

Metasubversive Golden Cobra Secret Larp

Set Up

- Decide Not To Submit A Golden Cobra Entry
 - You've won recognition in a previous year's GC
 - You're history with larp design/production/organizing already have a degree of clout/influence
 - You've achieved a degree of success in a similar game design field
 - Your imposter syndrome is kicking your ass in spite of your documented success
 - You're part of a privileged group and really want to find another way to participate that does not
 - Seek power
 - Center yourself

Stage One: Discovery

- Aggressively but COVERTLY discover a Potential First Time Larp Designer
 - Use social media to promote and share the contest
 - Block and report @1goldencobra on twitter for white supremacist tweets
 - One less white supremacist on twitter
 - No longer clutters your search results for "goldencobra"
 - No longer triggers others unprepared for white supremacy when they are just trying to find information about the contest
 - Prioritize the following aspects of a PFTLD
 - Underrepresented group in larp design
 - Comments on participation woes that may be helped by encouragement
 - Appears to have a lot to gain from the recognition of Golden Cobra success

Stage Two: Contact

- Begin by publicly encouraging PFTLD to submit an entry to Golden Cobra 2020
 - Use Clout/Influence if you've got it
 - Be GENTLE with it
 - PFTLD should be encouraged more than overwhelmed
 - Liking
 - Commenting
 - Maybe don't share/retweet?

- If lacking clout/influence just be enthusiastic and encouraging
 - Avoid centering yourself
 - No need to larpsplain or freeformsplain
 - Focus on concise maximum effective encouragement
- Respectfully and gently reach out privately to PFTLD with further encouragement to submit an entry to Golden Cobra 2020
 - Pay very careful attention to established boundaries!
 - PAY VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES
 - If someone's posts/tweets etc. are viewable look at the history to glean boundaries if not explicitly stated
 - No respectful way to make private and direct contact with the PFTLD while respecting established boundaries?
 - Don't make contact
 - Return to Stage One
 - Potentially Useful Remarks For The First Message
 - Golden Cobra's history of first time designers blowing judges' minds
 - First time designers haven't been "taught" bad design habits
 - How participating in GC has positively impacted yourself
 - But don't talk too much about yourself
 - Two sentences seems like a good maximum
 - More New Designers Means
 - More better larps
 - Potential Virtuous Cycle Ignition
 - CLOSING
 - Make a GENTLE pitch for LOW KEY SUPPORT
 - This is NOT a pitch to collaborate!
 - Help with brainstorming is good
 - Offer to critique is NOT good
 - "Bounce some ideas off me" is good
 - "Happy to answer questions" is pretty good
 - "Consider me a resource" is pretty good
 - Pricing your time to "sell" the PFTLD on the "savings" is NOT good
 - The feel of the pitch must be encouraging itself
 - Don't make it about you, your time, your generosity, your experience, your clout, your influence, your body of work, your awards, your you.
 - The goal is to help the PFTLD make something and maybe get recognition for the thing they made.
 - WARNING
 - Bait and switch offers of mentorship have commonly been methods used by abusers and are especially prevalent in the game industry, both professional and independent.

- Be mindful of how your pitch would *read* to someone who doesn't know you
 - Avoid subtext that suggests quid-pro-quo
 - If you are told "no" by a PFTLD then you must accept "no" at face value without rebuttal.
 - If you are told that your pitch is creepy, you must apologize, you must not explain, you must not ask for an explanation, you must accept "no" at face value, and you cannot play Metasubversive Golden Cobra Secret Larp again until 2021.
- ACCEPTING
 - Establish Initial Boundaries
 - This is the PFTLD's project and they have sole ownership of it
 - You do not wish to be credited on the entry
 - You're firm on that point
 - Will not allow yourself to be convinced otherwise
 - Actively de-center yourself as necessary
 - Reiterate your support role
 - Express confidence in PFTLD with each interaction

Stage Three: Get Out Of The Way

- Accept that the PFTLD is in control of the Metasubversive Golden Cobra Secret Larp from this point forward
 - You can suggest, but they should decide
 - Your involvement may suddenly end at their discretion
 - The PFTLD may merely get on a roll with creative confidence and just not need much from you
 - Don't push for more involvement, stay out of the way
- How to best support others is not absolute.
 - It's affected by the support that someone needs most
 - It's affected by the kind of support you are best at providing
 - It's affected by outside circumstances
 - Be flexible
 - Be mindful
 - Pay attention to how boundaries might change

Stage Four: Ending

- When the PFTLD tells you that they've submitted their entry, schedule yourself some quiet alone time for a ritual of ending
 - Can be indoor or outdoor space, but it's recommended the space feel special to you, and outside of your ordinary paths.

- Reflect over the course of the Metasubversive Golden Cobra Secret Larp
 - What things worked well?
 - What could have gone better?
 - What did you do or say that appeared to provide good support?
 - What did you do or say that appeared to miss the mark?
 - Have you formed a friendship with the PFTLD?
 - It's okay if you have not! That may not have been what the PFTLD wanted from you.
 - Does this friendship appear to have a power imbalance?
- Decide what you would have done differently now that you have this experience
- Choose an object and allow that object to ritually represent the time, energy, and effort that you put into playing the Metasubversive Golden Cobra Secret Larp
 - The object should itself represent the above TO YOU
 - The object should NOT obviously represent the above to anyone else
- Ritually hide the object in place that has a reasonable chance of never being found ever again.
- Ritually let go of the object and end the Metasubversive Golden Cobra Secret Larp

Stage Five: Wake

- When the GC entries become publicly available, commit yourself to playing or facilitating the playing of the larp you helped encourage.
 - Upon the finishing, ask others if they would enjoy playing it again
 - If yes, offer to facilitate again.
 - Repeat as necessary
- Do not ever identify yourself or break your anonymity with regard to the creation of the larp
- If someone else identifies you
 - Do not lie
 - Minimize your role
 - Minimize your response/reaction to being identified

Variations

- Facilitate the forming of a group of PFTLDs instead of a one on one
- Play the MGCSL solo, as if you were both support and PFTLD
- Actively create misinformation regarding the identity of the anonymous creator of the MGCSL
- Covertly convince high profile designers with influence/clout to play the MGCSL
- Covertly convince a former PFTLD to play the MGCSL next GC