

## METROCON 2017 Costume Contest Rules

Thank you for showing interest in the 2017 METROCON Costume Contest! Here is everything you will need to know in order to qualify and compete.

We are for the first time accepting Email entries for the Costume Contest!

**\*\*Email your Entry to METROCON Cosplay Director and her wonderful Staff:**

**MetroTeamCosplay@gmail.com** with the subject line of **“METROCON 2017 Costume Contest Registration”** any emails without this subject line will be ignored without discretion.

\*Online registration for the Costume Contest ends June 1st. **Online entries will not be accepted after this date.**

**\*\*You must print YOUR OWN entry form and fill it out completely beforehand, or pick one up and refill it out completely at the convention to be handed in when checking in at the Cosplay booth. Due to past NoShows, we will NOT preprint any online pre-registrations**

Signups for the Costume Contest will be accepted Thursday-Saturday at the Cosplay Booth located upstairs at the base of the stairs leading to Main Events. There is a strict cap off at 75 entries. No other entries will be accepted once this cap is reached.

### **Cosplay Booth Hours of Operation:**

Thursday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm **(No sign ups are accepted on Sunday)**

**IMPORTANT:** You must arrive half an hour before the contest starts to lineup for the competition in the main events room (2:30pm Sunday line up (Do NOT BE LATE!)).

### **Prejudging hours:**

Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 12 PM

Our Judges will be examining your costume(s) up close and personal. You will also be asked questions about your costume and costuming process.

Due to our limited time schedule we have a 3-minute time limit for prejudging individual costumes and 5-minutes for groups. Our judges and staff will strictly enforce this so please be versed in important details to be shared about your work. A list can be submitted along with your reference photos if your time is too limited, but you will have to speak! We cannot guarantee that your reference materials (if provided) will be returned to you, but we will do our best to do so.

If you miss your prejudging time slot, you may be disqualified! So please wake early and be there on time! Think of it this way: 15 minutes early (before your allotted time) is on-time, on-time (your allotted time) is late, and late (after your allotted time) is disqualified.

### **\*\*Costumes are judged by:**

Craftsmanship

Cleanliness  
Creativity  
Accuracy  
Technical achievements

**Skill Levels:**

Youth: ages 13 and under.

Novice: less than 2 Major awards.

Journeyman: 2-5 Major awards. Never received a Best In Show or Best Journeyman award at METROCON.

Masters: 5+ Major awards or has received a Best In Show or Best Journeyman award at METROCON.

If you are unsure of your skill level, feel free to ask a member of Cosplay Staff at the Cosplay Booth when you sign up and they can help you figure out what level you should enter for. Judges may possibly move a cosplayer into a different category at their discretion due to level of skill or work presented.

**Award Categories:**

Best In Show

1st Place Masters

2nd Place Masters

1st Place Journeyman

2nd Place Journeyman

1st Place Novice

2nd Place Novice

Best Group

Best Prop

Best Craftsmanship/Technical

Best Character Likeness

Best Junior (kids 13 and under)

Judges Awards (one from each judge)

MC/ Mascot Character Award

Cosplay Director Award

Reference and In Progress Photos: These are not required but highly suggested. These will help the judges see the work you put into making your costume.

Props: Props may be entered with your costume. You must present progress photos AND reference photos for your prop to qualify for an award.

Models: If you are using a model for your costume, you and your model must be present for the prejudging. However, you do not have to walk on stage with your model during the catwalk style presentation. You and your model must have an official METROCON badge to participate.

Handlers: You may use handlers for your costume if it is too big or cumbersome to walk on stage by yourself. Please provide the name of your handler on your prejudging form so they may be allowed back stage and through pre-judging with you. The handler must have a convention badge/ticket to go on stage. If you do not have a handler, we may be able to provide one for you for the stage portion of the competition. Please let us know when you register if a handler is needed.

Stage Presentation: You will have 15-20 seconds on stage. We have a catwalk style stage so prepare your best Runway strut. **Make sure to do two poses at a minimum of 5 seconds each**, before you leave the stage so everyone can see your costume and take photos! **DO NOT THROW ANYTHING INTO THE AUDIENCE OR UNTO THE STAGE.**

Rules and Regulations:

All costumes cannot exceed a PG13 rating. This is a family convention. Your costume will be disqualified immediately if it is above this rating. **If you have questions on what is acceptable please email your MetroCon Cosplay Director and Cosplay Staff at: [MetroTeamCosplay@gmail.com](mailto:MetroTeamCosplay@gmail.com) with the subject line “MetroCon 2017 Cosplay Contest Inquiry”** (emails without this subject line will be ignored without discretion)

Weapons and props must follow METROCON’s weapon policy.

Please bring reference photos to show the judges. They are not required to participate but are strongly encouraged, especially for obscure costumes.

Please bring at least 1 in progress photo to show the judges. They are not required but are strongly encouraged.

Props **MUST** have in progress photos and reference images in order to be judged.

You must have made at least 75% of your costume to compete. In groups, all costumes must be at least 50% made by one or more of the members in the group.

Group limit is 15. No exceptions.

The cap off for contestants will be 75 entries.

Anyone ages 12 and under will be judged as a junior, unless they’re part of a group.

The judges’ decisions are final.

Do not lie to or mislead the judges. If you are caught lying to the judges for any reason, you will be disqualified.

You can only enter ONE costume and/or prop (and the prop must be part of the entered costume). If you want to enter as Edward Elric but you made your friend a staff for their Sailor Pluto costume, they cannot have the prop judged. If you want to enter in your Sora costume but also want to enter your Cloud costume, you cannot have someone else model the Cloud costume. The only exception to this is if you’re all entered in a group. If, for instance, you made all 5 sailor scout uniforms and you and your friends entered as a group that would be allowed.

**MUST READ FAQs:**

**\*I want to do backflips and stuff on stage! It would be cool!**

NO. All that is done during the presentation is walking and posing.

**\*Even with a handler, I can’t go up stairs with my costume or because of other reasons. What do I do?**

A ramp will be provided for non-stair friendly costumes. Please verify on your entry form that you will need a ramp.

**\*My reference photo/in progress photo is on my cell phone, is that okay?**

As long as you have it ready for the judges and it is a clear photo, it’s okay. Figures, manga, playing cards, etc. are also acceptable. Also, color images are preferred for accuracy judging.

**\*I’m late for my time block, so can I go in now that I’m here?**

No. If there is time left at the end of the day’s prejudging, we can make an exception in the order of who is present first. This also goes for groups-the ENTIRE group must be present at the time block. If you do not all show up for your time block, you will be disqualified

**\*I was judged, but I missed line up and the stage presentation began. Can I still go on?**

If you miss lineup, you're disqualified. We cannot rearrange entries in order to accommodate late arrivals. All members of a group must be present or the group will be disqualified.

**\*Our group was judged, but we found two more people and want them in our group!**

Once you're group is judged, you cannot add or subtract members. They can walk on, but will not be accepted in the judging process.

**\*I'm going to enter my prop and get it approved by the con later.**

**YOUR PROP MUST BE APPROVED AT REGISTRATION BEFORE PRE-JUDGING.** If your prop is not registered, it cannot be entered, even if you have in progress photos. You must have a registration sticker on your prop. If you need your prop registered, please take it to the registration to be approved. Do this before your pre-judging slot, otherwise it will not be judged and you will lose your allotted time.

**\*I don't have my badge yet. I'll get it after prejudging.**

You need an official METROCON badge on your person to enter. This also goes for group entries, handlers, and models. Every person involved in the contest must have a badge. Without a badge you will be disqualified and you will lose your allotted time.

**\*I found a handler after I was judged. Can they come with me to the stage presentation?**

Yes. Please inform the members of the costume contest IMMEDIATELY if you do. Your handler must have an official METROCON badge.

**\*I'm wearing a few costumes this weekend, and I don't know which to compete!**

Choose your favorite (that hasn't won major awards) or the one you're most proud of for the contest.

**\*I want to throw some really cool stuff out into the audience or to the guests.**

**DO NOT THROW ANYTHING INTO THE AUDIENCE OR ON STAGE.** We do not allow object to be thrown from the stage. This includes (but isn't limited to) anything that might hurt people or damage the stage or carpeting: liquids, silly string, hard candies, and other cosplayers. Doing this will disqualify you immediately, your badge will be taken and you will be escorted from the convention.

**\*There was only a limited amount of people who could participate in the Costume Contest at METROCON and I didn't get signed up in time. What can I do?**

We apologize, there's a limit to the amount of contestants allowed in our limited time for the contest. If you didn't get in, please try again next year.

**\*I'm upset with the results of the Costume Contest. What do I do?**

**The Costume Contest is not judged by METROCON staff, it is judged by Cosplay Guests that are invited to METROCON. The Cosplay Guests were requested by the convention attendees themselves.** METROCON Cosplay Staff is not held accountable by the choices made by the Guest Judges. However feel free to bring up concerns with the METROCON Cosplay Director and METROCON Cosplay Staff, via email @ [MetroTeamCosplay@gmail.com](mailto:MetroTeamCosplay@gmail.com) or at the Convention. Note: The only awards that are given by the Cosplay Staff are the Director's Awards and the MC award.