



2025 Craftsman Cosplay Contest
Presented by Hot Springs Beauty College

Spa-Con Craftsman Cosplay Contest Rules:

Please note. Spa-Con's Cosplay contest is focused on detail and craftsmanship. No part of judging will require a stage performance. All cosplays will be judged on the following: Accuracy of cosplay, attention to detail, originality, hair and makeup, and overall craftsmanship. To see the rules for the Cosplay Masquerade, scroll down to page 4 of this document.

- There is no cost to enter the Cosplay Contest.
- Pre-registration is not available. All contestants must register the day of.
- You must be a registered Spa-Con attendee in order to compete. Each member of your group must have a badge, pass, or other forms of attendee membership.
- All costumes must cover "swimsuit areas" – no nudity. Body-paint costumes are not eligible for craftsman based awards.
- Approximately 70% of your costume must be handmade to be eligible for a craftsmanship award
- The contest is open to characters from any and all pop-culture published works including but not limited to: movies, TV shows, books, cartoons, and games.
- Spa-Con adheres to the "PG-13 rule". Violation of this rule may cause you to be disqualified from the competition.
- All prop weapons must conform to the Spa-Con prop weapons policies, including being checked.
- Each contestant may only enter one costume into the competition.
- All contestants must attend judging between 4 PM and 6 PM on Saturday, September 20, 2025.
- Spa-Con reserves the right to turn away any contest entry it deems inappropriate or not in compliance with the rules.

The rules on this page are subject to change, if you are interested in participating, please check Spa-Con.org to ensure you are aware of any updated, added, or changed rules. Be advised that signing up for any cosplay contest is an affirmation that you agree to adhere to the rules presented on the Spa-Con website as well as any decisions made by cosplay staff prior to, or during, Spa-Con.

All cosplay events/panels have the potential to be photographed/filmed/recorded in some fashion. These recordings may be used in future galleries or promotions. Signing up for, and/or attending, any cosplay event is done with the understanding that recording could occur at any time, and permission is tacitly given for the participant's likeness to be used.

Judging:

Judging will take place in Room 203-204 at 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 20th. Judging attendance is **MANDATORY**. Contestants will use this time to meet the judges and answer questions about their cosplay. Judging is from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We highly recommend getting there early to ensure your entry.

- Judging is mandatory for all contestants in all divisions.
- Entries should show up to the judging prepared and in costume.
- Contestants will fill out a short form to give to the judges, the form will ask the contestant their name, age, cosplay, materials used, contact information etc. This form must be filled out in its entirety for judges to accurately judge your cosplay.
- Contestants **MUST** keep their half of the judging slip to verify their entry.
- When entering the judging room, contestants will hand the judges their information form.
- Judging is a one minute Q and A and cosplay evaluation with the judges. Judges will ask contestants further questions about their cosplay.
- Judges will score each contestant based on a provided rubric ranging from 1 to 30.
- Contestants will be judged on the following criteria: Accuracy of Cosplay, Attention to Detail, Originality of Cosplay, Hair and Makeup, Craftsmanship of Cosplay, and Overall Quality of Cosplay.

- Contestants must be present at Cosplay Club in Horner Hall for the announcement to receive their prize.
- Winners will be announced in Horner Hall at 8 PM.
- Contestants will be disqualified if they are not present at Cosplay Club during the time of the announcements.
- Any questions or concerns about these rules and guidelines can be emailed to spa-con@hotsprings.org. Keep Calm and Spa-Con!



Spa-Con's First Ever Cosplay Masquerade

Please Note: The Masquerade focuses on showmanship, energy, and stage presence. This is different from our annual Cosplay Contest that focuses on craftsmanship.

Schedule:

- Saturday, September 20, 2025
 - 10 AM - 3 PM - Sign Up (Cosplay Repair Booth in Expo Hall)
- Sunday September 21, 2025
 - 9:45 AM - Arrive to Masquerade (Spa-Con Theatre)
 - 10 AM - Masquerade (Spa-Con Theatre)
 - 4 PM - Winners Announced at SpAcademy Awards (Spa-Con Theatre)

What to Expect:

- Walk the stage and show off your cosplay
- Optional short skit or character pose (30 seconds max)
- Be judged by expert cosplayers and creators

Judges

- Cowbutt Crunchies, Evil Ted, & Avera Cosplay

Categories Include:

- Best Masquerade Adult Individual 18 +
- Best Masquerade Teen Individual (13 - 17)
- Best Youth Individual (12 & Under)
- Best Group (all ages)

Cosplay Masquerade Rules:

- There is no cost to enter the Cosplay Contest.
- Pre-registration is required. All contestants must register on Saturday, September 20 between 10 AM and 3 PM. Registration will be held at the CosMedics Booth in the Expo Hall.
- You must be a registered Spa-Con attendee in order to compete. Each member of your group must have a badge, pass, or other forms of attendee membership.

- All contestants will be given a number and will be lined up accordingly prior to judging.
- Contestants are required to hold on to their number between registration and judging.
- All costumes must cover "swimsuit areas" – no nudity. Body-paint costumes are not eligible for craftsman based awards.
- The contest is open to characters from any and all pop-culture published works including but not limited to: movies, TV shows, books, cartoons, and games.
- Spa-Con adheres to the "PG-13 rule". Violation of this rule may cause you to be disqualified from the competition.
- All prop weapons must conform to the Spa-Con prop weapons policies, including being checked.
- Each contestant may only enter one costume into the competition.
- All contestants must attend the masquerade at 10 AM on Sunday, September 21, 2025.
- Spa-Con reserves the right to turn away any contest entry it deems inappropriate or not in compliance with the rules.
- Contestants will be disqualified if they are not present at SpAcademy Awards (not including the youth category) during the time of the announcements.
- Any questions or concerns about these rules and guidelines can be emailed to spa-con@hotsprings.org. Keep Calm and Spa-Con!

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