2020 ToshoCON Cosplay Contest Rules

The following rules apply to all contestants. All rules must be read and adhered to in order to participate in the Cosplay Contest. The Cosplay Contest organizers have the final say in all aspects of the contest.

Criteria for Entry

Contestants must be between 12-19 years of age.

- The contest is rated PG (see costume guidelines, below, for more information). Contest organizers have the final say as to the appropriateness of any costume, skit, etc.
- Costume source material must be official and provably cosplay. To be judged for accuracy, a visual reference, in the form of a color photo, should be submitted with the online application. Costume source material does not have to be from an Anime/Manga, though it is suggested, as this is an Anime convention. (No original characters or fan art source material will be allowed. This is a cosplay contest first and foremost.)
- Contestants can choose to participate in a costume only (walk-on) category or with a skit. Category parameters are described on the online registration form. The judges and organizers of the contest have the right to move contestants into a different category based on the cosplay presented.
- All contestants and entrants must be respectful of all cosplay contest organizers, library staff, and fellow cosplayers. Inappropriate behavior will NOT be tolerated.

Categories

- **Beginner** -- This category is open to those who have never won a cosplay or costume award previously. Contestants may wear street clothes or store-bought costumes for this category. Store-bought costumes must be altered or added to by 10%.
- **Intermediate** -- Contestants may enter this category even if they have not won any awards previously. Contestants in this category must alter any street clothes by 50% or more. Alternately, unmodified street clothes must consist of less than 10% of the costume.
- **Master** -- This category has been eliminated for the 2020 ToshoCON Cosplay Contest due to the small number of entries in the past.
• **Skit** -- Skits will be judged on the combination of overall creativity in costuming and performance. Awards will be given to the group.

**Registration and Check-in**

• Online registration will open on Friday, May 1st, 2020. Online registration will close on Friday, July 31st at 11:59pm. Registration is first come, first served. Please provide a valid email address to receive confirmation of your registration status. Once the contest is full, any remaining entrants will be wait listed. Entrants who are wait listed have priority if or when a slot becomes available. If a spot becomes available, a registrant will be notified via email.

• **There will be no on-site registration at the convention.**

• **MANDATORY Pre-Judging will be held on Saturday, August 15th from 2-6 pm.** You must attend the pre-judging during the time you will be assigned in order to be eligible to win a prize in the contest. Contestants will be notified of their location and time of pre-judging one week before ToshoCON.

• **MANDATORY Pre-Contest Check-in will be held immediately before your scheduled timeslot for Pre-judging. This is where you will receive your assigned number button, as well as any other important information.**

• The contest will take place on **Saturday, August 15th at 7:00 pm.**

• Entry slots are non-transferable.

**Costume Guidelines**

**Nudity—**

• Naked is not a costume; any illusion to nudity is strictly prohibited.

• All contestants must have at least 60% of both sides of their upper body covered.

• Dramatically plunging necklines, ‘underboob’, ‘sideboob’, and bare chests are **NOT** allowed.

• All contestants must wear, at minimum, shorts or a skirt that completely covers the behind (no cheeks hanging out).

• With regards to see-through clothing, contestants must still wear the minimum requirement of coverage underneath. If we can see through your clothes to your body parts, you will be disqualified.

• Gender bending/crossplay is allowed, however, open chest binding is not permissible.

**Foot covering —**

• Shoes, boots, or slippers are required (socks are not considered foot covering).

• If your character does not wear shoes, then the lack of accuracy will be forgiven.

**Size restrictions—**

• All contestants must be able to move their costume on their own. Accessories and/or large costume components are acceptable if you can move them without assistance.
**Originality**

- eBay or store bought costumes are allowed but you must register as a Beginner, and they must be altered or added to by 10%.

- With regards to street clothes, any item that has been purchased off the rack must be altered in respect to the category entered.

- The cosplay contest organizers must be notified of any modeled costume entries at the time of registration. The costume creator must give consent for their costume to be modeled. A costume not made by the contestant (includes commissioned items) will be treated as a modeled costume, and any prizes won will go to the creator of the costume, not the model. If the contestant fails to give proper credit, they will be disqualified.

**Props**

- All weapons must be approved by ToshoCON organizers through the official peace-bonding process.

- **No real guns**, not even those that are no longer functioning. Realistic looking toy or model guns are allowed only as long as they are clearly marked with orange on the barrel (pick-up at entrance to the convention).

- Sharp-edged weapons are strictly prohibited.

- Metal bats, pipes, large wrenches and/or shovels are NOT allowed. If it’s metal, longer than 12 inches and/or you could seriously hurt someone by swinging it, it is NOT allowed.

- Large foam props are allowed (swords, hammers, etc.) as long as they are not being used inappropriately.

- For safety reasons, the following are NOT allowed:
  - Live animals
  - Substances which might damage or soil the facilities
  - Aerosol sprays
  - Projectiles of any kind
  - Pyrotechnics/explosives of any kind

**Greenroom**

- Final check-in is mandatory and will take place at 6:45pm on the Saturday of ToshoCON. Contestants must arrive at the holding area no later than 15 minutes before the contest starts or their spot will be forfeited.
  - The holding area is located in the hallway of the Viridian Event Center by the restrooms.
  - Contestants should look for a staff member who will be holding a sign with their category listed.
  - Contestants will line up in numerical order next to that staff member.
- If a contestant has not attended pre-judging, the contestant will not be allowed on stage. No exceptions.
- If a contestant’s costume or behavior is deemed to be inappropriate, the contestant will be asked to leave and their spot will be forfeited.
• *ToshoCON does not supply costume materials of any kind. Please come prepared with anything you may need to assemble or repair your costume.*

• A cosplay first aid kit will be available with simple repair supplies at ToshoCON.

• No construction work is allowed in the greenroom (sewing, spray painting, welding, etc.), but final assembly of large pieces or unexpected repairs will be allowed.

• Nothing can be left in the holding area. There will be no one to watch your things and there is no guarantee they will still be there after the contest. Please be mindful.

**On-stage**

• The Cosplay Contest will begin promptly at 7 pm. All contestants must be in line ten minutes before the contest or forfeit their place in the contest. (Check the posted schedule at ToshoCON for exact times.)

• **For walk-on contestants or pairs:** you will have **45 seconds** to complete your catwalk presentation. This gives you enough time to walk to the end of the catwalk, strike a pose, and walk back. Make the most of this time. *Don’t just walk, present!* Runway-style music will be played to provide atmosphere and maintain an upbeat tempo.

• **For skit pairs or groups:** you will have up to **6 minutes** in total. You will walk onto the stage, perform your skit on the floor, and exit via the catwalk. There will be NO microphones available, but contestants may provide an audio recording to be played during the skit, so plan accordingly. Any audio recording files must be sent via email to ethompson@sicollibrary.org by July 31st. Skits should consist mainly of pantomime and movement; any dialogue will need to be projected loudly to be heard in the auditorium. It is recommended that all dialogue is pre-recorded and submitted via email as an audio recording file.

• If getting on and off the stage may prove a challenge, let the cosplay contest organizers know so reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

• Swearing, sexual humor, flashing, political or religious statement, or any other inappropriate behavior will **NOT** be tolerated and contestants will be immediately removed and disqualified.

• Everything brought onto the stage must leave with the contestant. No confetti or glitter will be allowed to be thrown, scattered, etc., while walking or have done by others off-stage.

• Contestants are to enter and exit the stage where they are shown. No running, jumping on/off the stage, or acrobatics. Let’s keep this safe and fun!

• It is recommended that fight sequences be acted at 3/4 speed.

• Contestants may **NOT** throw or whip props around; may **NOT** take or use any sort of spray paint, silly string, fireworks, water or any other items on stage that could mar the stage or leave a mess; and contestants may **NOT** use signs in the Cosplay Contest.

• Contestants may **NOT** have open flames on-stage or anywhere in the Cosplay Contest or the convention.

• Contestants will be held responsible for any and all damages and/or medical bills that may occur as a result of not obeying the rules.

**Award Presentation**

• The following awards will be given: first and second place in each category, an overall Best of Show, People’s Choice, and Judge’s Choice.
• Awards will be presented shortly after the end of the Cosplay Contest.
• Prizes must be claimed on-site. No prizes will be mailed to any winners.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact: [Contact Us](#) with “Cosplay Contest Q&A” in the subject line.