

Forward City Con Cosplay Contest

Official Rules

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

Mandatory Pre-Judging: On Stage at Foley Civic Center starting at 12:30 pm

Contest: "Cosplay Fashion Show/Awards" on Stage at Foley Civic Center at 2 pm

Cost: Free

Registration:

All contestants must pre-register either on the day of event at the Cosplay Registration Table between 9am and Noon at the Foley Civic Center or online at forwardcitycon.com/cosplay-contest-registration any time prior to the day of event. ***Remember to please bring a photo for the judges to reference!***

The costume contest is limited to 60 contestants (30 in each category). 20 openings in each category will be reserved for those who preregister online via forwardcitycon.com/cosplay-contest-registration. An additional 10 openings per category will be available on Saturday and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Competitors are encouraged to preregister in order to guarantee a spot in the contest. Contest coordinators reserve the right to make any changes to the contest rules and guidelines if the need arises. FPL staff are not eligible to compete in the contest.

Pre-Judging:

During the pre-judging portion of the event, judges will inspect each costume, inquire as to how they were designed and created (for the self made category,) and answer questions contestants may have about the contest. All costumes must be pre-judged in order to be eligible.

Costumes from all genres (video game, comic book, anime, movies, television, etc.) are acceptable. Mashups and original designs are also permitted. In the "Self Made" category the majority (75-80%) of your costume must be homemade, although altered costumes and modified items are acceptable. There will also be a separate "Purchased" category for those who choose to purchase their costumes.

Contestants are encouraged to bring a reference photo of the character they are portraying. The judges may not know the character in question and this will help their ability to gauge the effectiveness of the costume. You may also include your reference photo with your preregistration at our website.

Pre-judging will occur on the stage at the Foley Civic Center starting at 12:30 pm. All contestants must be pre-judged.

Contestants will be divided into 2 different categories during pre-judging – "Self Made" & "Purchased." Contestants will be asked which category they prefer during pre-judging, although judges retain the right to bump a contestant into a different category if they feel it is necessary.

Categories:

- SELF MADE: The majority (75-80%) of the costume must be self made or created via altering other clothing/items. Purchased wigs, shoes, and limited accessories are allowed.
- PURCHASED: Contestant purchases the majority (75-80%) of their costume. Some accessories may be self made, but the overall costume must have been purchased.

Judging Criteria:

- Percentage of the costume that is self made or purchased
- Attention to detail
- Quality
- Overall appearance
- Likeness to the character
- Maneuverability / functionality
- Stage presence

The contest will be fashion show style. Contestants will walk across the stage at the Foley Civic Center – entering from the west and walking to the east. Contestants are encouraged to be creative during their time with action poses or calling out a character’s catch-phrase, where relevant. However, **THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT – No Use of Profanity or Costumes showing too much skin will be allowed.** A positive stage-presence will be valued and appreciated by the judges, assuming it does not involve breaking any of the rules listed below.

Restrictions:

All actual weapons and items that could be considered dangerous are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, knives, tazers, pepper spray, BB guns, cap guns, airsoft weapons, paintball guns, water guns, martial arts weaponry, including wooden practice weapons, etc. Items resembling futuristic weapons, fantasy weapons, and non-projectile boffer weapons may be allowed provided they are not handled in a careless, threatening, or destructive manner against persons or property. Please check with staff if you are unsure about your prop.

Costumes, introductions, and actions on stage must be in good taste. No nudity, offensive language or unruly behavior is permitted. **This is a family-friendly event!**

While on stage, jumping, flipping, running, throwing items into the audience or any movements that could compromise the safety of any contestants or spectators is **prohibited**. Any of these actions will result in automatic disqualification from the contest.

The use of fire, glitter, liquids, or any other objects that will cause a mess are prohibited. Leaving any portion of a costume on “stage” will result in automatic disqualification from the contest.

We ask that all contestants display good sportsmanship to each other and the judges.

Thank you!