

Dear Parents,

Hello, my name is Lizzie Keiper, and I am the Youth Programming Director for LeakyCon 2009. So, your son or daughter wants to go to our Harry Potter conference? I bet you're saying, "You want to do what?!" They have brought this packet to you hoping you'll allow him or her to attend a conference about Harry Potter. While it's a big step for your teenager to go on a four-day-long academic excursion, rest assured that safety is our number one priority. Of course, we will also provide a fun, educational, and memorable experience that your teen will cherish for years to come! Now that you have this packet containing all the information you need, we hope you and your teen can get together, and make an informed decision about whether he or she will attend. Before you say "No," please read the rest of this packet. Trust me, you'll feel better!

In this letter, I'll cover the following:

- * Who is The-Leaky-Cauldron.org?
- * What is LeakyCon 2009?
- * What we will we do at LeakyCon 2009?
- * What will your teen do at LeakyCon 2009?
- * What you can expect from us?

LeakyCon 2009 is a conference hosted by The-Leaky-Cauldron.org. During the past eight years, The-Leaky-Cauldron.org has emerged as one of the top websites in the Harry Potter fandom. Our website has evolved to include information on every aspect of the fandom, and to be recognized by many respected media outlets. Most recently, Harry Potter author J. K. Rowling granted her first-ever podcast interview to PotterCast, our Top 20 iTunes ranked podcast, and *Entertainment Weekly* included us on their 2007 Best of the Web list. With LeakyCon 2009, we plan to take the next big step in bringing Harry Potter fans together, all in the name of charity.

LeakyCon 2009 will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. We chose Boston for our first conference because it is a city rich in history and educational opportunities. From May 21st through the 24th, 2009, Boston will be Harry Potter central. The conference itself will take place at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, a venue that offers us a beautiful atmosphere, and provides us with the space to host all of our core activities on-site. The Park Plaza also has an additional feature that we just couldn't pass up: its own castle! Your teenager will have a truly magical experience attending our ball in this magnificent space. We also have plans in the works for a group excursion to historical Salem, MA. Complete information on this voluntary trip will be available shortly.

LeakyCon 2009 will be the first conference of its kind to provide a Youth Programming track, complete with activities designed for the teenagers in attendance. This unique programming will provide our younger guests with many opportunities designed especially for them, and planned with their interests, and education in mind. We will feature a special Youth Programming Common Room, where your son or daughter will have the opportunity to spend time with fellow teens in a safe, secure environment. Of course, included in basic registration will be access to all academic presentations, in which our guests will immerse themselves in canon-centric discussions of the novels with some of the most notable and knowledgeable members of the Harry Potter community. Overall, the lessons of love, courage, acceptance, and doing what's right that form the foundation of the Harry Potter novels will be central to everything we do at LeakyCon 2009.

Your input and involvement is of paramount importance to us. We encourage you come with your son or daughter to LeakyCon 2009. Your teen will be able to show you the world he or she loves, and both of you will create a lasting memories to share. I remember going to my first Harry Potter conference with my mom in 2006.

It was so wonderful to meet people who love Harry Potter just as much as I do, and it was very special to share the experience with my mom. It was a time I will never forget; I'm so grateful that my parents let me go, and that my mom was there with me.

The-Leaky-Cauldron.org takes security very seriously. We strive to make this conference a safest possible experience for you and your child. We require that every guest from 14 to 17 who is not attending with a parent or guardian have a designated chaperone. This chaperone must be registered for the conference, and remain on the conference premises throughout the event. With the hotel security, our staff, and your teen's chaperone, you can be confident that your child will be safe at LeakyCon 2009 at all times.

Finally, LeakyCon 2009 is all about giving back to our community. All proceeds from the conference will benefit two organizations near to our hearts, Book Aid International, for whom we have raised over \$35,000 in the past five years, and the HP Alliance. More information on our charitable efforts can be found on our site.

You probably have a few additional questions, so please feel free to email me at youth@leakycon.com, and I'll be happy to answer them!

I hope to see your teen, and maybe even you, in May 2009!

Sincerely,

Lizzie Keiper
Youth Programming Director
LeakyCon 2009

Hotel Information

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers
50 Park Plaza at Arlington St
Boston, MA 02116-3912
Phone: 1.617.426.2000
Fax: 1.617.426.5545
<http://www.bostonparkplaza.com/>

Schedule of Events

Coming Soon, Check the website for the most recent info.

Parent Testimonials

[Lisa DeGroodt, LeakyCon's Communications Director](#)

As a parent, I felt the Harry Potter conference I went to was well suited for teenagers. I would not take my

children to one now, as they are a bit too young (10 & 11), but I am anxiously awaiting the time when I can take them with me to a conference. The conferences are full of parents with children, as well as those who are with designated chaperons, and everyone has a grand time. The conferences were really well run and there was plenty for everyone to do. For teenagers who enjoy the series, a Harry Potter conference is a must for all fans.

Jim Howell, Parent of Leaky Staffer Kayla

I wasn't sure what to expect for Prophecy 2007 and was surprised when I was informed I needed to be a chaperone for my daughter who was turning 16. I felt the conference was not only very well organized but a safe environment as well. The conference was very well attended by a wide range of age groups and felt it had something for everyone including myself who was not familiar with Harry Potter. I believe the conferences have made the right decision with the age limit because of some mature content. In the end, the conference surpassed by expectation and was a moment in my life my daughter and I will never forget. I can't wait for the next one!

Becky Keiper, Parent of LeakyCon Youth Programming Director Lizzie Keiper

When my daughter told me that she wanted to go the Harry Potter Conference, Lumos 2006 in Las Vegas, I really didn't know what to think. I knew she loved Harry Potter and the online aspect of Leaky and the fandom, but to go meet the people she'd been talking to online? As a parent I was concerned because you hear all of those horror stories of people meeting online friends. Lizzie begged me and her father to let her go, and I'm very happy we allowed her to attend the conference and that I went with her. I have many wonderful memories of that weekend in Vegas with my daughter, and the people she met are just an amazing and fun group of people. They aren't a "cult," just people who are united by a love of reading a fabulous series of books. Lizzie and I came home so happy and just raving about how much fun we had, and every Harry Potter conference since I've wanted to come along with Lizzie. I can't wait for LeakyCon!

Teen Testimonials

Miryam Coppersmith, Leaky reader

Since August, I have felt completely conference-deprived. Last summer I went to two conferences and I loved every minute of it. Enlightening was a great experience because it was a family conference. I was placed in the youth track, I'm fourteen, and I decided to go into the "Make a Fan Film" group (you can watch our film on youtube under "HP in seven"). My best friend Jillian went with me; It was her first conference, my second, so I showed her the ropes. The conference only lasted 3 days, but everyone in our track became great friends. I stayed with my mom, and she had a great time as well. The best thing about the youth track was that I could talk in depth about Harry Potter with my peers! It is great to know that there are a bunch of kids my age loving Harry Potter, and I hope to see all of them at LeakyCon!

Chloe, PotterCast Witchy Helper and Leaky Con Youth Staffer

My first conference was Lumos 2006 in Las Vegas. At 16, I was shocked when my parents said yes, and my mom volunteered to be my chaperone. She didn't know what to expect, and while I thought I had an idea, I was blown away at how awesome the conference really was. The whole weekend was a blur of hugs, wizard rock, and podcasts. I made new friends, who I still talk to regularly two years later, and had a weekend with my mom, who was even surprised at how much fun we had. The best part about these weekends is the chance to discuss Harry Potter without getting funny looks. We get to be our true selves- let our nerdiness fly- for four days and be completely accepted, no matter who we ship, what we theorize, or what our "real lives" are. The amount of love found at these conferences is indescribable- it just shows that the weapon we have really is love.

FAQs for Parents:

I won't be able to attend the conference with my 17 year old. I understand she can still attend, if she has a "chaperone." Can you tell me more about chaperones?

You are quite correct, if you are not going to be attending with your teen, please be advised that anyone under 18 years of age must have a chaperone for the event. This chaperone is responsible for the youth during the event in the parent's absence. The following criteria apply to chaperones:

- * Must be at least 21 years of age
- * Must be registered for the conference
- * A chaperone may have a maximum of 2 attendees
- * The youth's parent or guardian must complete the "Chaperone Authorization Form" AND HAVE IT NOTARIZED. This form is presented at the time of registration (when the youth is registering at the event, the chaperone must be present)

I have two children, one is 13 and the other is 16. Can they both attend, as long as I am also registered?

Ah, the sticky issue of age restrictions. As much as we'd like to have a completely open event to all ages, it simply isn't possible due to legal and insurance restrictions. Yes, we know and understand that children under 14 have read and love Harry Potter, but unfortunately we cannot register anyone under the age of 14.

So... if I register my 16 year old, and I'm her chaperone, but I bring along my younger child, will the younger child be allowed to sit with me at conference events?

Unfortunately, no. Only registered guests may participate in LeakyCon events.

I've seen footage of large conventions before; the huge cavernous space filled with outrageous people in costume and vendors galore. Is that what will happen at LeakyCon?

Actually, no. While we will have a vendor room, it is separate from the rest of the convention. Think more along the lines of a conference you may have gone to for your work purposes. There will be a variety of programming your youth can attend, a la carte style. Structured programming, informal events... the decision on what to attend will be your child's. Now, I can't guarantee there won't be people in costume... we usually see the entire gamut of costumes from house robes to Umbridges to Voldemorts. But it's all in good fun, with nary a Klingon to be found!

How much will this event cost?

From now until October 1, 2008, the registration fee for LeakyCon 2009 will be at the discounted rate of \$165. After October 1, 2008, the price goes up to \$185 for registration, and then up to the full price of \$199 after February 1, 2009.

What does the cost cover?

The registration includes unlimited access to all of our formal, informal, and youth programming as well as both the opening and closing feasts and Ball.

Note: Keynotes or other special events will be added during the year, and may incur additional costs. When those events are added, we update our website and send out email notifications. The fee for these special events vary, and are completely optional.

How much are the hotel rooms?

We've negotiated a special rate for a block of rooms. When you contact the hotel, be sure to tell them you are reserving for the LeakyCon conference! The cost is \$189 per night. Many people share rooms to cut down on

the cost, but it is up to the convention guest to find a roommate. Obviously, for our youth participants, we would recommend parents fully vetting any potential roommates. LeakyCon cannot be responsible for roommate behavior or activities.

I still have questions that aren't answered here. Where do I go?

Please feel free to contact our Youth Programming Chair, Lizzie Keiper, at [HYPERLINK](#)

"mailto:Lizzie@leakycon.com" Lizzie@leakycon.com or our help email at [HYPERLINK](#)

"mailto:help@leakycon.com" help@leakycon.com. We want this to be a positive experience for you and your child, and we encourage you ask, ask, ask away!