

CarrierCon Official Cosplay Contest Rules

The CarrierCon Cosplay Contest is one of the main events of the con, showcasing amazing cosplays with the chance to win prizes!

All sign-ups are first come, first serve via the Google form:

<https://forms.gle/2Bf2Uq8aZjyd7Kdc9>

There is a limit of 50 contestants. Once the Google form reaches 50 entries, sign ups will be closed. If there are spots left by the day of the contest, participants may sign up on site until we are full. We will allow cosplayers after 50 entries to sign up on a waiting list in case any contestants drop out at the last minute.

Contestants must **check in by 1pm** on the day of the contest, March 21, 2026 at the cosplay contest table. If you do not check in, your spot may be given away to contestants on the waiting list.

Craftsmanship

This contest allows handmade and purchased costumes.

Purchased costumes are **not** eligible for Best in Show or craftsmanship based awards. If you are found to try to pass a purchased costume off as handmade, you will be disqualified.

Costumes eligible for craftsmanship based awards must be at least 70% handmade, which is defined as having been constructed by the entrant. You may also choose to enter part of your costume (like wigs or props) or modified/altered costumes to craftsmanship judging, but it may be harder to win an award. All participants should be prepared to briefly explain the process through which their costume was created, altered, or modified.

There will be a cap of 30 craftsmanship entries, and prejudging will take place on the day of the contest. Prejudging will be 5 minutes per contestant/group, and appointments will be given on a first come, first serve basis starting at 12:30pm. Contestants are welcome to bring build books of their progress, but it is not required.

General Rules

- All participants and assistants must have a CarrierCon General Admission ticket for Saturday.
- Each contestant may only appear on stage in a single entry.

- A Parent/Guardian may accompany participants whose age requires them to be under this supervision according to CarrierCon policy. Entrants must notify the coordinator of any guardians that will need to be present.
- No glitter, confetti, pyrotechnics, live flame, or smoke generators of any kind are allowed.
- No electrical power connections will be provided. If your costume requires power, it must be part of your costume.
- If a policy violation is discovered by any of the CarrierCon staff or judging panel, that entry will be disqualified.
- This is a walk-on contest. Entries will have roughly a minute on stage to pose and/or perform, but no specific music will be provided and no full skits are allowed.

Costume Guidelines

- Entries may be by individuals or groups (up to 5 people) and may be of an existing character from any television show, film, comic, literary property, video game, etc.
- All costumes and props must adhere to the CarrierCon policies. Please see CarrierCon's policies regarding costumes and props here: <https://uss-hornet.org/carriercon>
- This is a SC-13/PG-13 event – please keep this in mind when on stage. No profanity will be allowed on stage. That includes messages on signs or clothes. Violators will be removed from the competition.
- The use of makeup/bodypaint/bodysocks to darken your skin to the appearance of another human race will not be permitted. The use of makeup/bodypaint/bodysocks to emulate a fantasy race with a non-human skin tone will be allowed.
- No “sandbagging” - this refers to entering a cosplay that has already won a major award in another competition. If you are found to be sandbagging, you will be disqualified from the cosplay contest and possibly banned from entering in the future.
- If you are uncertain about whether something is allowed or not, or have any questions, please email tytaliscosplay@gmail.com.

The award categories are:

- Best in Show
- Best Craftsmanship
- Best Presentation
- Best Group*
- Best Young Fan**

- Judge's Choice x3

*Best Group: A group consists of 2 or more participants in related costumes

**Best Young Fan will only be awarded if there are at least 3 participants under age 18

Note: Prizes and awards are subject to change

Please reach out to the cosplay coordinator by emailing tytaliscosplay@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns!