

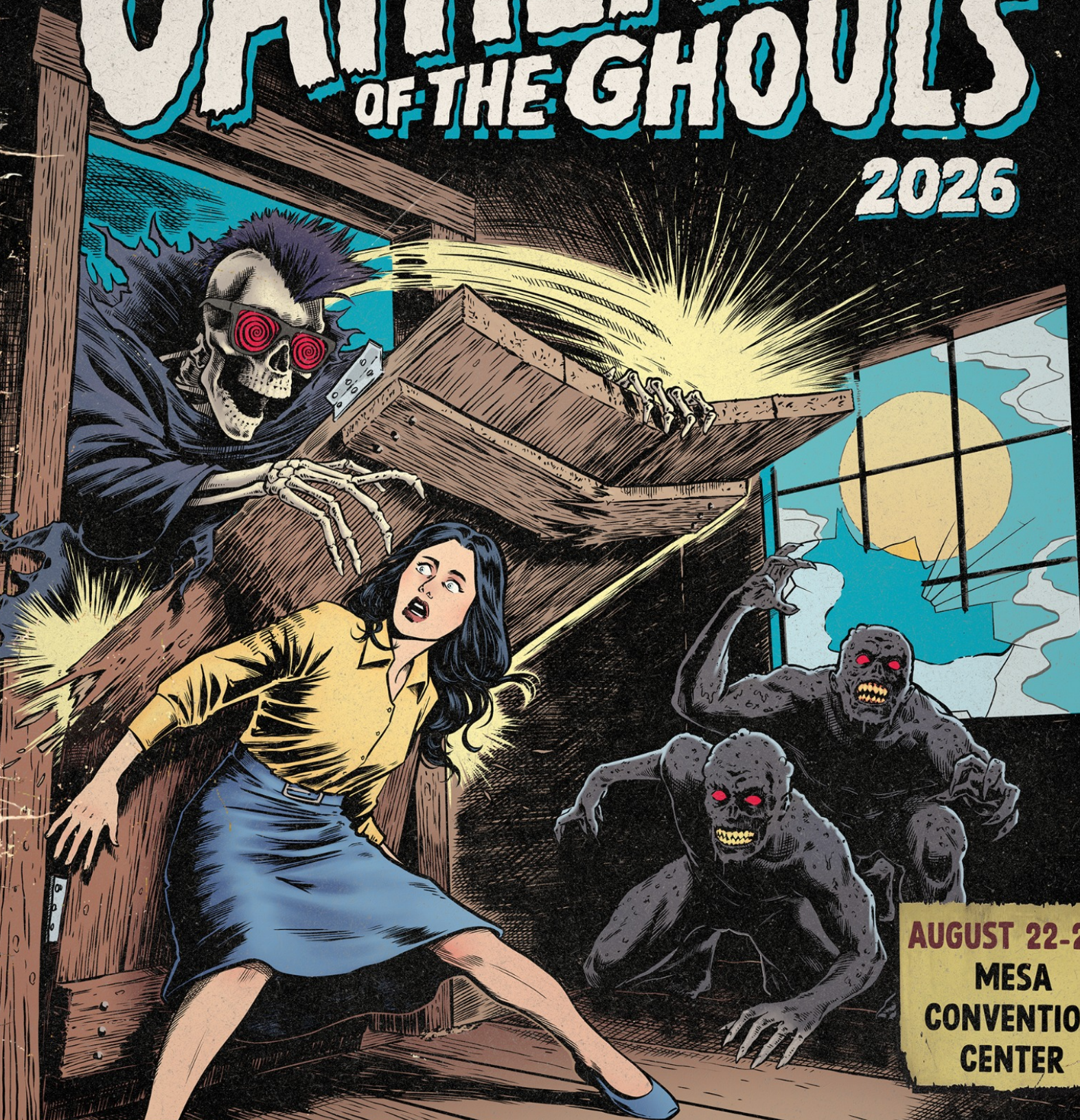
ARIZONA'S KICKOFF TO SPOOKY SEASON

2026 PRESS KIT

MEDIA INFORMATION + EVENT ACCESS

GATHERING OF THE GHOULS

2026



AUGUST 22-23
MESA
CONVENTION
CENTER

THE SOUTHWEST'S ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN AND HORROR CONVENTION

Arizona's Spooky Season Begins at the 4th Annual Gathering of the Ghouls

MESA, Ariz. - August 2026 - The desert is getting delightfully darker as Gathering of the Ghouls returns to the Mesa Convention Center on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23, 2026. Billed as Arizona's kickoff to spooky season, the two-day Halloween and horror convention brings together fans, artists, collectors, cosplayers, families and horror celebrities for a weekend built around scares, shopping and shared fandom.

This year's event features more than 100 horror vendors and artists, a haunted house walk-through included with admission, celebrity meet-and-greets, interactive photo opportunities, panels, prize giveaways, a cosplay contest, a Little Ghouls cosplay showcase, the Horrorbilly Pageant and an official Saturday night after-party for guests 18 and older.

"Gathering of the Ghouls is where Arizona officially flips the switch from summer to spooky season," said the event team. "We want guests to walk in and immediately feel like they have found their people - whether they collect horror memorabilia, create dark art, love Halloween, build costumes or simply want a wildly fun weekend out."

The event takes place inside the air-conditioned Mesa Convention Center, with free parking, free Wi-Fi, on-site ATMs, concessions and a bar. Children age 12 and younger receive free admission with a paid adult. Saturday hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Current announced celebrity guests include Doug Jones, Cooper Tomlinson, Lochlyn Munro, Emily Perkins, Tyler Labine, Felissa Rose, Madeleine McGraw, Dave Sheridan, Violet McGraw, Trevor Newlin, Rhonda Shear, Brett Wagner and Chester Rushing. Guest appearances and schedules are subject to change.

Tickets and full event details are available at GatheringOfTheGhouls.com. Advance purchase is encouraged, as door pricing may be higher.

MEDIA CONTACT

Gathering of the Ghouls / Terror Trader
terrortrader2@gmail.com
GatheringOfTheGhouls.com

EVENT DETAILS

August 22-23, 2026
Mesa Convention Center
263 N Center St, Mesa, AZ 85201

EVENT AT A GLANCE

The Essential Ghoul Guide

Everything a reporter, editor, photographer or content creator needs for fast, accurate coverage.

WHAT	4th Annual Gathering of the Ghouls Halloween & Horror Convention
POSITIONING	Arizona's kickoff to spooky season
WHEN	Saturday, August 22, 2026 - 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday, August 23, 2026 - 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
WHERE	Mesa Convention Center - 263 N Center St, Mesa, AZ 85201
WHO IT SERVES	Horror fans, Halloween lovers, cosplayers, collectors, artists, families and curiosity-seekers
SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES	100+ horror vendors and artists - Haunted house walk-through - Celebrity guests - Interactive photo ops - Panels - Cosplay programming - Giveaways - Saturday night after-party
FAMILY NOTES	Children 12 and younger attend free with a paid adult. Little Ghouls cosplay programming is scheduled for Saturday.
VENUE PERKS	Free parking - Air conditioning - Free Wi-Fi - Seating and charging areas - Concessions and bar - On-site ATMs
TICKETS	Advance tickets are available online. Door pricing may be higher.
WEB	GatheringOfTheGhouls.com

THE STORY IN ONE SENTENCE

Gathering of the Ghouls transforms the Mesa Convention Center into a two-day celebration of horror, Halloween creativity and Arizona-made spooky culture just as the state begins counting down to October.

What Makes Great Coverage

The Arizona Spooky Economy

Interview independent artists and makers across one of the region's largest horror-focused marketplaces.

Cosplay Before October

Capture elaborate costumes, character transformations and the community that builds them.

A Family-Friendly Fright

Explore how horror fandom spans generations, including free admission for children 12 and younger with a paid adult.

Meet the Monsters

Cover celebrity appearances, fan interactions, autograph culture and the enduring appeal of horror icons.

Inside the Haunted House

Take audiences through an attraction included with general admission - a rare convention value-add.

Arizona's Halloween Identity

Use the event as the opening chapter for broader coverage of local haunts, creators and seasonal traditions.

B-ROLL + PHOTO CHECKLIST

- Convention floor wide shots
- Cosplay portraits
- Celebrity signing tables
- Crowd reactions
- Family moments
- Vendor close-ups
- Haunted house exterior/queue
- Interactive photo ops
- Event signage
- Stage programming

GATHERING OF THE GHOULS

CELEB GUESTS

2026



DOUG JONES



COOPER TOMLINSON



LOCHLYN MUNRO



EMILY PERKINS



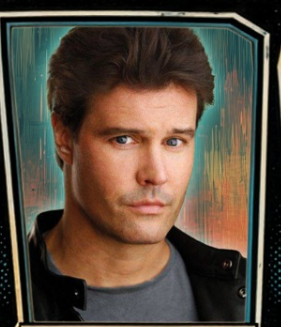
TYLER LABINE



FELISSA ROSE



MADELEINE MCGRAW



DAVE SHERIDAN



VIOLET MCGRAW



TREVOR NEWLIN



RHONDA SHEAR



BRETT WAGNER



CHESTER RUSHING

THE SOUTHWEST'S ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN AND HORROR CONVENTION!

Programming Snapshot

A quick guide to the scheduled highlights and all-weekend experiences available for media coverage.

SATURDAY - 3 P.M.

Little Ghouls Cosplay Showcase

SATURDAY - 6 P.M.

Cosplay Contest

SUNDAY - 1 P.M.

Horrorbilly Pageant

ALL WEEKEND

Haunted house, panels, photo ops, celebrity meet-and-greets, shopping and giveaways

SATURDAY NIGHT

Official after-party for guests 18+

MEDIA MOMENT

The convention offers strong visual storytelling throughout both days: celebrity fan interactions, elaborate cosplay, immersive photo opportunities, the haunted house walk-through and a marketplace filled with independent horror artists and makers.

Your Press Badge Awaits

Each approved media contact may pick up two press badges. Local media are encouraged to collect badges in advance at Terror Trader to make convention check-in fast and painless.

ADVANCE PICKUP

Terror Trader
941 W Elliot Rd, Suite 3
Chandler, AZ 85225

PICKUP DATES

August 15-16, 2026
August 19-20, 2026

DIDN'T MAKE IT?

No problem. Your press badges will be held at will call at the convention.

ON-SITE NOTES

Please keep your badge visible while working. All cosplay props are subject to security inspection and tagging at the entrance. Outside food and beverages, drugs or tobacco products, and weapons are not permitted. Clear bags are not required, but all items are subject to search.

For interview coordination, access questions or credential issues, contact terrortrader2@gmail.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Schedules, guest appearances and programming may change. Please verify final details at GatheringOfTheGhouls.com before publishing.

CONVENTION FLOORPLAN

GATHERING OF THE GHOULS

MESA CONVENTION CENTER
AUGUST 22ND & 23RD, 2026

BUILDING 1

ARIZONA'S WILDEST HORROR PARTY

GATHERING OF THE GHOULS



MYSTERY MACHINE



MORNINGSIDE HEARSE CLUB

66	57
65	56
64	55
63	54

48	36
47	35
46	34
45	33
44	32

24	12
23	11
22	10
21	09
20	08

62	53
61	52
60	51
59	50
58	49

43	31
42	30
41	29
40	28
39	27
38	26
37	25

19	07
18	06
17	05
16	04
15	03
14	02
13	01

ELM STREET

HADDONFIELD

TROMAVILLE

CONCESSIONS

CELEBRITIES

T3

T4

T5

T6

T7

T8

T9

T21

T20

T19

T18

T17

T16

T15

T14

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T12

T11

T10

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T8

T7

T6

T5

T4

T3

INFORMATION

SHOW HOURS:
SATURDAY 11 - 7PM
SUNDAY 11 - 5PM

FOLLOW US!



@GATHERINGOFTHEGHOULS

BUILDING 2

COSPLAY AND PINUP CONTEST / PANELS

THEATER

BLDG 3 AND HOTEL

INFO STATION

FACE PAINTING

GATHERING OF THE GHOULS HOSTED BY TERROR TRADER

CELEBRITY TOMB

HAUNTED HALLWAY

FROM BLDG 1



AFTER PARTY



BUILDING 3

VENDOR KEY

VENDOR KEY

10x10 VENDORS

- 1 COOLSVILLE, USA
- 2 LADY V'S MONSTROSITIES
- 3 WISHING WELLS CRAFTING
- 4 THE HAUNTED KNOT
- 5 GET2STEEPING
- 6 CREEPCAKE
- 7 BLACKENED ART AND DESIGN
- 8 WARLORD CLOTHING
- 9 LIQUID RED
- 10 AFTERDARK CANDLE CO
- 11 TILTED CROWN TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS
- 12 TILTED CROWN TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS
- 13 BRAIN DAMAGE BOUTIQUE
- 14 BRAIN DAMAGE BOUTIQUE
- 15 THE SPOOKY OLIVE
- 16 TWILIGHT LEGGINGS
- 17 THE COST OF CHAOS + CRAFTY CATARENA
- 18 THE HALLOWEEN HUN
- 19 PALLBEARER PRESS
- 20 BERSERKER BLACK MARKET + BAT CRYPT CREATIONS
- 21 ANGEL CITY ARTS
- 22 SCREAMING CICADA ODDITIES
- 23 ZOOK MONSTER MAKES
- 24 UNDERWORLD SUBROXXA
- 25 CRYPT COLLECTIBLES
- 26 CARSON SMITH ART
- 27 URBAN ART BY MELODY
- 28 SEW NERDY HANDCRAFTED
- 29 EMILIA XOCOSMETICS
- 30 MOON GODDESS MARKET
- 31 MONSTER POSSE
- 32 DIRECT2FILM KUSTOMS
- 33 HAUNTINGLY YOURS XOXO
- 34 SINISTER STUDIOS AZ
- 35 NIGHTMARE THREADS
- 36 ABANDONED ANTIQUES
- 37 PRETTY AWFUL THINGS
- 38 INQUISITIVE MINDZ
- 39 ARCHER DESIGNS
- 40 DESIRE DEMISE
- 41 DIRTY TEACUP DESIGNS
- 42 KOLOUR ME KRYPTIC
- 43 KILLERS NEVER DIE
- 44 ZOMBIE LOUNGE BOOTIQUE
- 45 ZOMBIE LOUNGE BOOTIQUE
- 46 HAPPY HAUNTS CLOTHING
- 47 SORTA SWEET SORTA SPOOKY
- 48 BAMASCHOICE
- 49 ESCOBARARTS
- 50 SEW WYKD

TABLE VENDORS

- T1 ZEV'S STRANGE STUDIO
- T2 REBEL MOM DESIGNS
- T3 CHRIS RYBSKI ART
- T4 GHOULISH GHOST
- T5 CREEPY COLLECTIBLES
- T6 GREYROSE ART
- T7 DEARLY DEPARTED STUDIOS
- T8 DEMIURGENT CREATIVE
- T9 H.P. LOVESCRAFTING
- T10 THE STITCHING HOUR
- T11 REY PAEZ ART
- T12 VOIDEAD
- T13 STITCHED LITTLE DEVILS
- T14 ZENA CARVES
- T15 DESIREE'S DEZIGNS
- T16 FRIDAY TATTOOER
- T17 GREENHOUSE HERMIT
- T18 DEADEND INC
- T19 NEEDFUL THINGS & NAILS
- T20 APOTHACANDY
- T21 OBSIDIAN ODDITIES GALLERY
- T22 MEET NASHOBU!
- T23 SONIC SOUL DESIGN
- T24 MIDNIGHT STUDIOS FX
- T25 SPOOKS & SPARKLES FACE PAINTING

- 51 ROLLING RACK BOUTIQUE
- 52 THE WICKED RAVEN
- 53 THE WICKED RAVEN
- 54 DUTCH'S DESIGNS
- 55 DEAD DAVE DESIGNS
- 56 CANNIBAL COLLECTIONS
- 57 AWFULLY SINISTER COLLECTIBLES
- 58 STARSHINE SALON
- 59 BRONSON'S SHOP OF HORROR + A IZVI CREATIONS
- 60 SPOOKS AND GLITTER BOOTIQUE
- 61 CULT CREEP ART
- 62 TINKY LITTLE THINGS
- 63 SUPERSTITION CANDLE COMPANY
- 64 LUCKY CAT'S WORKSHOP + ROTTEN JELLY
- 65 MYSTICALLY WICKED SELVES
- 66 SATANSAYSCOFFINS
- 69 VINTAGE GAL
- 70 XOXOGOSSIPGHOUL
- 71 SPOOKY'S SWIRLS
- 72 CULT CLASSICS
- 73 THE CRAFTY DOGS
- 74 C-YA VINTAGE GOODS
- 75 SPOOKY GAL CREATIONS

CELEBS

DOUG JONES
BRETT WAGNER
COOPER TOMLINSON
CHESTER RUSHING
DAVE SHERIDAN
EMILY PERKINS
TYLER LABINE
LOCHLYN MUNRO
RHONDA SHEAR
TREVOR NEWLIN
FELISSA ROSE
VIOLET MCGRAW
MADELEINE MCGRAW

VEHICLES

ALBUQUERQUE MYSTERY MACHINE
MORNINGSIDE HEARSE CLUB
THE APOCALYPSE

BALLROOM: VALOR VETERANS COMMUNITY AZ
BALLROOM: APEX WINDOWS & BATH



2026

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING

ARIZONA'S KICKOFF TO SPOOKY SEASON

ABOUT GATHERING OF THE GHOULS

Gathering of the Ghouls is Arizona's annual celebration of horror, Halloween and spooky creativity bringing together fans, artists, cosplayers and horror celebrities for an unforgettable weekend at the Mesa Convention Center. The 2026 event marks the convention's fourth year and serves as Arizona's kickoff to spooky season.

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