



TARVALON.NET

FALL BALL 2017 • GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Official Information Packet

Fall Ball 2017 Grand Rapids

Please print this document and bring it with you to our event. There is a great deal of important information included that you will need for your reference.

INTRODUCTION

It's time once again for a fabulous Fall Ball. This event has become a nice small gathering meant to touch base with each other and celebrate being part of the Tower. The local liaison team is incredibly excited to welcome you to Michigan!

Event Location

Drury Inn and Suites

5175 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
616-942-8511

AIRPORT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

The hotel doesn't have a shuttle, so you'll need to coordinate with each other for rides

<https://www.druryhotels.com/locations/grand-rapids-mi/drury-inn-and-suites-grand-rapids#directions>

Traveling on I-96: Take Exit 43A for M-11 W/28th St. Turn right onto M-11 W/28th St SE. Hotel will be on the right.

Traveling from Gerald R. Ford International Airport: Follow airport exit signs. Turn right onto 44th St SE/John J Oostema Blvd SE. Turn right onto Patterson Ave SE. Turn right onto M-11 E/28th St SE. Hotel will be on the left.

COMMITTEES

With this event being so small, there aren't any official committees, but anyone who wants to pitch in and help out will be welcome!

EVENT CHECK-IN

Check in will be done with the Director of Events, Melisande and our local liaison Aryawnah. Be prepared to follow the outlined procedure, and have any materials you may need to assist in your check in (e.g. ID).

- Check-in time is between 2PM and 6PM. If you are going to arrive after 6 pm on Friday, you must contact Melisande or Aryawnah and let them know the anticipated time of your arrival so they

may arrange a late check in for you. Please contact them via PM in advance of the event if possible. If circumstances arise that unexpectedly prevent you from arriving before 6, please call Aryawnah.

- When you arrive at the hotel, contact Melisande or Aryawnah for directions to our rooms in order to check in. Please do not go to the hotel desk! Check in consists of the following:
 - Confirming your arrival at the site
 - Obtaining your name badge for the first evening
 - Signing liability and photo release forms
 - Receive welcome bag, etc.
 - Receiving directions to your assigned room, if applicable
 - Sign up for special activities (e.g. tours for Saturday)

DEPARTING

We must be completely checked out by 11AM on Sunday morning. This includes having everything completely out of the room.. To facilitate this, a member of your room must check out with Melisande in her room no later than 10:30AM. Check-out will include a room inspection. No roommate should depart the site before inspection & check out is confirmed, unless pre-arranged with roommates.. Our farewell brunch will be held at:

IHOP
5039 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

(Literally a 2 minute walk from the hotel!)

Expect to meet there right after we're through checking out of the hotel.

DINING & ALLERGIES

All meals will be at your own expense except for our main gathering on Saturday night at the:

Kitchen 67
<http://www.kitchen67.com/>

1977 E. Beltline
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-272-3778

It's about an 8 min drive from the hotel so we'll need to carpool!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

While every member and guest is expected to be responsible for themselves and their own well-being, we do have members in place to help in this regard. Any TarValon.Net Community Admin will do their best to help you.

SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP

All members are expected to help with basic clean-up in the public areas of our rooms. Please be respectful of your roommates!

REGARDING NOISE LEVELS

We ask that all members be courteous of fellow members who may be sleeping, especially between the hours of 11pm and 7am. The Administration reserves the right to ask members to quiet things down if it is getting unreasonably disruptive.

Living in close quarters with a lot of people can be challenging. There are several things you can do that will help keep things running smoothly.

- Keep your items tidy. Don't throw things on the floor or allow it to accumulate in piles. This makes packing and clean up much easier, and drastically cuts down on the number of lost items.
- Respect other's sleeping spaces. Don't sit on their beds without asking (or put your feet up on them!), don't use your room as a place to socialize if any of your roommates are sleepy, be sure your roommates are okay with you engaging in any behavior which might be uncomfortable to walk in on, etc.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Members and guests will be held accountable for their behavior as outlined in our Constitution.
Article 4, Section 4 states: *All attending a TarValon.Net function must behave in full accordance with this constitution and the Code of Conduct. Members who fail to comply may be asked to leave the event and will not be granted a refund. If disciplinary action is needed at a real life event, it may result in termination of membership. Members must act as responsible guests. This includes respecting personal property and space, as well as helping with set-up, clean-up, and costs.*
- Be respectful of personal space. Everyone is a little different, get to know someone before you touch, hug, cuddle, or otherwise invade someone else's "personal space".
- We follow the laws of the country/province we're in, so no person under the age of 21 may consume alcohol at the event. No member or guest under the age of 18 may smoke.
- You may not bring a guest who was not previously approved through our guest list.
- Smokers are asked to smoke only in designated smoking areas. These areas will be outdoors. Dispose of cigarette butts and ashes appropriately.
- No one may handle a sword if they appear intoxicated. Anyone found handling a weapon in an inappropriate or threatening manner will be asked to leave the function without refund.
- If you want to participate in an activity, please arrive on time.
- Members should be aware that we are sharing the site with other paying guests, and should behave accordingly in a respectful and courteous manner (as well as be aware of noise levels). Additionally, the staff has gone out of their way to assist us in putting this event together several times over the past months. Please thank them!
- All members must comply with requests of Administration. *Please note, administrators were chosen very carefully for this event. They are not the sort of people to make arbitrary requests and support both your personal responsibility and privacy. If an administrator asks you to change a behavior it is because there is considerable risk to yourself or others involved. Refusal to comply may result in your being asked to leave the event without refund.*
- If you have a difficulty, or need assistance, please contact an Administrator for help.

OUTREACH

As you all may know, we as a site that work hard to serve our communities, especially at our official gatherings. This time, our chosen Outreach beneficiary is the West Michigan Humane society.

<http://www.hswestmi.org/>

You can donate cash at the event, or can bring an item from their wish list which can be found here:

<http://www.hswestmi.org/wish-list>

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

****Bed & Bath linens are provided****

Comfortable shoes and clothing for variable weather and costuming

Cold/wet weather gear

Hiking gear, if desired

Toiletries

Public-friendly pajamas

Flashlight, sunscreen

Necessary medications

Camera and film/memory/battery

Anything else you promised you would bring for the event

Cash

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER ON WHAT TO EXPECT

TarValon.Net events can be daunting when attended for the first time. It can be especially challenging for people who have never met friends off of the Internet before, or for people are generally not used to being around a lot of people for a few very intensely social days! The following information should help you prepare for the weekend, clarify what we're doing, and minimize any surprises.

- TarValon.Net people are generally a very friendly lot! Many people are initially surprised by how many people recognize them on sight, and how warmly they're greeted. If you're attending, then you're a member here and many of us view our friendships here as being just as valuable as our friendships elsewhere. There is generally a lot of hugging, especially on the first day.
- At this point in time, many of us have met in person several times. As such, we are comfortable around each other. Remember that a lot of us know each other well, have each other to our homes on a regular basis, talk on the phone quite a lot... The closeness is quite normal.
- Our major events have a lot of people present. It can be easy to be overwhelmed by all of it and feel suddenly very alone even when in a crowd. It's common; almost all of us have felt it at one event or another (I tend to feel that way at least once every event). The best thing to do is find a quiet space for a time, grab some one on one time with another person and talk it out, then get back into the social fray. A lot of us are computer geeks and as such are used to more private time and personal interactions. Expect that you might feel this way, and don't worry if it happens.
- With ~50 people living in close proximity for four days, someone is going to invariably annoy or anger someone else. We have a lot of different personalities (many of them quite strong) and not all of them are going to click. Do your best to remember what you like about that person, give yourself some distance, and be generous with your forgiveness. ;-)
- This event is an adult party. We are doing our best to make it slightly more family oriented, but it is at its heart a bunch of adults camping together. People will undoubtedly drink too much, people

will hook up, and people may even do/say stupid things. What happens at camp stays at camp. We don't gossip about who slept where, or who needed a hangover remedy on Sunday morning.

- I, along with many of the other very Senior members of the site, tend to joke a lot and enjoy making fun of ourselves (which may include self-deprecating comments about us being a cult, or desires to take over the world). It is vitally important to understand that this is all said in jest. We are not a religion. We are not trying to take over the government. We are not going to all go live in a commune. It is quite safe to drink the Goldschlager, save for perhaps personal taste. No, we can't channel. And no, we do not think we are better than anyone else. If you hear someone say something that you find alarming, and you are not certain if it is in jest, please ask them. And if you ever hear that I have said something and you don't know if it was in jest or not, please ask me and I will be more than happy to honestly tell you what I meant, and explain the joke if applicable. ;-)
- At events we tend to refer to each other by a mix of our Tower and our real life names (Tower names are more common at the larger events). It is perfectly acceptable to use either. Titles are generally not used. Yes, Novices do dishes and Recruits take out the trash. But so does everyone else. Chores are shared communally.
- We do have some ceremonies that we perform which include our raisings. These are a fun, theatrical part of our event and many people look forward to it!
- Cell phones may not work at our location. Try to have voice mail available or a single point of contact to check in with in case you are difficult to reach.

TIPS TO HELP YOU HAVE A BETTER TIME

- Have one or two "buddies" that you keep track of over the weekend. A lot of people use their Aes Sedai/Warder, Roomies, members of their Ajah, etc. for this purpose. It's good to have someone know where you are and how you're doing.
- Try to eat with different people at each meal! We have such a great array of members and each of them is unique and wonderful in their own way. Eating with someone new is a great way to get to know more people.
- Try to say "hello" to everyone at least once at the event. You will surely not be able to have a long meaningful conversation with everyone in the span of four days, but do try to meet and greet everyone.
- Get involved in the activities. There is a wide variety of activities to choose from! Pick one that suits your mood and spend time with everyone.
- Try to get some sleep. It can be pretty scarce at our events. But sleeping, and remembering to hydrate oneself, can make a big difference in the quality of one's experience.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Most events are voluntary. We hope you'll join us for all of the activities, but the only mandatory obligations are registration, your group's assigned chores, site clean up on Sunday night/Monday morning, and check out. If you want a break and would like to go hiking or explore the site or grab coffee with a friend, that's fine, just make sure that if you go on your own that someone knows where you're going in case of emergency. Thanks!

Friday	
2:00 PM	Check-in
5:30 PM	Kick Back in the lobby for complimentary appetizers and drinks!
8:00 PM	Toast
Saturday	
During the day	Tours
6:00 PM	Group Dinner
8:00 PM	Socializing/tours
Sunday	
10:30	Check-out

Suggestions of tours for Saturday have included shopping, brewery tours, We'll make concrete plans together on Friday night.