcomers' Luncheon – Thursday 2/8

Come meet other newcomers and established Tribe members, enjoy a Fiesta Buffet, and hear a welcome message from Superstars Founder James Artimus Owen.

### The Rise of AI Authors: A Feary Tale... with Fangs – Saturday 2/10

Come listen to Featured Speaker Chuck Gannon talk about one of the hottest topics of the year—Artificial Intelligence. Enjoy Colorado barbecue and learn more about this emerging technology.

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# See You Soon!

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Event Director and Faculty Liaison  
Marie@WordFire.com  
SuperstarsWriting.com



Heather Jones  
Deputy Director  
Me@JennFir.com  
SuperstarsWriting.com

## Join Our Facebook Groups

2024 Conference Private Group



All Alumni Private Group

Compiled By: Shannon Fox

With Thanks to: Jason Aydelotte, Tanya Hales, Tara Henderson, H.Y. Gregor, Jessica Guernsey, Wayland Smith, Julia Vee