

Cosplay Contest

Like comics, cosplay, or the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game, can be both story and art, a noun and a verb, a journey of creation and final presentation.

Whether you are creating a costume for fun, for the first time, or have made costumes before and love the process and want to try out a new idea, the following rules and entry information are designed to help us all celebrate together and lift each other up!

Saturday August 13th: Open Competition 3:00 PM

- Registration begins at 8:30 am
- Entry is free with convention ticket, or \$5.00 payable in cash at the registration table. (Benefits the Hero Initiative)
- You must pre-register and bring your form with you for on stage judging (limit 2 categories for judging)
- Line up for the contest is at 2:30pm with the contest starting at 3:00 pm.
- Each participant will have 30 seconds to show off their cosplay or makeup to the judges and crowd!
- If you are entering as a performance, please come ready with your form and music selection. Performances have a 45 second maximum time.
- If you are entering as a group (5 members max)- please have all group members present before getting in line.
- Be respectful of the judges and other contestants, this means being in the designated area on time.
- Please cheer your fellow cosplayers! Whether they are nervous 1st timers, or confident participants, the event will be at its epic best when everyone is positive and supportive!

Open Competition Awards and Categories

Open Competition

- Best In Show (cosplayer that fully embraces and becomes their character)
- Craftsmanship*
- Best Mash-Up (2 or more concepts in one costume, i.e. Pikachu as Yellowjacket)
- Best Makeup (special effects, beauty makeup, etc.)
- Best Performance (choreography, scene reenactment, etc.)
- Best Group (team that best embodies the depicted group)
- Best Group Performance (choreography, scene reenactment, etc.)
- Honorable Mention(s)

Sunday August 14: Kids Competition 3:00 pm.

- The kids and families event is limited to kids 17 years old or under, or families with children 17 years old or under.
- You must pre-register and bring your form with you for on stage judging (limit 2 categories for judging)
- Line up for the contest is at 2:30pm with the contest starting at 3:00 pm.
- Each participant will have 30 seconds to show off their cosplay or makeup to the judges and crowd!
- If you are entering as a performance, please come ready with your form and music selection. Performances have a 45 second maximum time.
- If you are entering as a group (5 members max)- please have all group members present before getting in line.
- Be respectful of the judges and other contestants, this means being in the designated area on time.
- Parents are welcome to come on stage with their child, but they will not be scored, only the child will be scored on the cosplay.
- Please cheer your fellow cosplayers! Whether they are nervous 1st timers, or confident participants, the event will be at its epic best when everyone is positive and supportive!

Kids Competition

- Best In Show (cosplayer that fully embraces and becomes their character): Three age ranges will be awarded: 9 and under, 10-13, 14-17.
- Best Makeup (special effects, beauty makeup, etc.)
- Best Performance
- Best Group
- Best Group Performance
- Honorable Mention(s)

*Craftsmanship

- This category is specifically for anyone who has made (70%) or more of their cosplay from scratch.
- You must pre-register when you arrive at the convention at the designated table on the Deane Center lawn no later than 10am in order to qualify for the Craftsmanship competition.
- Pre-judging will take place before the open competition begins place TBD, no exceptions, if you miss pre-judging, you will not qualify for the craftsmanship category.
- Cosplay build portfolios or journals related to this costume are welcome, not mandatory.
- Pre-judging should take around 5-10 minutes per person so please have everything you need ready. Be respectful of the judge's time as well as the other contestants.

- Be prepared to answer questions from the judges about your craft and why you chose that character!
- Bring your form with you to the cosplay contest and show off your look to the crowd and judges!

Additional Rules / Prohibited List

- All cosplay props are subject to inspection by convention staff upon entering the convention. Props and weapons will be “tagged” by the staff to signify they have been deemed safe. Metal or sharp objects are prohibited.
- If a cosplay judge sees you at the con and your weapon is NOT tagged, they will have someone bring you to the inspection area to ensure that everyone at the convention is safe, including yourself!
- PA State weapon and firearms laws are in effect.
- No profanity, political, or religious statements should be made during the competition, this includes messages or signs on clothes. If you fail to comply you will be disqualified.
- Nudity is not acceptable for the convention area. We are promoting a family-friendly environment and if you do not follow this rule, you are subject to removal from official events without a refund. If you have any questions about a cosplay you are planning on wearing that may be deemed unacceptable, please contact us with any questions or photos of the cosplay in advance to help avoid any disappointments.

If you will be wearing a costume either during the convention or at any associate event, please remember that costumes must not be made or trimmed with any messy substances as these can damage other participants’ costumes. You may not use anything wet, oily, or dusty such as wet paint, powder or unfixed sparkle. The same goes for poorly-set or sticky coloring and sharp, pointy or rough finishes that may become snagged.

Other rules and regulations:

Any weapon that could seriously hurt somebody is not allowed. Specifically, but not limited to:

- Functional firearms – that includes paintball, airsoft, bb guns, cap guns, any gun that shoots a real projectile or causes a real explosion.
- Realistic firearms – any gun that could be confused for a real gun.

- Prop weapons made of a hard material such as metal or glass
- Functional projectile weapons – any weapon (crossbow, slingshot, etc) that discharges a projectile
- Metal-bladed weapons
- Whips
- Explosives
- Blunt weapons
- Loud props such as whistles, horns, etc.
- Prop weapons are allowed at Comic Con, as long as they meet the following criteria:
 - That they are composed of cardboard, foam, something light.
 - Prop firearms are allowed only if they cannot be mistaken for real weapons.
 - The barrel of all prop firearms must be covered with brightly-colored caps.
 - Prop bows will be allowed providing all arrows have soft tips and will not be shot.

Safety is paramount, we will always err on the side of caution.