



COSPLAY CRAFTSMANSHIP COMPETITION

The METROCON Cosplay Craftsmanship Competition is a runway contest show all about costume craftsmanship! All contestants will attend pre-judging the morning of the contest. Our competition will be judged by our Cosplay Special Guests, and they will be looking closely for excellence in cosplay crafting. Craftsmanship contestants will take a turn on stage during the competition to show off their amazing work. Awards will be presented at the end of the show.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The cosplay craftsmanship competition & runway show will take place on **Saturday, July 6** at the Tampa Bay Convention Center.

All contestants must have a valid pass for **Saturday** of METROCON.

All entrants must fill out an online application form on the METROCON website to be considered. You must use your legal name and information on the application (preferred name will be used onstage). There will be NO onsite applications available at the convention.

Contestants must be age 13+ (please refer to the Junior Cosplay Showcase for entrants 12 and under). Contestants under 18 must be accompanied to the show by a parent or legal guardian.

Applications will close **May 1, 2024**. Applications are not "first come, first served" but reviewed by a juried process and contestants notified of acceptance or denial by **May 15, 2024**. At this time, applications may reopen if there is still room.

Costumes may not exceed a PG13 rating (at the discretion of the cosplay leadership). Costumes may not be historically or culturally offensive. Please reach out to cosplay@metroconventions.com with questions regarding this policy.

All props must comply with METROCON prop policy and must be checked for safety prior to entering the convention.

Contestants may not throw anything into the audience or enter the audience during the contest.

All contestants must arrive **30 minutes prior** to the contest start for lineup, staging, and technical checks.

Models may be used for costumes; however both the creator and model must be present for pre-judging and the contest (models will walk on alone). Only one set of prizes will be given for awards won.

If a contestant requires assistance getting on a stage with stairs, please notify cosplay staff in the application so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Handlers are allowed for those with bulky or overly cumbersome costumes. If alone and needing assistance, please notify staff in the application. For contestants providing their own handler, the handler must have a valid pass to METROCON. Contestants are still required to walk onstage alone.

The results of our judges are binding and final. Harassment of Judges or Cosplay Staff over disagreement of awards will not be tolerated and may result in being banned from future METROCON costume contests. If feedback is desired from judges, please request this after the contest via email to cosplay@metroconventions.com.

METROCON staff reserves the right to disqualify a contestant for misconduct or any reason at their sole discretion.

By submitting an entry, contestants confirm that they have read and agree to all of the rules and regulations of the METROCON Cosplay Craftsmanship Competition, which can be modified until the day of the contest according to the needs of the organization.

Contestants must fill out an application and submit supplemental material as required on the application. Contestants are not required to have finished the costume at time of application.

Example of supplemental material for the application: Photos of the completed costume, OR work-in-progress photos OR reference photos with a detailed build plan and examples of previous work. Contestants **MUST** provide adequate reference photos of the character/design including but not limited to: front of character, back of character, and any prop references.

A build book must be submitted to cosplay@metroconventions.com by **11:59pm on June 30th** prior to the contest. Build books must not exceed 15 pages, must be in PDF format, and must include reference photos and work in progress photos that include contestants actively participating in the build.

Applications will be accepted based on whether contestants adhere to the rules, costume has been proven to either exist or will exist (to prevent drop-outs) and proven quality for competition.

Contest will be limited to 40 participants.

Groups will be allowed up to 4 participants. Groups will have a singular award and prizes for the entire group. The entire group will be judged in the category of the highest ranked person in the group. Costumes need to be from the same series.

Contestants will be assigned a prejudging time slot on **Saturday, July 6, 2024 starting at 9am at the convention center**. Contestants will have 3 minutes for solo entrants and 5 minutes for groups to present their cosplay to guest judges and exchange questions. Late arrivals will be pushed to the back of the line, and may not be judged if time does not allow. No-show contestants may be disqualified from winning awards.

Please arrive at pre-judging in full costume and makeup.

75% of the costume must be hand-made. Generally this means some base materials do not need to be fabricated from scratch such as wigs, shoes, and common accessories. Sourcing premade print files, embroidery files, and otherwise premade patterns is allowed, but will count against your hand-made percentage. More consideration will be given to those that create their own files.

Original designs will be accepted if based on existing source material. Please provide references of the source material and references of the full intended design.

Each contestant may participate in only one entry into the contest.

Costumes that have won any 'Best of' awards in previous shows are not permitted.

Contestants will need to walk up several steps onto the stage and have approximately 20 seconds and 3 poses. METRO has a catwalk-style stage and pose spots will be marked.

Prizes for awards **can** include but are **not limited to**: cash prizes, medals, trophies, METROCON merch, METROCON weekend passes for 2025, vendors room swag, professional photoshoots, and donations of gift cards by sponsors for wigs, makeup, cosplay supplies, and more!

CRAFTSMANSHIP JUDGING

Craftsmanship judging categories are as follows:

- Cleanliness
- Creativity
- Accuracy to reference material
- Technical skills
- Overall look and presentation

Skill Levels:

Novice: Contestant has won 2 or less major craftsmanship awards.

Journeyman: Contestant has won 3-5 major craftsmanship awards.

Masters: Contestant has won 5+ major craftsmanship awards.

Judges may move a cosplayer into a different category at their discretion due to years of experience, the level of skill, work presented, or if the contestant does costume fabrication in a professional capacity.

CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD CATEGORIES

- Best in Show
- Best in Show Runner Up
- Best Masters
- Best Journeyman
- Best Novice
- Best Group
- Best Wig
- Best Prop
- Excellence in Armorsmithing
- Excellence in Stitchery
- Excellence in SFX/Makeup
- Judges Awards