

Anime North Texas Cosplay Contest

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 Anime North Texas Cosplay Contest! We're excited to have you participate in our show.

Please take a look at the rules and information below and reach out to us at cosplay@animenorthtexas.com if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you!

Eligibility

- Entrants must have a valid Anime North Texas badge in order to participate.
- Entrants 12 and under must have their parents' permission to enter, and must be accompanied by a legal guardian or adult relative at rehearsal and the show.
- By entering this contest you agree to read and abide by all rules as posted and that failure to do so will result in your disqualification from the contest and/or removal from the event.
- Anime North Texas Cosplay Staff reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone to the Cosplay event for any reason.
- You must also have made at least 70% of your costume and be willing to participate in craftsmanship judging. The only exception to this rule is for the Youth division.

General Rules and Information

- Costumes must adhere to the cosplay, costume, and dress policy. If your costume does not meet this criteria, you may be asked to change or not permitted to walk the stage.
- Entrants with disabilities are welcome to provide their own handler or request assistance from our cosplay staff for any stage of the cosplay contest process. If you think you may need assistance, we encourage you to contact us in advance or request assistance during the pre-judging process.
- Entrants must be able to enter and exit the stage quickly on their own or with the assistance of a handler. If you have concerns about entering or exiting the stage, please let us know.
- 70% of the cosplay must be constructed or altered by the entrant. If you are modeling a cosplay that someone else made, they **MUST** be with you at pre-judging for you to be eligible for an award.
- Professional cosplayers **ARE WELCOME** to enter. A professional cosplayer is anyone who makes a significant portion of their income from costume design, construction or sales or feels they are a master of their craft. If you are a pro, you **MUST** enter in the **MASTER** division, as defined in the Tiers section.
- There will be no skits for the 2023 show.

- Please remember we are a family convention and all entries must maintain a PG-13 rating and can have no excessive violence, sexual content, ect. This rule also applies to the costume itself. We reserve the right to turn away any entry deemed inappropriate. Not sure if you make the cut? Please ask and we will let you know if it is appropriate and if not how you can make it so. Be clever, not crass!
- Nothing is to be left on the stage. Any props you bring on stage with you must exit with you. You will also not be permitted to throw anything you cannot easily take with you on stage or at the audience. Examples include: props, glitter, petals, confetti, ect.
- For safety, any “battle” sequences or stunts are to be performed at 3/4 speed. You MUST keep one foot on the stage at all times. Absolutely no jumping or leaping from the stage. Anything breaking this rule must have prior approval from the Cosplay Director and the convention.
- A maximum of 8 (eight) people will be permitted on stage at a time. Competing in multiple groups is NOT allowed.
- While we are an anime convention and put a strong emphasis on anime costumes, manga, Japanese video games, etc. However, costumes from sci-fi, movies, American comics, Korean sources, original designs, etc. are also allowed for entry. That being said, you must be wearing a costume to participate in the cosplay contest.
- Please be sure to bring at least one color reference picture with you. While the judges are highly skilled, it is unfair to ask them to know what every anime or sci-fi character is. Bringing a reference picture will ensure that they can accurately judge you. If you are entering with an original design, a drawing is fine. References cannot be guaranteed to be returned, so please make sure you won't miss it.
- Progress books are HIGHLY encouraged for the Novice and Journeyman Tiers and REQUIRED for Masters. Examples will be e-mailed upon request.
- Purchased or commissioned cosplays are NOT eligible for any awards and cannot be entered into the contest.
- Participation in the Cosplay Contest Pre-meeting is required. Arriving after the pre-meeting will result in being removed from the contest.
- Be respectful to other cosplay entrants and the judges. Unruly or disruptive behavior during pre-judging, backstage, or during the contest is not permitted and entrants associated with this behavior will be disqualified.
- Entrants will not be notified if they have been disqualified, and judges are not permitted to discuss the judging process or the results. This is to protect entrants, judges and staff as well as to maintain the professionalism of the contest.
- All props must be approved by weapons check. Cosplays with parts that extend beyond arm's length (e.g. wings), cause trouble walking up and down stairs, or vision impairment: be sure to bring a handler(s) or address your concerns with cosplay staff.
- Sandbagging (i.e., entering a costume that has already won a major award such as “Best in” categories) is grounds for disqualification and possible bans from competing in the future. Cosplays that have won awards at conventions of a smaller size (calculated by attendance) are allowed. HOWEVER, at least 60% of the cosplay must be altered or remade. If in doubt, reach out to the Cosplay Show Director.

- Minor awards may be counted at the discretion of the costumer. This typically includes Judge's Awards.
 - Minor awards must still be disclosed.
- A cosplay that has already won a major award may be entered under ONE of the following conditions:
 - At the discretion of the director(s)
 - The cosplay is entered as an exhibition piece and is not eligible for awards
 - The cosplay is entered into a more experienced skill division
 - Failure to inform the judges and staff of previous awards won in the costume will result in being banned from future contests.
- Please come to the line-up fed and hydrated, as you may not be able to leave the pre-meeting before the show.
- The cosplay director(s) reserve the right to refuse or revoke entry to any entrant for any reason.

Walk-On Rules

- We are not accepting music tracks for walk-ons this year due to copyright concerns with streaming.
- Walk-on entries will be limited to 30 seconds and may include up to 8 people.
- Walk-on entries are required to attend craftsmanship judging. If you skip this, you will not be eligible to receive awards or participate in the contest.

Craftsmanship Judging

- All costumes must be made by the entrant(s) or credited to the creator(s) on the entrant's entry form. Creators not entering in costume must be present to receive awards. Purchased costumes will not be allowed for craftsmanship judging.
- All walk-on entries must be at least 70% made or significantly modified from original garments.
- When filling out the application, you must choose a one-hour block during which your group will come in for judging. If your first choice is full, you will be asked to choose another time slot. Each entry will be allowed 3 minutes to present their costume to the judges; groups of 2+ people will be allowed one minute for each additional group member (up to a maximum of 6 minutes). Entries that go over their time limit may be disqualified. Please be courteous to your fellow cosplayers and to your judges by keeping your presentation brief!
- Pre-judging is NOT open to the public. Only participants, handlers, and parents/guardians are allowed.
- Craftsmanship judging will take place in Cosplay HQ. Please arrive a few minutes early to check in as entries for each block will be judged in the order they arrive. If you arrive late, you may not have the chance to be rescheduled. If you find out in advance that you will not be able to make your timeslot, please contact us. Entries that do not show up for judging will be disqualified.

- There will be Saturday judging ONLY. You may check in to the contest either Friday during open table hours or Saturday before your judging time.
- Reference images and progress binders used as part of craftsmanship presentations must be picked up after the contest or they will be destroyed.

Tiers

These are guidelines to help you figure out where you should be placed. If you have questions, feel free to ask a judge or staff member to assist you. Judges and Staff reserve the right to move your placement.

Group entries must enter the tier applicable to the most skilled member of the group. For example, if you have a group of four with three Novices and a Masters contestant, you would need to enter as Masters.

Youth

This is a category for all our 12 and under cosplayers.

- The Youth category will not be judged for craftsmanship and therefore are excluded from the 70% rule and craftsmanship judging. Awards for this category will be based on performance and trueness to character.
- Contestants under the age of 12 who want to be considered for craftsmanship judging will be placed in the Novice category.
- A child wearing a costume designed and built entirely by an adult should be entered in either the appropriate skill division for the adult or as an exhibition piece.

Novice

The Novice division exists to encourage people who are new to costuming and masquerades to compete.

ENTER IF:

- If you are above the age of 12.
- You are new to costuming, have never competed before, or are not a professional costumer.
- You have won a major award in the Novice division less than three times.

DO NOT enter the Novice division if:

- You are a professional costumer.
- You have competed or won an award in Journeyman or Masters at Anime North Texas or any other convention.

- You have won Best in Show, Best Youth, or Best Novice more than three times at any convention.

Journeyman

The Journeyman division is an interim division for costumers who have consistently won awards in the Novice division, but who feel they are not yet ready to compete in the Master division.

ENTER IF:

- You are above the age of 12.
- You have been cosplaying for a number of years but do not yet feel like a master of your craft.
- You are not a professional costumer.
- You have won more than three major awards in the Novice division or less than two in the Journeyman division.

DO NOT enter the Journeyman division if:

- You are a professional costumer.
- You have won in the Master divisions.
- You have won Best in Show, Best Youth, or Best Journeyman.
- You have won more than three major awards in the Journeyman division.

Master

The Master division is open to any competitor who wishes to enter.

ENTER IF:

- You are no longer a Youth, Novice, or Journeyman. Anyone may enter this category.

If you have questions or are not sure what category you qualify for, cosplay staff would be happy to help you figure it out. If you are entering as a group you must enter under the highest placing member.

We want to keep the competition fun and fair, so anyone found competing outside of their level will be moved or, depending on the circumstances, disqualified.

Awards

We are once again offering some amazing prizes which we will be updating closer to the convention!

- Best in Show – Best in Show is for the individual or group that has overall the most outstanding craftsmanship and presence.
- Best Masters – Awarded to the Masters entry with the best craftsmanship and performance
- Best Journeyman – Awarded to the Journeyman entry with the best craftsmanship and performance
- Best Novice – Awarded to the Novice entry with the best craftsmanship and performance
- Best Needlework - Awarded to the entry (any tier) that displays excellence in sewing and needlework.
- Best Fabrication - Awarded to the entry (any tier) that displays excellence in foamwork, armor, props, or a related medium.
- Best Youth – This is for the Youth entry with the best performance.
- Judge's Awards

Note: Awards may be cut at the discretion of the judges and staff.

NOTE: Only trophies will be handed out on stage. Any other prizes must be picked up by the winners immediately following the cosplay contest.

Pre-Judging

Pre-judging will take place **only** on **Saturday, September 30, 2023**. Each block will be broken up into 1 hour slots. Entries will request the hourly slot of their choice. Please arrive at the start of your time slot and wait to be called into the judging room. Early is on time and on time is late. If you arrive too late to be judged during your slot, you run the risk of being dropped from the show since there may no longer be any other available slots and you must be prejudged in order to participate.

Each entry will be given a maximum of 3 minutes with the judges. Groups over 2 will be given an additional 1 minute per person up to six minutes. In order to ensure everyone gets a chance to be judged fairly, we will be timing entries so please make sure to prepare what you want to talk about in advance.

If you do not show up for prejudging by the time your slot is over we will assume you no longer wish to participate and you will be dropped from the show. No exceptions. If you are unable to make your slot for some reason please check in with us **beforehand**. If we are able, we will move you to a different slot.

We highly encourage entries to get prejudged sooner rather than later as slots closer to the show will be reserved for entries with large/bulky costumes and entries signing up on Saturday.

Lineup

Lineup will start 90 minutes before the show. You are required to be present in the lineup room one hour before the start time of the show. This time will be reserved for going over rules and getting everyone in order. Failure to show up will result in removal from the contest.

Sign Ups

We will be capping the show at 50 entries. We will be reserving 20 spots for Novice, 20 spots for Journeyman, and 10 spots for Advanced. These spots may be opened up as we get closer to the show date.

If you do not make one of our entry slots, we encourage you to apply to our waitlist. Waitlisted entries can check in on site to see if a space has opened up during the prejudging time slots.

Signing up in advance will allow you to request the date and hour of your prejudging slot; however it will not guarantee you a specific time slot. We will do our best to accommodate everyone. However, we can only fit so many people in any given time frame.

Once you sign up you will receive an email confirming your entrance and the day you will be pre-judged, as well as an hourly time slot. **You must check in at the Cosplay Table to receive and confirm your Pre-judging slot.** We encourage you to do this as soon as you can. **If you DO NOT check in with the Cosplay Table BEFORE pre-judging you will NOT be allowed into Pre-judging.** No exceptions. If you have not checked in with us by the time your slot is over we will assume you no longer wish to participate and you will be dropped from the show.

As long as slots are available you may also sign up for the show on site at the cosplay table. On site sign-ups will be open Friday and Saturday, pending slot availability. Full hours to be announced closer to the show.