



## Cosplay Contest Guidelines

Hello everyone! Mandalaura-Ann here with Cosplay Contest rules, regulations, criteria and categories for Back to the BAY-CON. It is just around the corner, and we know all you cosplayers out there are ready for the opportunity to showcase your work! I was once again blown away last year by your creative ability as well as the crowd support. You are all amazing and inspire me to continue to make improvements to the contest as well as step up my cosplay game.

That being said, there will be some small changes to how registration will go. In an effort to make the contest portion itself more streamlined we will have **prejudging at time of registration**. You will be asked about your build and the finer details of your cosplay at this time. This will allow for the judges to tally scores in a more timely manner. There will be **TWO** registration time slots, all cosplayers planning to attend the judged portion **MUST** register within the time slots allotted. Those wishing to simply walk the stage during judge deliberation simply need to be in attendance when we call you to cross the stage.

### **Contest Registration/ Prejudging:**

Prejudging will happen at the time of registration. This may take 5-10 minutes, depending on the extent of your cosplay. Please sign up for the contest within the times below:

- 10am-12pm
- 1pm-2:30pm

**Contest Sign-up Location:** Student Services Desk in the Besse Center

**Line up time: 3:30pm EST** - Contestants please gather at the theater lobby by Student Services at 3:30pm EST to allow time for organizing the groups.

**Show Time:** 4pm-5pm in the Besse Theater

### **Divisions:**

- Youngling (9 and Under)
- Padawan (10-17)
- Smuggler (18 and Up)
- Clan Category (Group Cosplay)
- Best Superhero Cosplay

- Best Supervillain Cosplay
- Best Anime Cosplay
- Best Video Game Cosplay
- Non-judged Stage Walk during judge deliberation (ALL AGES WELCOME)

#### **Judging Criteria:**

1. Craftsmanship - complexity of build, attention to detail and number of build techniques used. (Looked at in Prejudging)
2. Character Persona - Introduce us to who/what you're cosplaying as and show off any "skills" of that character.
3. Crowd Response - Crowd noise level for each contestant

## **RULES:**

#### **Weapons and Props Guidelines**

- Nothing that is real/functional is permitted, if you have a prop weapon it **MUST** be checked in at the front desk by security.
- Must conform to local, state and federal laws.
- Functional arrows must not have tips and must be secured into a quiver.
- If you have a sword/dagger/bladed weapon and the blade is ANYTHING BUT Plastic, Paper or Foam, it must be secured into its sheath so it cannot be drawn.
- Once again, ALL cosplay props and weapons must be inspected by security upon arrival to BAY-CON.

#### **Cosplay Guidelines**

- Let your creativity flow!!
- We want to see characters from all entertainment mediums!
- This is an all-ages event, so please keep that in mind when choosing and creating your cosplay to wear.
- At least ONE item of your cosplay must be modified or made by you, the cosplayer, to be entered into the judging portion of the cosplay contest. A march will be held for all contestants, in which those that do not meet the maker guideline will have a chance to walk the stage to show off their still SUPER AWESOME Cosplay.

Come on down to BACK to the BAY-CON and release your inner child, show off your creative ability, and join us in bringing local cosplayers together in a welcoming and safe environment! Even if you don't wish to participate in the contest feel free to dress up! Be ready to have people ask to take their picture with and/or of you (if you're comfortable with it).

This is all about fun, but safety is top priority. Please follow the guidelines regarding props and embellishments with your cosplay and once again keep in mind that this is an all-ages event.

**We can't wait to see what everyone has come up with! See you May 3rd, 2025!**