

Rules

- One entry per person. If you are entering as a group, please see [Group participation rules](#).
- Entrants must be at least 12 years of age to enter.
 - Entrants 17 and under must have their parents' or legal guardians' permission to enter.
 - Entrants 14 and under must be accompanied by a legal guardian or adult relative at the contest.*
- All contestants must have pre-registered before **April 4th, 2025**. There will be a courtesy in-house registration, available between the **hours of convention opening until one hour before the contest**. Any and all cosplayers after this time slot will not be able to participate.
- Staff - including volunteers - are not allowed to participate.
- Entrants must be onsite, in costume, and ready to go at **least 45 minutes** before the contest starts for number tagging.
- The room will be open and ready for staging **1 hour before** the contest. Entrants who miss staging rehearsal cannot participate in the contest, even if pre-registered.
- Cosplay changes day-of will not be allowed. Please give us at least 24 hours notice if there is a change of cosplay.
- Only **one** person may help you when on stage if needed. This person cannot be in cosplay (as this will be considered group participation), must be 12 years of age or older, must attend staging rehearsal with Entrant, and must be specified on pre-registration or registration.
- No specific audio will be played even upon request.
- Only enter the stage and exit the stage at the designated entry/exit points. Failure to do so will cost points toward judging.
- Time on stage is limited to 45 seconds maximum, with 15 seconds per marked space on stage to display cosplay to audience and judges.
 - Judges have every right to tell contestants to move on if over allotted time.
- By entering this contest you agree to read and abide by all rules and guidelines of the Fandom Fest of Southwest Michigan's Cosplay and Convention as posted. Failure to do so will result in your disqualification from the contest and/or removal from the event.

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- All cosplay must adhere to the dress and weapons code as posted. Failure to do so will result in your disqualification from the contest and/or removal from the event.
- By participating in the Fandom Fest SWMI cosplay contest, you are consenting to your photo being taken by Fandom Fest of Southwest Michigan official photographers, and the possibility of being featured on the Fandom Fest SWMI social media pages or website at any time.
 - You may make a media removal request via website form.
- Fandom Fest of Southwest Michigan and its correspondent Southwest Michigan Libraries and their staff reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone to the Cosplay Contest for any reason as is listed above.
- The judges reserve the right to disqualify any entrant for any reason as is listed above.

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Group Participants must follow all above rules, including the following:

- There can be no more than 5 members in one group. If any group for any reason has more than 5 participants, remaining participant(s) must enter the contest separately or as a separate group.
- All members of the group must move to the next specified marker on stage as a group, not individually.
- Group cosplay is given 50 seconds allotted stage time. Judges have every right to tell contestants to move on if over allotted time.
- Awards will be given, if appropriate, to the group as a whole.

Guidelines

- Costumes from all forms of fandom genres are welcome to participate in the contest, as well as original characters (OC), as long as they abide by the cosplay and Fandom Fest SWMI dress and weapons code.
- Remember that this is a family-friendly event. Offensive language and sexual humor are not allowed and will result in immediate disqualification from the contest and/or removal from the event as a whole.
- Judgment on appropriateness of material is left to the discretion of the Cosplay Crew of Fandom Fest of Southwest Michigan, Fandom Fest of Southwest Michigan staff and volunteers, and its corresponding Southwest Michigan Libraries staff, using dress and weapons code as bases for discretion.
- Casual clothing will not count as a costume; all contestants must be in **full** costume attire. Please take time to fully review the Fandom Fest cosplay dress code of conduct for detailed explanation of full costume.
- Weapons must be able to pass the weapons check and visibly marked with orange or neon green zip ties, which can only be removed after attendee and/or weapon have left the convention building. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification and/or removal from event grounds.
- Entries that could potentially damage the Mendel Center and its properties, other participants or convention attendees, or the wearer in any way, shape, or form will not be allowed within the convention center.
- No nudity, profanity, or any NSFW or non-family friendly acts or language is allowed. This includes, but not limited to, signs, message boards, LED or neon, bad language or clothes, hand or bodily gestures. Improper behavior could result in disqualification and/or removal from convention.
- No bad behavior. This includes but not limited to, trash talking, sabotage or poor sportsmanship, harmful behaviors. Improper behavior could result in disqualification and/or removal from convention.
- Have fun!

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