Convention Etiquette

- Wear comfortable shoes.

- Let the elevator empty before getting on yourself.

- Don't "go up to go down" in the elevator.

- Move out of walkways & doorways for pictures & conversations.

- Smoke only in designated smoking areas & wait outside for a few minutes to clear the smell.

- Only take pictures of people from whom you have permission. Note the no-picture badges.

- Use your highest standards of politeness & apply to everyone regardless of age, gender, race, etc.

- Don't hog the Q&A section of a panel, workshop, or roundtable discussion. Make sure your question is a question.

- Turn off or quiet mobile devices. Live tweeting/posting is often acceptable but keep it quiet. Consider taking notes on paper and posting afterwards.

- Do not take pictures of slideshows, this is a copyright violation. Ask for share-able online slides.

- Keep badge, room key, & picture ID on you at all times in con' space, along with emergency contact information.

- Have at least 1 meal in the hotel restaurant if you can afford it to reward hotel for giving us space.

- Be kind and lenient with the hotel staff. Plan for delays, be considerate, and tip well.

- Keep the noise level down in your rooms.

- Close meeting room doors quietly when you enter or leave a panel or lecture in progress.

- 1, 2, 5 Minimum – one shower, two meals, at least five hours of sleep.

- Be aware of your scent. Wear antiperspirant & deodorant, shower & wash often, but do not wear heavy perfumes, colognes, body sprays, etc. Febreeze your clothing & hang it to air out, especially for smokers. Brush your teeth and carry gum or breath mints.

- Wash your hands frequently to reduce the spread of germs.

- Do not touch people without clear, unambiguous permission.

- Gracefully accept whatever answer is given. Don't push for more, don't get upset at rejection.

- Only give permission for things you actually want to consent to.

- Be considerate and careful with compliments. Try to restrict compliments to things the recipient has control over, like actions such as how they gave their lectures, or the content of their lectures. Avoid compliments on appearances unless the recipient says they like those sorts of compliments. If you must compliment on appearances, compliment on attire (because they control that), not their body in the attire.

- Flirt only with caution and be very cognizant of body language and non-verbal signals.

- No always means no, and anything other than a clear, unambiguous "yes" is a "no".

- Use Pepper Mint's 30 Minute Rule: don't hit on, flirt-compliment, or otherwise come on to someone you have not been engaging in conversation with for at least 30 minutes steady.

- Do not attend with the *purpose* of meeting potential dating partners unless that is the explicit goal of the event (like Poly Speed Dating). Just meet people and maybe it'll work out.

Con Preparation

- Have a Con Pack (mini backpack, fanny pack, purse, etc.) with daily essentials like phone, charger, notepad & pen, snacks, water, ID, room key, medication, gum or breath mints, USB flash drive, con' schedule, etc.

- Pack or obtain healthy, non-refrigerated snacks for your room to keep up strength and prevent blood sugar crashes.

- If you have the ability to bring a cooler, this can help lower spending. Try using dry ice to last longer than regular ice. Loading water bottles on top of the dry ice also creates more "ice packs".

- Make contact cards to give out instead of "business cards" with IRL info, that are tailored to the event with your event name and relevant methods of contact for personal post-con contact. Include how they might have met you so that they remember whose card it is when they find it at home later.

- If you don't use your picture in your social media profiles, print out a small sticker with your user icon and stick it on your badge so that online friends can recognize you.

- Have a copy of the convention schedule with the panels you intend to attend highlighted and post it on the wall of your room so that your roommates can keep up with you. Or use con' apps for connecting.

- Set up some kind of easy communication system with people in your "group", such as a Google Hangout, Facebook group, or Group Me.