

		Rumpus Room Activities for MiniCON 58 [2025]		
		Activities generally last 1 hour (unless noted) with 15 minutes cleanup and 15 minutes setup for the next activity		
Day	Start Time	Activity	Who	Notes / Description
All	All	Open Crafting / Open Play	Anyone	We offer a HUGE assortment of toys, games, and crafting supplies. Come make something or just have fun hanging out.
Fri	2:30 PM	Balloon Sculpting	John W.	John W. will demonstrate making dragons, mermaids, aliens, motorcycles, hats, and other creations using balloons. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how to make their own balloon dog.
Fri	4:00 PM	Shrinky-Dinks	Nora S. and Julius S.	Use shrinky dink pastic and markers to create your "artwork" in the Rumpus Room. Then, take it home and watch it shrink in your own oven.
Fri	5:30 PM	Young Fan Concert	Eric and Jen Distad aka "the Faithful Sidekicks"	An acoustic concert using songs that work for all ages, heavy on sing-along elements. Customization (requests?) likely.
Fri	7:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies		Rumpus Room is closed during Opening Ceremonies.
Sat	10:00 AM	Word Games with Thorin	Thorin N. Tatge	Words can be made in so many ways! Unscrambled from a grid, a hand of cards or a giant pile... assembled from dice while the timer ticks incessantly... stacked in a precarious branching tree, traced through a hedge maze, or guessed in tiny pieces! No Scrabble™, but I'll bring Alfred M. Butts' other game. Join me for a slew of quick word game options.
Sat	11:30 AM	Talking to Aliens	Michael Busch Astronomer GoH	How might you talk to an alien? And would you be understood? In this interactive activity we'll review some of the problems that messages for hypothetical aliens encounter; discuss some SETI message designs (like the Arecibo Message and the Voyager Record), then consider what parts of them might be understood or creatively misunderstood.
Sat	1:00 PM	Learn + WRITE SF/F Flash Fiction	Guy Steward	Roald Dahl (Willy Wonka); Matt Weir (THE MARTIAN); and Nnedi Okorafor (BINTI) all wrote small before going BIG. In this workshop, I'll teach you how to imagine, build, then write FLASH FICTION - an entire story in 500-1000 words!
Sat	2:30 PM	Hair Braiding	John W.	Braid or be braided! John W. demonstrates a variety of techniques: classic French & Dutch braids, round (Crown) braids, ... 3, 4, 5 & 7 strands, and other styles like hearts, spirals and a pull-up-weave.
Sat	4:00 PM	Tissue Box Theater Workshop	Laura Krentz	Tell a story in a Tissue Box Theater. (Also called a Cranky Movie.) Turn the crank at the top to see the next scene, and make little puppets to act in front of the scenes. For all ages, but younger children should bring an adult helper.
Sat	5:30 PM	Faux Stained Glass	Nora S.	Use Laser Cut frames (MANY SF related items!), markers, tissue paper, and glue to make window decorations that look very similar to stained glass.
Sat	7:00 PM	Lock Picking	John W.	Learn how locks work, and how vulnerable they are.
Sun	10:00 AM	Team Puzzle Challenge	Randy Holland	Multi-room "Leadership" concept as an activity based on Puzzle Solving
Sun	11:30 AM	Mini Medallion Hunt	J Spitzer	Like the 3-day version, but condensed into the RR, finished in 1.5 hours, and intended for younger fans.
Sun	1:00 PM	Tool Time	John W. and others	Disassemble old electronics and other devices. Learn safe and correct use of hand tools. Bring in junk electronics for disassembly...NOT necessarily re-assembly. Supervision and assistants for Tool Time are ALWAYS encouraged and appreciated! [double slot]
Sun	2:30 PM	Tool Time Continues	John W. and others	Disassemble old electronics and other devices. Learn safe and correct use of hand tools. Bring in junk electronics for disassembly...NOT necessarily re-assembly. Supervision and assistants for Tool Time are ALWAYS encouraged and appreciated! [double slot]
Sun	4:00 PM	Closing Ceremonies		Rumpus Room will close 15 to 30 minutes BEFORE Closing Ceremonies!