



Mythcon 54:
Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66
July 24-27, 2026

Weatherford, OK
Stafford Air & Space Museum

Progress Report #1

[Mythcon 54 Website](#)

A NOTE ON THIS YEAR'S EVENT

This year, Mythcon 54 will take place in Weatherford, Oklahoma, the home of the Mythopoeic Society's archives, which are housed at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). Weatherford is a one-hour drive from the Will Rogers International Airport in Oklahoma City. Attendees will need to prepare to arrange for their own ground transportation between the airport and Weatherford and to travel around town during the conference. More information on transportation recommendations is provided in the "Transportation" section later in this report.

About Mythcon

The Mythopoeic Society Conference, informally known as "Mythcon," is an annual(ish) Tolkien, Inklings, and Mythopoeia-focused conference held over an extended weekend in late-July to mid-August, beginning on a Friday afternoon and concluding on the following Monday midday. The location changes for each conference.

The conference theme is always related to Inklings studies and/or fantastic and mythic literature, and both an author and scholar guest of honor are featured. Various combinations of papers, panel discussions, readings, entertainment, art shows, a dealers' room, and other activities fill the three-day event.

Another Mythcon highlight is the annual banquet, during which the annual Mythopoeic Awards are presented. A small (usually 100–200 people) size and intimate setting make Mythcon an excellent opportunity for meeting people with common interests. The full history and individual conference pages can be viewed by visiting the [Mythcon History](#) web page.

The Mythopoeic Society has always encouraged scholarship in mythopoeic and Inklings studies by providing a venue where new and established scholars can present their work, and which may also be considered for publication in *Mythlore*, the Society's academic journal. Financial aid to attend Mythcon may be available for scholars, and outstanding student scholars are recognized with the Alexei Kondratiev Award.

Also on tap at Mythcon are fun and some serious play: a Masquerade with prizes for everyone, Bardic Circles in the evenings for singing and poetry recitations, the annual Clerihew Contest of comic verse, and Golfimbul, a light-hearted game based on a humorous section from "The Hobbit."

About Our Theme

The Route 66 Centennial is being celebrated across Oklahoma during 2026. As the subject of countless stories about physical and personal journeys, the iconic highway is an appropriate setting for a conference on fantasy literature, in which journeys in place and time are often central.

Guests of Honor

Mythcon 54's Guests of Honor are especially fitting as both are native Oklahomans.

David R. Slayton

Author Guest of Honor

Award-winning author David R. Slayton writes fantasy stories with diverse characters he dreamed of reading but could not find as a child growing up in Guthrie, OK.

Slayton's work has twice been a finalist for the Mythopoeic Awards. His epic fantasy, *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea*, won the Science Fiction and Fantasy category at the 2024 Colorado Book Awards. In 2021, the first novel in the Adam Binder series, *White Trash Warlock*, was a finalist for the Science Fiction and Fantasy category at the Colorado Book Awards. His most prominent works include the Adam Binder series (*White Trash Warlock*, *Trailer Park Trickster*, *Deadbeat Druid*, *Redneck Revenant*), a finalist for the 2024 Mythopoeic Award for Adult Literature; *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea*, the first novel in the *Gods of Day and Night* epic fantasy series; and *Rogue Community College*, also set in the Adam Binder universe. Slayton holds degrees in history and English from Metropolitan State University in Denver, where he now resides. After a long career in computer science, he now writes full-time. Slayton's books reflect his wide range of interests, including literature, history, Dungeons and Dragons, video gaming, graphic novels, and all things fantasy and science fiction.



Dr. Joe R. Christopher

Scholar Guest of Honor

A Bartlesville, OK native, Dr. Joe R. Christopher is a two-time honoree as Mythcon Scholar Guest of Honor, having first been recognized in 1981.

Christopher is a retired English professor from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX, and has attended almost all Mythcons. His scholarly work on the Inklings began early in his career, including his doctoral dissertation on C. S. Lewis, "The Romances of Clive Staples Lewis," with many secondary citations. These citations, combined with Joan K. Osling's religious citations, were published as *C. S. Lewis: An Annotated Checklist of Writings About Him and His Works* (Kent State University Press, 1974). A prolific writer, he has published more than 200 scholarly essays and notes, with a significant concentration on the Inklings. He is a recipient of the Neuhouser Award for Distinguished Scholarship and Service, on June 2, 2018, at the Eleventh Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis & Friends (Taylor University, Upland, IN). Christopher is also a lifetime member of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society.



Mythcon 54 Theme & Call for Papers

Mythcon 54: *Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66* invites proposals for papers that explore fantasy, horror, sci-fi, indigenous texts – of all genres and modes – that evoke a sense of place, of travel, of the road, of passage through landscapes, which potentially spark encounters with the uncanny, the fantastical, and the nightmarish. Themes or patterns might include:

- Lost highways
- Surprising road trips or short cuts
- Portals to the unknown
- Temporal shifts across boundaries
- A sense of the fluid experience of “the road”
- Faerie and the fay
- Indigenous or folkloric roads/passages that alter reality, consciousness, and time

Also, in keeping with the Mythopoeic Society’s archive residing near the conference at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, presentations on the role of archives in fantasy literature would be welcome. General proposals highlighting the Inklings or other works of fantasy/Mythopoeia, of course, are also always welcome, as are papers on the works and interests of our guests of honor. Papers from a variety of critical perspectives and disciplines are welcome.

Each paper will be given a 50-minute slot to allow time for questions and travel time in between sessions. Individual papers should be timed for oral presentation in 40 minutes maximum. Panels are also welcome, with the same time constraints, and both papers and panels may be presented virtually or in person.

Participants are encouraged to submit papers chosen for presentation at the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society. (These submissions must conform to the 9th edition of the MLA Style Manual.) Paper abstracts and panel proposals of no more than 300 words, along with contact information, whether you intend to present in-person or virtually, and A/V requirements (if any, should be sent to the Papers Coordinator (Cami Agan) at papers@mythcon.org by March 31, 2026. All presenters are expected to register for the full conference, either in-person or online, depending on their method of presentation.

Presenters who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students are encouraged to submit their completed conference papers in advance for consideration for the Alexei Kondratiev Student Paper Award. Please see www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm for more information.

The Mythopoeic Society has instituted a policy on AI-generated content for our events and publications. It can be viewed [here](#). Please review and consider this policy when preparing your submission.

The Mythcon 54 call for papers can also be found at [this link](#).

Alexei Kondratiev Award (Student Paper)

At Mythcon 41, the Society introduced a new award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and a scholar of wide-ranging interests in mythopoeic and related studies, who passed away in 2010. The winner of the award receives a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore*, and a 50% discount on their registration fee for the next Mythcon they attend. The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet, on the Society's web site and in *Mythprint*, and is encouraged to submit their paper to *Mythlore* for publication. More information and the award application can be found on our web site: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm

In order to be considered for the award, the application form must be submitted to the Alexi committee chair at mythlore@mythsoc.org by July 5th, 2026 and the finished paper must be submitted electronically by July 19th, 2026. The paper must follow *Mythlore* style guidelines and should be 4,000–8,000 words long. Applicants must be accepted in or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time their abstract was submitted. Applicants must attend Mythcon and present the paper, either virtually or in person, to qualify for the award.

Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund

The Mythopoeic Society's Starving Scholars Fund was renamed in honor of our founder, Glen GoodKnight, upon his passing in November 2010. Glen always emphasized the importance of encouraging scholarship in Inklings studies and was happy to see this fund come into existence in 1993. The Fund supports attendance at Mythcon for scholars and other participants. Preference is given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration. Awards consist of a contribution toward room & board costs or, very rarely, other conference expenses such as travel costs. The Mythcon Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, makes the final decision as to award recipients, amounts, and application of funds. No more than half of the Fund's balance may be used in any given year. Contact papers@mythcon.org for more information.

Mythcon 54 Schedule and Programming Overview

The Mythcon 54 registration table will open midday on Friday, July 24, and program items will start at around 2 pm Friday afternoon and continue until dinner. After dinner we will have our casual meet-and-greet Welcome Reception, sponsored by the Council of Stewards. The reception will honor the Centennial of Route 66, AKA the Mother Road. Both the conference hotel and meeting place sit on Route 66, which becomes Main Street as it passes through Weatherford.

We are planning for a Hospitality Room and Bardic Circle to be available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.

On Saturday morning, July 25, the Procession and Opening Ceremonies will start at approximately 9:00 a.m., including our Scholar Guest of Honor address, followed by more papers and panels throughout the day, breaking for lunch and dinner. After-dinner entertainments will include a Masquerade and other post-programming activities.

Auction devotees, we will be having our traditional Society auction, with a mixture of silent and live auction items. Bruce Leonard and Gary Hunnewell will be managing the auction, with Bruce being the official auctioneer. Please notify us in advance of items you plan to donate to the auction, if possible. If you plan to drive to Mythcon, we would ask you to consider bringing your donations with you and leave them in the dealer's room at the Mythopoeic Society's table when you arrive on Friday. If you need to ship your donations in advance, they may be mailed to the Mythcon 54 Chair, Phillip Fitzsimmons (701 E. Huber, Weatherford, OK, 73096). This traditional event is fun and offers the possibility of finding those rare items for which you have been searching, so be sure to bring your wallets!

Programming continues Sunday, concluding with the traditional Mythcon Banquet, Author Guest of Honor address, and Mythopoeic Awards ceremony on Sunday evening.

Final program items will start Monday morning around 9:00 a.m., followed by the Annual Mythopoeic Society Members Meeting (all are welcome) and closing ceremonies, concluding midday. A post-conference tour is scheduled for the Thomas P. Stafford Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, home to the Mythopoeic Society digital archive.

If you would like to suggest a non-academic programming item, including something to be included in the Saturday evening entertainments, or during the Sunday evening banquet, please contact Tim Lenz, the Steward for Mythopoeic Events, at mythcon@mythsoc.org. Efforts will be made to stream as much academic and non-academic content online as possible for our virtual registrants.

Dealers Room and Dealers' Tables

Full 8' tables or half-tables (shared with another vendor) are available in our Dealers room for \$50 or \$30. If you are interested in bringing your wares to sell, please contact Robert Williams by email at dealers@mythcon.org, and he will provide more details.

You can also reserve a table online on the Mythopoeic Society website, <https://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-54.htm#dealers>. Tables are 8 feet long by 30 inches wide.

Vendors who will only be staffing their table do not have to purchase memberships, but any vendor who also wants to attend any of the conference activities must purchase a full conference membership.

Masquerade

Mythcon 54 will have a masquerade as part of one of our Saturday evening entertainments. A Mythcon masquerade is a staged costume presentation that ranges from the sublime to the silly; its focus is fun and entertainment. Everyone is invited to participate; sign-up forms will be provided at the registration desk.

The Not Very Annual Mary Stolzenbach Memorial Clerihew Contest

Will there be a [clerihew](#) contest this year? What's a Mythcon without whimsical verse and possibly doubtful veracity? So, polish up your skills for our Not Very Annual Clerihew Contest, named in honor of the late Mary Stolzenbach, who used to sweep the awards regularly. Each attendee may submit one entry into each of three categories: Before Tolkien (pre-1892), During Tolkien (1892-1973), and After Tolkien (post-1973). A distinguished panel of judges, They Who Must Never Be Named, will evaluate each entry based on the HOC criteria of Humor, Originality, and Clerihewness. Winners in each category will be rewarded with the traditional prize of a jeroboam of Chateau de Porteur d'Anneau invisible champagne, and we'll all toast the memory of beloved clerihew enthusiast Mike Foster.

Mythcon 54 Registration

Mythcon 54 registration is now open. All registration fees are in US dollars.

Current rates for Mythcon 54 are as follows. Rates for attending memberships will increase on June 1, so register early if you can.

- Full Conference Registration (Mythsoc member*) \$110.00
- Full Conference Registration (non-member) \$125.00
- Full Conference Registration (student**) \$100.00
- Virtual Conference Registration (Mythsoc member) \$20.00
- Virtual Conference Registration (non-member) \$25.00

* **Note:** to register at the **member rate**, you must be a member-on-good-standing of the Mythopoeic Society, and you need to [log on to our members area](#) first.

Here is a 6-minute YouTube video explaining how Mythsoc members can log in to the new members area, and then proceed to the registration process for Mythcon 54.

[YOUTUBE DEMO](#)

**Full-time students must present current, active student ID at check-in to confirm eligibility for the student rate.

To register for Mythcon 54, use [THIS LINK](#).

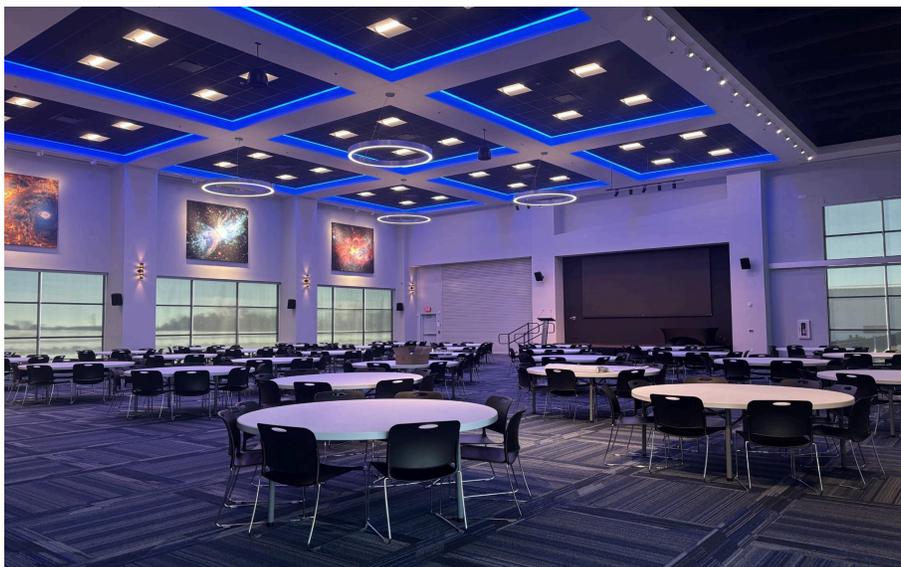
Mythcon 54 Program Venue

Stafford Air & Space Museum
3000 Logan Rd, Weatherford, OK 73096

The [Stafford Air & Space Museum](#), named in honor of Weatherford native, astronaut Thomas P. Stafford, is considered one of the finest and most comprehensive air and space museums in the central United States and is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute.

Photographs of the museum: [Air and Space museum Photos](#).

Weatherford OK is also the home of the Mythopoeic Society Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).



Conference Hotel: Lucille's Hotel, Weatherford

The official Mythcon 54 hotel is Lucille's Hotel in Weatherford, a classic example of Route 66 lodging. Mythcon attendees will receive a special rate of \$99.99* (+taxes and fees) per night, using the group code MYTHCON54. This rate is also available on the Thursday and Monday 'shoulder' nights. The contact information for the hotel is:

Lucille's Hotel, Restaurant, & Bar
3825 E Main St, Weatherford, Oklahoma, 73096
Phone 580-774-0400



To reserve a room at the conference rate, guests may either:

- Call the hotel at 580-774-0400 and reference the group code MYTHCON54, or
- Email the front desk at [frontdesk @ lucilleshotel.com](mailto:frontdesk@lucilleshotel.com) and include the group code MYTHCON54 in the reservation request.

Here is a link to the [Hotel's Web Site](#) for information purposes. Please do not use the website to reserve a room, or you will not receive the special conference rate; use one of the above procedures instead.



Transportation: Getting to Weatherford, OK – Not as Tough as Going to Mount Doom

Weatherford, OK is accessible only to those with wheels! As we approach the event, the organizing committee will provide resources to help coordinate rides between Oklahoma City and Weatherford, and also around Weatherford during Mythcon.

Plane: Don't be turned off by flying to an airport named for Oklahoma's most beloved native son, who died in a plane crash. After arriving at Will Rogers International Airport (recently upgraded from Will Rogers World Airport!), you will need ground transportation to Weatherford. Car rental and shuttle options at OKC airport can be found [here](#). We recommend coordinating shared rides with other Mythcon attendees.

Automobile: Oklahoma City (the nearest semi-major metropolitan area) lies at the intersection of not one!-not two!-but three! major interstate highways: east-west I-40, north-south I-35, and northeast-to-southwest I-44. Once in Oklahoma City, take I-40 west to Weatherford at Exit 84. For local transportation between the conference hotel and venue, we strongly recommend that you either have a car of your own, or coordinate carpooling with another attendee.

Train: Only if you want to catch a freight train!

Bus: Only the yellow kind that serves schools.

Taxi: Weatherford does have a taxi service, the one man-one vehicle operation of Dave's Taxi. If you want to hail a taxi in Weatherford though, you must use a phone (580-819-0228).

Meals and Banquet

We'll be providing a Welcome Reception (sponsored by the Council of Stewards) with light refreshments and cake on Friday afternoon, and there will be a hospitality suite every night after the end of programming. The hotel has an on-site restaurant (which, by the way, is where the local Mythopoeic Society chapter meets monthly) and a grab-and-go market. Ground transportation is needed to access any of the other eateries in Weatherford. Tickets for the Sunday evening banquet will be announced in the coming weeks, and will be an additional cost (ie. not included in registration fees).

Eats, Treats, and Places to See That Can't Be Beat!

Weatherford offers almost all the fast-food favorites and caffeine joints found in any college town, as well as several restaurants that are locally owned or found only in Oklahoma! Among the latter are:

- Boomarang Diner, boomarangdiner.com
- Casa Soto Mexican Restaurant, casasotorestaurant.com
- El Patio Mexican Grill, elpatiorestaurantsok.com
- Frida's Cocina Mexicana & Bar,
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Fridas-Cocina-Mexicana-Weatherford-Okla-homa-61562778308016/>
- Jerry's Restaurant, www.jerrysrestaurants.com/weatherford
- Lucille's Roadhouse (next to the conference hotel), lucillesroadhouse.com
- Luigi's Italian Restaurant & Lounge, luigisitalianweatherford.com
- Nickels Point, nickelspoint.com
- Pecina's Mexican Café, pecinas.com
- The Shed Grill & Bar, theshedgrillandbar.com

Most importantly to the Mythopoeic Society, Weatherford is the location of the Society's archive, which is part of the Thomas A. Stafford Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. A post-conference tour of the Archives will be scheduled. The Society's digital collection opened in 2017 and is one of the most visited sites on the SWOSU digital archive.



Also found in downtown Weatherford is a 30-foot spaceman at the corner of Main St. and Broadway Ave.

This statue was added as a Route 66 attraction here in "Space City," and is a warm tribute to Thomas P. Stafford, Weatherford native and NASA astronaut.

The spaceman's visor was painted by local artist Bobby Marsee of "Marsee's Fine Art & Custom Framing" at 104 E. College Ave.

Besides the Stafford Air and Space Museum (location of the conference meetings), Weatherford is home to the Oklahoma Heartland Museum www.oklahomaheritagemuseum.com. Among many other attractions there, you can stand where Elvis Presley did on April 22, 1960, in the Porter House Diner! Admission is free to Mythcon 54 attendees if you mention the event.

Weatherford is also home to two other “offbeat places” to visit on the [Roadside America web site](#):

- The Route 66 Astronaut in Weatherford’s Centennial Park along Route 66.
- Wind Turbine Blade Display in Weatherford’s Heritage Park.

If you enjoy relaxing in the great outdoors (especially on a balmy Oklahoma mid-summer day!), then check out Weatherford’s many parks.

<https://cityofweatherford.com/parks-rec/>

If you have a car, you may also want to visit Clinton, which is about 15 miles down the road. Two major features there are the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum <https://www.okhistory.org/sites/route66.php> and the Clinton Indoor Water Zoo <https://www.water-zoo.com/>, which, despite the name, is for people!

Last and certainly not least, as you drive to Weatherford on I-40, be sure to watch for the mounds on the south side of the highway between the Hinton exit and Weatherford. These mounds were the inspiration for H.P. Lovecraft’s novella “The Mound.”

Public Safety Policy

Policies regarding any active public health concerns or outbreaks, (for instance masking or vaccination) will be tied to local recommendations at the time of the conference. Please check the conference webpage before you travel. The Mythopoeic Society accepts no responsibility for spread of COVID-19 or other contagious illnesses as part of travel to, from, or participation in Mythcon 54.

Volunteer Opportunities

In order to keep our registration fees low, the Mythopoeic Society relies on volunteers to support the operation of our events. If you would be interested in volunteering to assist with any of the below roles, please contact the conference chair (chair@mythcon.org) or Mythcon Steward (mythcon@mythsoc.org).

Organizing Committee

Promotions: We are in need of someone who lives in Weatherford or the surrounding area to assist with promotion of the event. This would involve attending periodic online organizing committee meetings, distribution of flyers to regional schools, bookstores, and other establishments or groups that may be interested in Mythcon, and reaching out to local groups to encourage attendance from folks who live in the area.

Programming: The Programming Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the non-academic program items at Mythcon 54, including evening entertainment, author readings, the Masquerade, Bardic Circle, etc. This person would also help in creating the schedule for the event, and would be expected to attend periodic online organizing committee meetings.

Art Show Coordinator: Mythcons sometimes include an art show, where members may bring unique or special pieces of art or other collectors items for display during the event. If you would be interested in coordinating an Art Show at Mythcon 54, please reach out. The coordinator would be expected to attend periodic online organizing committee meetings.

Non-Committee Volunteers

Registration: Covering shifts at the registration table, registering attendees as they arrive, answering questions from attendees.

Technical Moderators: Technical Moderators monitor the streaming setup for each of the programming tracks, to ensure that our online attendees have a smooth experience. They may also ask questions of presenters on behalf of the online attendees.

Mythopoeic Society Dealer Table: Because our Orders Steward position is currently vacant, we will need volunteer support at the Mythopoeic Society Dealer Table, to handle the sale of Mythopoeic Society books and other merchandise.

More information

If you have questions or ideas related to Mythcon 54, or wish to volunteer to help out, please email the appropriate committee member or the chair at the address below.

Mythcon 54 Committee

- Chair: Phillip Fitzsimmons (chair@mythcon.org)
- Papers Coordinator: Cami Agan. (papers@mythcon.org)
- Dealers Room Coordinator: Robert Williams (dealers@mythcon.org)
- Guests of Honor Liaison: Conner Kirk
- On-Site Registrar: Victoria Gaydosik
- Hospitality: Gary Hunnewell
- Auctioneer: Bruce Leonard
- Committee member at large: Diane Fitzsimmons
- Mythopoeic Society Steward for Conferences: Tim Lenz (mythcon@mythsoc.org)