

KVSC trivia champs gear up for big weekend



Kate Kompas, kkompas@stcloudtimes.com 3:14 p.m. CST February 11, 2016



(Photo: Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com)

Never yell at one another. Always be supportive of the volunteers. Eat balanced meals and get some sleep. Remember that gender-neutral hand lotion can keep even the most crowded room smelling OK.

And if you can, take Monday off to recuperate.

These are just some of the rules that trivia team Stefan's Dream has relied on over the years to become repeat champions of KVSC-FM's Trivia Weekend. St. Cloud State University's radio station organizes the 50-hour contest every year, always with two guarantees: The theme will change; the competition will remain fierce. It's made even tougher by the fact that the questions' answers aren't going to be off the top of most people's minds; Trivia Weekend is more a scavenger hunt than it is a test of knowledge.

This year's event, "Trivia Cruisin': Racing, Road Tripping and Rock & Roll," kicks off at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, and ends at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14. About 60 teams are expected to play, with dozens of volunteers helping pull off the contest.

With six first-place awards, Stefan's Dream is the winningest team in trivia history — for now. The team Learned Pigs & Fireproof Women has five championships under its belt, and last year only about 300 points separated Stefan's Dream from second-place winner Sigma Phi Nothing. The Stefan's Dream teammates are far from banking on win No. 7.

Buy Photo



Allison Feigh, right, and Laura Moehrle look up information about past KVSC trivia weekends Sunday, Feb. 7, at the KVSC radio studio in Stewart Hall. (Photo: Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com)

"I would never go into Trivia Weekend thinking that we'd win. That's dangerous. That's a dangerous mindset," said Allison Feigh, whose hyper-organizational skills have brought her the reputation of "Team Mom." She makes charts on everything from meal schedules to who's picking up whom at the airport. "The more organized we can be, the more fun I have."

As the contest goes on throughout the weekend, "it is more stressful being in first place than in any other place," Stefan's Dream member Laura Moehrle said. "Everyone's gunning for you," member Brent Anderson added.

Stefan's Dream won its first championship in 2005, and hasn't dropped out of the top three since 2004. The team slightly alters its name every year to reflect the Trivia Weekend theme; this year it's Stefan's Dream XVII: Stefan's Pole Position. (Where the base name comes from is a team members-only secret.)

The team, now in its 17th year, was far from an overnight success. "We kept showing up for years and years and not coming close to winning," Moehrle

Dispelling some myths

Buy Photo



The trophy shows Stefan's Dream as the winner of the last three years of KVSC's trivia contest weekend. (Photo: Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com)

Because there's no alcohol at Stefan's Dream's trivia headquarters (there are plenty of teams that opt to party while they play trivia), some think the team is uber-serious. The members say that's not so: They wouldn't do what they did unless they loved it, and having some laughs is part of their strategy.

"Yes, we enjoy trying to win, but the core of the weekend is being with people we like, having fun together, and that's the best part of it all," Feigh said.

"You have to make it fun and have a good time when you're in 40th, or you'll stop doing it before you can get to the top 20, top 10, top five, and win," Anderson said.

The team is partially made up from a group of Apollo High School alumni, some of whom still live in Central Minnesota. Others travel from the Twin Cities and even across the country.

"For me, trivia is about having something that keeps us friends together," Curt Richter said. "I've known Laura (Moehrle) since third grade, and if it wasn't for trivia we might have probably drifted apart."

Buy Photo



Members of the trivia team Stefan's Dream pose with the trophy. They have won the last three years of the KVSC radio annual trivia weekend contest. They include from left: Curt Richter, Brent Anderson, Laura Moehrle, Alison Feigh, and Dawn Richter. (Photo: Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com)

It's far from all work, no play, for the team members. They've been known to have mini-tricycle jousts, and every year they record a rap doing some tongue-in-cheek trash talking. The raps are uploaded on the team's [website \(http://www.stefansdream.com/\)](http://www.stefansdream.com/). (That tradition started as a joke back when their scores were closer to the bottom of the heap.) Also, if they get three questions in a row correct, one team member will take off his shirt and slide down a snowy hill in celebration.

Also, there are about 25 members maximum on Stefan's Dream, not the sometimes-rumored 50 players. Occasionally only five or six people play at a time while others rest. They rely on a neighbor, members' parents and others to help ensure they have regular meals and don't eat just junk food. They consider those helpers team members, too.

And they've been adding new team members throughout the years. Dawn Richter, Curt's wife, said her first Trivia Weekend was intimidating.

"There were 20 people crammed in a room all on computers. 'What are they doing?' " she said. But they welcomed her aboard.

Making connections

The team members love telling stories about some of the craziest ways they found answers. One year, they needed to find out the biggest animal in the Dr. Seuss Trivia Game; they tracked down a commenter on eBay who said she had the game and called her up. Once they needed information from a museum and, not being able to get ahold of anyone there, they called a nearby gas station and got a teen worker to go there to investigate.

"It's just building a relationship in that moment. That's what I love," Feigh said. "The message to new teams is: There's more resources out there than just the Internet," Curt Richter added.

Buy Photo



If a team wins the trivia weekend, they get to hold the trophy and can look inside it to see messages from previous winners. It also affords them a chance to add a message from their team. (Photo: Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com)

Building relationships is key with the volunteers, too, they said. Feigh said she gets frustrated if she sees someone knock them on social media.

"If and when the time comes that we don't do this anymore, I would still be involved, if they would have me, doing volunteer stuff," she said.

Curt Richter said he hopes the Stefan's Dream name is around as long as Trivia Weekend is.

Until then, the team plans as much as possible, but still rolls with the punches. It's got a new headquarters this year because the previous one was at a home that's being sold. They're at a new parents' basement.

"I hope they like us," Feigh said. She has her organizational floor plan ready to go.