

*An Introduction to LARPing & NERO with NERO International
& the Pittsburgh Roleplaying Organization*



nero
Live Action Role-Playing



What is LARPing?

In today's world, with its stress and complexity, there is a need for quality recreation that gives you a chance to get away from everyday issues we all face. Take a vacation from the mundane and try your hand at a Live Action Role-Playing game.

In a Live Action Role-Playing Game (LARP) you not only create a character with a personality and back-story of your own design, but you actually act out the character in real time with other players.

There are different types of LARP games. Some games are reliant on judges and/or dice rolls or other abstract ways to decide the outcome of conflicts or actions that the players engage in. Others allow players to engage in safe combat using padded weapons to resolve combat and perform actions based on skills their character possesses in the game.

Many readers of popular fantasy fiction become lost in the exciting worlds created by the author and form a picture of the worlds in their mind. In a LARP, the story unfolds organically with no predetermined outcome. LARP players enjoy all the elements that make a good fantasy novel great and have an actual impact on how things develop and move forward. The depth of interaction and immersion in a well run LARP game simply cannot be matched by any tabletop, computer, or console game.



"I also wanted to say thanks to everyone who made my first year larping here an awesome one and I can't wait for next year to do it again."
-M. Ifversen

In addition to acting your chosen role, players and staff use costuming, make-up, prosthetics and other types of special effects to look the part of the character they choose to play. An Elf looks like an Elf. An Orc looks like an Orc. As you put on your costume and make-up and interact with scores of other players the feeling that you are assuming the role you have created for yourself is undeniable and is something that cannot be achieved in any other gaming medium.

In large scaleLARPs such as NERO there is a dedicated staff of volunteers who write the backstory, the story framework, the encounters and act in the roles of the monster, villains, and common townsfolk you meet on your adventures to provide an organic feel. These people also work very hard between events writing new adventures and stories based on the players' actions in the game. Large scale games commonly rent entire camps for entire weekends entertaining between 30 and 300 players from Friday night until Sunday morning.

Smaller scale LARP events typically run at conventions or at game stores. These smaller games are typically designed for a small group of players to move through a largely scripted adventure. These adventures are akin to "Modules" that we all know from table-top RPGing. Sometimes you get a pre-made character or guidelines for making one. These types of events are a great introduction to LARPing. In addition there are also live-combat games that are not really true LARPs. The games are largely focused on combat and run more akin to paint-ball with foam swords than a true LARP. These games typically run for an afternoon and can be very fun and challenging even for the most athletic of people and are a great way to practice your skills.

What is NERO?



The NERO International Game System is the largest and oldest established organized LARP in North America, with over 40 chapters. The Tyrran Campaign is a fully developed game world with a myriad of cultures and kingdoms that has been in use for over 15 years in the NERO game system. The Tyrran Campaign world is also filled with elves, orcs, trolls, goblins, vampires, liches and all manner fantasy creatures both monstrous and wondrous.

NERO games allow players the freedom of action through an easy to learn and fun rules system that stresses the importance of the honor system and good sportsmanship. Combat is done using safe foam padded weapons and small thrown bird seed filled packets to represent magical spells. The combat rules are intended to allow anyone to compete safely and enjoyably regardless of real life skills.

There are two ways to play a NERO game. As a player in full control of your character, "Player Character" (PC) or as a "Non Player Character" (NPC). NPC's play the roles of monsters and creatures and assist the game staff in writing and running the game. Both styles of playing can be very fun and rewarding but also very different.

Under the NERO game system an entire fantasy medieval town or world can be created. In our game, you create character concept for a fantasy character and actually play the character. It is much like improvisational theater in that you have a framework created by the props, staff and supporting characters and must develop your part as you progress through the storyline. Your character's attitudes, ambitions, and history are yours to define.

If the adventurous life is your calling, you may play the part of a wanderer, meeting with some friends in the tavern. While swapping tales, your party could get hired by a poor farmer in desperate straits, and spend the afternoon slaying a foul necromancer and his undead minions.

If the epic life is not your style, then you can play the part of a town merchant. You can make your money selling your wares and information for the right price. Perhaps you wish to be one who investigates the magical arts, selling your scrolls and potions to earn the money. Or would you rather try and become leader of the Mages' Guild? The choice is yours.

We have fierce warriors, crafty scouts, powerful mages, noble knights, and benevolent healers. There are smelly goblins, blood-chilling spectres, evil necromancers, villainous spies to fight, and your very own legends to create.



Getting Started at PRO.

Since 1992, the Pittsburgh Roleplaying Organization (PRO) has been engaging LARPer throughout the Southwestern Pennsylvania tri-state area and beyond. At PRO you can encounter fantasy creatures, solve challenging plots and puzzles, and partake in epic battles. Our goal is to provide excellent entertainment for both new and seasoned adventurers. We have a festive in-game atmosphere, intriguing 1, 2 & 3 day events, and a friendly, knowledgeable staff with 50+ combined years of experience in NERO, larping, plot/event running, logistics management, and all around general gaming.

PRO is a registered non-profit organization within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is managed by a Board of Directors. Our players range in age from teens to adults and are from all walks of life and professions. Our management staff will help you create a character that is right for you and answer questions about the game rules and the game world. We strive to create an atmosphere that is safe, challenging and fun. Players at PRO events must be at least 14 years of age or older.

If you are creating a player character (PC) you will need costume, make-up, accessories and weapons to fit your character. Almost everyone starts out with a very basic costume and weapons and works on improving it as time goes by. You do not need to spend hundreds of dollars in costuming to start playing! Through online retailers, and even your local thrift or craft stores you can put a perfectly good costume together for very little money. It is recommended that first time players PC their first event.

Should you choose to play a Non-Player Character (NPC) much of your needs will be provided for you, however we do ask that you wear the basics (black pants, black shirt, non-descript footwear, etc). Weapons and make-up are provided along with the other costume pieces to put you in the proper role.

Whether you decide to PC or NPC, the best way to get involved is to come and give it a try. There is no substitute for the real thing. Actually get chased by a dozen Orcs through the woods or talk about it over your dining room table or keyboard, the choice is yours!

Need More Information?

For a copy of the NERO Rule Book or more information on the Pittsburgh Roleplaying Organization, please visit our website www.pittsburghroleplaying.com or contact our General Manager at prolarp.gm@gmail.com. You can also check us out on Facebook! There is also more information about NERO, the game system, rules, etc. available on the NERO International website: www.nerolarp.com.

"I'd like to say thanks to everyone for the great introduction to Nero and the warm welcome. You all put your heart into the game and it shows. I will definitely be coming back next season and I look forward to seeing all of you in game." – P. Clark



Events:

PRO currently holds their NERO events at Raccoon Creek State Park. Event prices are \$45 to PC and \$5 to NPC.

New Players receive their first event FREE!

For a complete list of event dates, please visit the Events page of our website www.pittsburghroleplaying.com