

GARY CON



PRESS AND MEDIA KIT

WELCOME TO GARY CON!

Gary Con is brought to you by Luke Gygax, President and Founder of Gary Con, and The Gygax Family

Gary Con is a memorial convention that began following the funeral of TSR (Tactical Studies Rules) and D&D (Dungeons & Dragons) founder E. Gary Gygax who passed away on March 4, 2008. His son, Luke Gygax, thought it appropriate to have a gathering in the American Legion Hall in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin—a place of fond memories for the Gygax family—to play games celebrating, commemorating, and remembering his father with family, friends, and colleagues. A guest suggested Luke make it an annual event, so the gathering was dubbed “Gary Con,” and it has since become one of the most unique gaming conventions held in the Midwest.

From heartfelt and humble beginnings, Gary Con has grown from about 160 attendees with zero scheduled events at the American Legion Hall in 2008, to over 3,000 attendees and more than 2,250 events scheduled at the Grand Geneva Resort in 2024.

Gary Con continues to grow, adding new game systems and diversifying offerings every year, yet the core reason for the gathering remains unchanged: it is a family reunion. However, it’s more than just a reunion of the Gygax family—Gary Con welcomes the broad family that is the gaming community “home” to Lake Geneva, where it all started in the 1970s, to celebrate the life and works of E. Gary Gygax.

The year 2024 marks the 16th anniversary of Gary Con, as well as the 50th anniversary of Dungeons & Dragons. Gary Con attendees gather each year to share their interests, hobbies, and passion for gaming with one another by exchanging daring stories, playing fantastic games, and overcoming epic encounters—it is our hope that gaming will continue to bring people together and unify them through their shared experiences in worlds of adventure, imagination, and wonder for the next 50 years and beyond.



“...the gaming community made me realize that my dad, Gary Gygax, had a huge impact on many people—something I hadn’t fully comprehended before then and wouldn’t truly appreciate for some time yet... I wanted to celebrate his life and [the] good times we shared... I can speak for my brothers and sisters when I say it is cathartic to host such a wonderful gathering. You all have helped us transform what would normally be a sad time of mourning and dour remembrance into a lively celebration of our father’s life, the strength of our community, and the great new heights that lie before us all.”

– Luke Gygax, Gary Con X Event Guide, 2018

FAQ

WHAT IS GARY CON?

Gary Con is an annual game convention, in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, celebrating the life and works of Gary Gygax, the “Father of Role Playing Games.” Attendees celebrate by doing what he loved so much in life, playing games! People can join Gary’s children, friends, and fellow game enthusiasts as they celebrate a life well played.

WHEN/HOW DID GARY CON BEGIN?

Gary Con is a memorial convention that grew following the funeral of TSR and D&D founder E. Gary Gygax who passed away on March 4, 2008. His son, Luke Gygax, thought it would be appropriate to have a gathering in the American Legion Hall in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to remember his father. At this celebration, an attendee suggested Luke hold it yearly.

WHY IS LAKE GENEVA IMPORTANT TO THIS CONVENTION?

It’s where Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) was born in 1974 and where Tactical Studies Rules (TSR), the company that created D&D, was headquartered in 1973 before creating D&D. Lake Geneva and Wisconsin are still home to many of the creative people who created and continue to contribute to the popularity of D&D to this day. For the Gygax Family, this is their hometown and the best possible place to celebrate and remember the many achievements of their father.

DOES THE CONVENTION EXTEND BEYOND LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN?

Yes. Attendees come from near and far to attend, but the convention extends further than the Grand Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva. The convention is also virtual so attendees can join games worldwide from anywhere with reliable internet access.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES FOR GARY CON XVI (MARCH 21-24, 2024)?

More than 3,300 attendees between in-person/onsite and online/virtual conventions. As of Sat., Feb. 17, 2024 – In-Person: 3,141 badges; Online: 160 badges

WHAT IS THE CURRENT NUMBER OF EVENTS FOR GARY CON XVI (MARCH 21-24, 2024)?

More than 2,400 scheduled events between in-person/onsite and online/virtual conventions. As of Sat., Feb. 17, 2024 – In-Person: 2,270 events; Online: 169 events

ERNEST GARY GYGAX

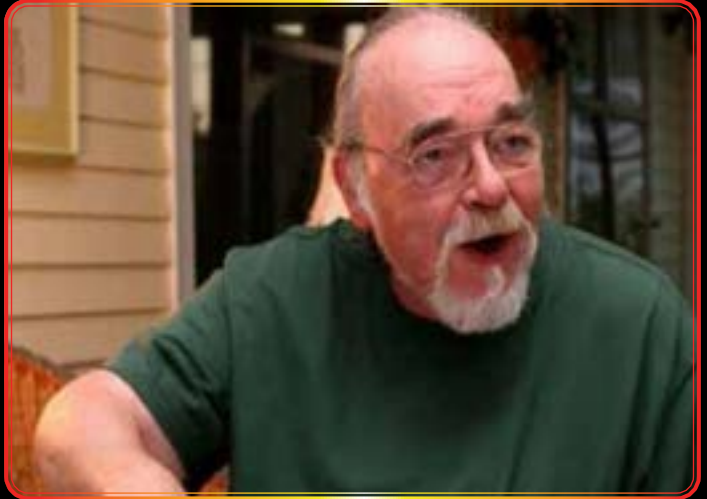
GARY GYGAX: LIVING ON IN ALL OF US

"When AI approximates Machine Intelligence, then many online and computer-run RPGs will move towards actual RPG activity. Nonetheless, that will not replace the experience of 'being there,' any more than seeing a theatrical motion picture can replace the stage play."

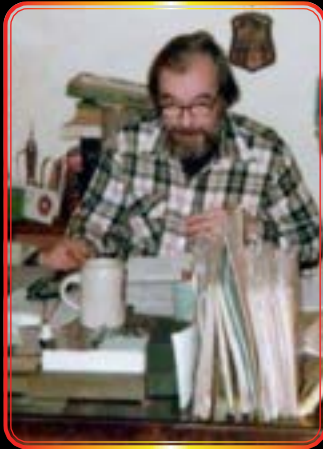
- Gary Gygax

"Naturally, every attempt has been made to provide all of the truly essential information necessary for the game: the skeleton and muscle which each DM will flesh out to create the unique campaign... which is challenging, where the unexpected is the order of the day, and much of what takes place has meaning and reason within the framework of the game "world".

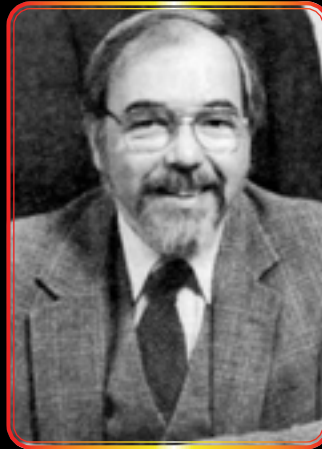
- from Gary's Preface to the AD&D Player's Handbook



Fun & Games in a world of miniature things and limitless possibilities.



Crafting reason and mechanics for imagination and make believe.



Ambassador of Fantasy advocating the pastime of pretending.



Icon of creativity and dynamics. Gary Gygax featured in FUTURAMA.

"There is no winning or losing, but rather the value is in the experience of imagining yourself as a character in whatever genre you're involved in, whether it's a fantasy game, the Wild West, secret agents or whatever else. You get to sort of vicariously experience those things."

- Gary Gygax

"When you build your campaign you will tailor it to suit your personal tastes. In the heat of play it will slowly evolve into a compound of your personality and those of your better participants, a superior alloy."

—from Gary's preface to the AD&D Dungeon Masters Guide

GARY CON XVI, MARCH 21-24, 2024

CONVENTION SCHEDULE & NOTABLE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

Badge Pick-up Begins
Pre-Con Welcome Party

THURSDAY

Chainmail Jousting
Search for the Seal of Gaxx
Draw from the Deck of Gary Things!
Opening Ceremony
Exhibit Hall + Autograph Table
Diamond Dinner - select Special Guests & Diamond Badges
VIP Welcome Party -Special Guests + Diamond & Platinum Badges

FRIDAY

Chainmail Jousting
Search for the Seal of Gaxx
Draw from the Deck of Gary Things!
Exhibit Hall + Autograph Table
Happy Hour

SATURDAY

Chainmail Jousting - Elimination + Championship
Search for the Seal of Gaxx
Draw from the Deck of Gary Things!
Exhibit Hall + Autograph Table
Magic the Gathering Gunslinging with Peter Adkison
Happy Hour
Gary Con 2nd Annual Cosplay Contest
Gary Con Gary Adkison Memorial Magic the Gathering Tournament
Hawaiian Shirt Picture
E. Gary Gygax Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
Gary Con Charity Auction
Stefan's Metal 'til Midnight Party

SUNDAY

Draw from the Deck of Gary Things!
Exhibit Hall + Autograph Table
Geek Preacher Non-denominational Prayer Service
Gary Con XVI Ends



Email: comms@garycon.com

Web: www.garycon.com

 [tiktok.com/@garyconofficial](https://www.tiktok.com/@garyconofficial)

 [facebook.com/groups/garycon](https://www.facebook.com/groups/garycon)

 [youtube.com/garycon](https://www.youtube.com/garycon)

 <https://twitch.tv/GaryConLive>



We send our hearty congratulations to Wizards of the Coast for the 50th anniversary of Dungeons & Dragons!

— THE GARY CON TEAM