



WHAT TO EXPECT AT **Superstars 2026**

SuperstarsWriting.com

2026 CONFERENCE GUIDE

Welcome Superstar!

We're so excited you've decided to join us for the sixteenth year of our conference at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. Superstars Writing Seminars (SSWS) is an intense business seminar—a drink-from-the-fire-hose deluge of real-world information designed to help attendees better navigate the pitfalls of publishing—targeted to serious writers looking to break in or enhance their career.



Whether this is your first year or your sixteenth, this guide will help you get the most out of the conference, enjoy your stay at the hotel, and pack accordingly. Most importantly, we want you to get excited about all the learning, opportunities, connections, and new friendships you will make as a result of attending Superstars!

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Superstars Writing Seminars is committed to diverse, equitable, and inclusive representation across the entire writing community, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, women, people with disabilities, neurodiversities, body sizes, religions, nationalities, ages, and all other marginalized and underrepresented people.

Superstars Writing Seminars seeks to be an inclusive and safe space physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Ongoing positive support across the Superstars family of instructors and attendees, not just during the annual in-person event but also within the virtual and digital year-long related platforms, is at the heart of this goal.





Teaching You the Business of Writing

WHO WE ARE

OUR FOUNDERS



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Kevin J. Anderson

Kevin has published more than 175 books, 58 of which have been national or international bestsellers. He has written numerous novels in the Star Wars, X-Files, and Dune universes.



Rebecca Moesta

Rebecca is the bestselling author of many science fiction and fantasy books, both solo and in collaboration with her husband, Kevin J. Anderson.

WHO WE ARE

OUR FOUNDERS



James A. Owen

James has written and illustrated two dozen StarChild comics, the award-winning MythWorld series of novels, the bestselling series, The Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, and more.



Brandon Sanderson

Brandon is a best-selling author known for his Cosmere universe, which includes the Mistborn series and The Stormlight Archive, along with his work on the Wheel of Time series.

WHO WE ARE FOUNDERS IN MEMORIAM



David Farland

David wrote and edited more than fifty books. These include novels for adults, young adults, anthologies, middle-grade readers, and picture books. He was perhaps best known for his epic fantasy series *The Runelords*.



Eric Flint

Eric was a best-selling author, best known for the 1632 series. In addition to the twenty-three novels he wrote in the 1632 series, he edited twelve anthologies of short fiction set in that universe. He was also the founder and publisher of Ring of Fire Press.

Getting There

WHAT TO EXPECT



FLYING

The two main airports you should use to travel to Superstars are Denver International Airport (DIA) and the Colorado Springs Airport (COS). The Colorado Springs Airport is the preferred choice because of its close proximity to the Cheyenne Mountain Resort, but DIA is also a fine choice for a destination airport, particularly if you are traveling to the conference from outside the United States.



DRIVING

Many people choose to drive to Superstars. There is plenty of parking at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort for both hotel guests and non-guests. Parking is free for the duration of the conference. No parking validation needed.

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

Will I Need a Car for the Conference?

SSWS is entirely located at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. All of the conference events are located inside the hotel with the exception of the optional Garden of the Gods Walk. Rideshare options are available for these events.

What About Food? Will I Need a Car to Get to Restaurants?

The Cheyenne Mountain Resort offers many on-site dining options. In addition, there are a number of restaurants and eateries just a short walk away. As the resort is located in bustling Colorado Springs, rideshare options are plentiful. Most out-of-town attendees do not find they need a car.

Is the Hotel All One Building?

No, Cheyenne Mountain Resort consists of one main lodge, where you will find all dining options, classes, and conference events, as well as additional smaller guest lodges. The resort is highly walkable, but you should expect to need to move between the main building and your room. If accessibility is a concern, please contact our Lodging Coordinator ASAP to request a room that meets your needs. This year, the resort will also be offering a shuttle service from guest rooms to the main lodge.

Food & Dining

WHAT TO EXPECT



Cheyenne Mountain Resort offers several dining options. Mountain View Restaurant boasts a buffet service while Elevations Lounge offers a sit-down menu. They also have a full bar. Additionally, there is a coffee shop in the hotel which sells grab-and-go options alongside drinks.

Most rooms at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort are outfitted with a mini fridge and coffee maker. During the conference, ample refreshments will be available in the form of water, coffee, and tea. Out of respect for Cheyenne Mountain Resort, please do not bring your own food into the conference rooms. Superstars-sponsored meals include the optional ticketed VIP Dinner, the Eggs Benedict Breakfast with James Owen, and the Welcome Mixer. If you are attending any of these sponsored meals, please contact our Director if you have food allergies or special dining needs.

Outside the hotel, nearby dining options include Hatch Cover, Miguel's Mexican, Tokki, Marigold Bistro, PizzAmore, and more. A farther walk or short ride in an Uber allows you access to the full breadth of dining options in Colorado Springs.

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

It's Cold in Colorado in February. Do I Have to Leave the Hotel to Eat?

No, you do not! Cheyenne Mountain Resort has options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. With a coffee shop in the hotel and free refreshments available during the conference, you'll have all the coffee and tea you could want. In addition, you can get room service or food delivered to the hotel.

I Have Food Allergies or Special Dietary Needs. Who Do I Talk To?

If you have questions about accommodations for food allergies or special dietary needs at any of the Cheyenne Mountain Resort Restaurants, please contact the hotel directly. If you are attending the optional VIP Dinner or any of the other Superstars-sponsored meals, please contact our Director.

Is the Cheyenne Mountain Resort a Coke or a Pepsi Hotel?

Cheyenne Mountain Resort is a Pepsi Hotel. However, many Superstars who can't live without their Coke products plan a grocery store run to pick up what they need. If you're flying in and won't have a car, check this year's SSWS Facebook Group to see if someone is planning to go and can pick up something for you.

What to Bring

PACKING SUGGESTIONS & TIPS



Colorado weather is nothing if not unpredictable. Wearing layers is the best way to be comfortable both inside and outside the hotel. Some of the conference rooms can be cold, especially the main room, while the smaller rooms are often quite warm. Outside, daytime temperatures can and do dip below freezing, with nights even colder. Snowstorms can also move into the region during the conference week.

On the following page, you'll find a list of suggested packing items you should bring alongside your normal travel items. We also recommend packing light as most people end up bringing home several new books and other items picked up over the course of the conference.

Suggested dress is business casual or whatever speaks to your personal author brand. You will be mingling not only with your peers, but authors, editors, agents, and other publishing professionals. Wear what you feel comfortable and confident in. Above all, please be yourself!

If you are attending the optional VIP Dinner, please bring one nicer outfit. If you plan to partake in the optional Garden of the Gods Walk, please bring appropriate outdoor wear.

What to Bring

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Below you'll find a list of suggested packing items you should bring alongside your normal travel items. We also recommend packing light as most people end up bringing home several new books and other items picked up over the course of the conference.

- ☐ Winter Jacket
- ☐ Snow or Cold Weather Shoes
- ☐ Cold Weather Hat
- ☐ Cold Weather Scarf
- ☐ Pair of Gloves
- ☐ Sweater to Layer on Conference Days
- ☐ One Nice Outfit for the VIP Dinner (Optional)
- ☐ One Hiking Outfit for the Garden of the Gods Walk (Optional)
- ☐ Refillable Water Bottle
- ☐ Comfortable Backpack or Shoulder Bag to Use During the Conference
- ☐ Laptop, Tablet, or Notebook for Taking Notes
- ☐ Business Cards
- ☐ Electrolytes or Hydration Supplements Like Nune or Liquid IV
- ☐ Prescription Medicines & Over-the-Counter Medicines Including Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and Medicine for Treating Altitude Sickness

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

Do I Need Snow or Cold Weather Gear?

We recommend bringing at least one warm jacket and snow or winter shoes. If you are planning to go on the optional Garden of the Gods walk, please dress in layers and bring good walking or hiking shoes. The walk is not intended to be strenuous, but you are at elevation in Colorado in February.

Do I Need a Suit or Dress For the VIP Dinner?

If you are attending the VIP Dinner, please bring one nicer outfit to wear. A full suit and tie or fancy dress and heels are not required, however many people do dress up. A dress, skirt, suit, or sports jacket would not be out of place. That said, please be yourself and wear what you're comfortable in. Also, be mindful of the weather and time of year.

If I Buy a Lot of Books, Is There a Way to Send Them Home?

It happens to the best of us! With a bookstore on-site and a gathering of authors, you're bound to pick up at least a couple of new books. If your purchases don't fit in your luggage or will make your bags overweight, shipping services are available nearby at UPS (445 E Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. Suite C, Colorado Springs CO 80906). Attendees will want to check hours to make sure they can get there in time to drop off packages before leaving for home.

Surviving High Altitudes

TIPS & TRICKS



If you've never traveled to Colorado or spent much time at high altitudes, you may be apprehensive about what to expect. After all, Colorado Springs sits at 6,035' above sea level.

First and foremost, **HYDRATE!** Drink plenty of water in the days leading up to Superstars and all during the conference. Supplement with electrolytes if desired.

Limit your alcohol intake, especially on the first day/night. Take things easy and go to bed early to have a better conference experience in the days that follow.

Avoid strenuous exercise. A light walk is fine, but this is not the time to try a new HIIT workout at the gym.

Talk to your doctor if you have pre-existing medical conditions. You might be surprised by which illnesses or medications react poorly with high altitudes. When in doubt, talk to an expert.

Symptoms of altitude sickness include headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, and loss of appetite. If you're feeling sick, please contact Marta Sprout (our Safety Captain). Her contact information will be available at check-in.

Alumni Tips

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM YOUR TRIBE

"When we say tribe, we mean it. Do go to the hotel bar at night, and the lounge area around it, even if you don't drink alcohol. The real socializing happens there."

-Wulf Moon

"To save on breakfast costs, bring dry cereal, granola bars, oatmeal, nuts, etc to eat in your room. It can save you a lot over the course of the week!"

-Shannon Fox

"Order the recordings; that way you can still experience the panels and talks you missed, as well as be able to relisten to the ones you did attend."

-Mia Kleve

"A big benefit of this conference is the networking and meeting others. Be prepared to mingle and talk and participate."

-Frank Morin

Alumni Tips

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM YOUR TRIBE

"Don't be afraid to join any group that you see talking. We gather in groups to go to lunch. With extremely rare exceptions, mainly being that a couple of people are going to discuss business, you can join pretty much any group you see."

-Gama Martinez

"Bring business cards if you have them because there is a LOT of networking and making new friends. "

-Jessica Guernsey

"Get lots of sleep before and after because you won't be sleeping during."

-Kim May

New for 2026!

UPDATES FOR THIS YEAR



Hotel Grounds Shuttle for Attendees

Cheyenne Mountain Resort's expanded Guest Services Team will help shuttle conference guests from their rooms to the main building when needed.

See You Soon!



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Join Our Facebook Groups

2026 Conference Private Group



All Alumni Private Group

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With Thanks to: Jason Aydelotte, Tanya Hales, Tara Henderson, H.Y. Gregor, Jessica Guernsey, Wayland Smith, Julia Vee