

Welcome, bidders and conrunners, to SMOFCon 37 in lovely Albuquerque. To help you support your campaign and promotions, we've prepared the following questionnaire for bids, seated future Worldcons, and any SMOFcons.

People will tell you "The questionnaire is to keep the length of presentations and Q&A down to a manageable length!" They're not wrong. But that's what the questionnaire is for attendees and this year's SMOFCon organizers.

For you, this questionnaire is a tool to help you tell your story:

- Who is running this bid/convention
- What the vision for your bid/convention is
- Where your convention is going to be
- When you're going to do it
- Why the readers are going to want to come to your convention
- How the readers can get involved and support you

It's a one-stop-shop for information you likely already have on your website and information that can be found on your vendors' and partners' website. If it's not, it's a prompt for you to get that information on your website.

The questionnaire has been developed by people with experience bidding and running traveling conventions. Some questions may seem obvious. Some questions may seem odd. Some questions may seem loaded or difficult. Many are the result of "If only more people had known this..." situations.

This questionnaire isn't an end. It's a conversation starter. It should help you avoid having to repeat, over and over, rote answers. It's probably going to prompt more difficult and interesting questions, but that's the cost of engaged voters and supporters. People have asked these questions in the past. People will ask these questions again. This questionnaire gives you the option to provide a considered answer instead of being surprised.

You can do what you wish with this questionnaire. If you need to rearrange it to tell your story better, feel free. If you need to attach pictures, diagrams, plans, charts, find a way to do so.

But the questionnaire is still a conversation starter. Please provide as complete and thorough answers as you can. If you don't have an answer yet, explain that. Don't turn the conversation into "But there are questions that are skipped. What are they hiding?"

In addition to this questionnaire and the Future Worldcons/SMOFCons panel, SMOFCon 37 will be hosting a Friday night academic-style "Poster Session" to help you get your message to prospective voters and attendees and a Sunday "Fan Tables" session for selling memberships and recruiting volunteers..