

# Tora-con Cosplay Rules and Guidelines

## \*General Outline of Schedule\*

Saturday Schedule

*Rehearsal Session:* 11:30 AM - 1 PM

*Workmanship Judging (Private):* 1 - 2:30 PM

*Contest Rehearsal Lineup:* 3 ~ 4 PM

*Cosplay Start:* 4 PM (~ 5:30 PM)

*Judging break with stage photos and cosplay winners announcement*

*Cosplay Awards Ceremony End:* ~7 PM

## REGISTRATION

You may pre-register for the Cosplay Contest by sending your completed forms with your Tora-Con registration through regular post or email the forms to [ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com](mailto:ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com), or sign up Saturday morning during registration.

The pre-registration deadline must be physically received **2 WEEKS** before the Con date of April 20<sup>th</sup> and **NOT** post-marked on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Pre-registering will allow you to avoid signing up at the last minute at the convention, ensuring that you will have spot in the contest and allow you to easily make changes to your entry right up until the pre-registration deadline.

On-site registration for the Cosplay Contest will take place **Saturday morning until 10 AM, in the SAU (where Tora-Con Registration will be held)**. These entries will be **first-come, first-serve only**.

The total number of entries accepted for this year's contest will depend on the total number and type of entries and group sizes.

There will be two categories for entrants to participate in. One will be the Craftsmanship Judging and the other will be the show itself. Entrants will have the option of choosing one or the other, but not both, due to time constraints and fairness to all parties involved.

Entrants may register for the stage show either as single participant or as a group. Please note that the limit of persons on stage at one time is **five (5)**. There is a possibility that very large groups will not be accepted based on time and space. We will let you know if your group falls under this category as soon as possible so you can make any necessary revisions.

Once registered, entrants who wish to be in the show **must** attend the rehearsal for the Contest Show to check in, receive their lineup order, hand in any CD's for music or sound, run-through on the stage (required), etc.

**If you do not attend the run-through, you will not participate in the Contest Show. The Cosplay Coordinator must approve all exceptions in advance.**

Online and mailed entries will be notified by e-mail if they are accepted. Look for a message from [ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com](mailto:ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com). If you receive anything from any other e-mail, but this one, please

disregard it.

Cosplay entrants can, have, and will be rejected by the coordinator for reasons of safety, liability, oversize, lack of room, significant deviations from entry form data, violations of local or state laws, violations of convention policy, and/or being non-anime related (with rare exceptions to be reviewed by the Cosplay Coordinator). If you are not sure if your cosplay plans are acceptable, contact us beforehand at [ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com](mailto:ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com).

Only the Cosplay Coordinator has the jurisdiction to make decisions in case of disputes over rules, eligibility, disqualification, line-up order, and other special requests, etc. **ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

### **Eligibility**

Anyone ages 6 and up may enter in the Tora-Con Cosplay event. Entrants **ages 6-17** must have their parents' permission to enroll. A legal guardian and/or relative of legal age **MUST** accompany those under the age of 13. Children below the age of 6 **CANNOT** enter by themselves, unless he/she is part of a group or duo performance.

### **Costume Guidelines**

Frankly, no costume means **NO COSTUME** and although there are many popular anime/fiction characters that wear what many would consider "normal clothes," these outfits are not considered a costume. For a simple guideline, watch Pokemon. The character Brock is wearing normal clothes; however, James from Team Rocket is not. "Normal clothes" characters can participate in a group performance if the rest of the cast is in costume, or if there is elaborate prop use involved.

## **CONTEST RULES**

### **Content**

**COSPLAY IS AN ALL AGES EVENT.** This means the harshest language allowed on stage is the harshest language you should expect to hear on Radio Disney. The same goes for subject matter. The cosplay is considered a **PG-rated event**. All music and pre-recorded materials **will** be screened and all violators of this rule will be evicted immediately, even mid-performance. The judgment of what is acceptable and what will be evicted/disqualified is up to the Cosplay Coordinator.

Special requests for audio, lineup order, etc. should be stated at rehearsal; we will do our best to accommodate your requests, but we can make no promises or guarantees.

### **Props**

What goes on the stage comes off the stage with you.

For safety reasons, **the following are not allowed** in cosplay, and any violations will result in disqualification and possible eviction:

- Guns or props that fire objects
- Live steel weapons with edges such as knives or swords
- Spray weapons such as mace
- Projectile weapons such as bows or slingshots
- A live flame, fireworks, flash paper, sparklers, or strobes (sealed flashbulbs may be used if desired)
- Electric weapons such as tasers or cattle prods
- Aerial acrobatics
- Food, animals, and remote control devices

- Skits above a PG rating which include the language and background music
- Nudity or partial nudity. Bathing suit areas must be covered. No costume is no costume!
- Interaction with the MC, judges, or audience
- Entering more than once even if you're just acting as a "prop" for another skit
- Falsifying entry form information
- Messy props such as confetti, flowers, food, or water
- Severely exceeding the allowed time limit

**PLEASE NOTE: New York State weapon laws are in effect, no weapons will be allowed in the convention proper, if you need them for a prop please contact the Cosplay Coordinator ahead of time so that accommodations can be made for you before and after the cosplay.**

On stage, non-firing, toy weapons will be allowed **ONLY** with peace bonding. If you wish to have the status of a specific prop or item clarified before Tora-Con, please contact the Cosplay Coordinator at [ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com](mailto:ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com) before the event with a description and usage of the prop/item in question. **Pictures must be submitted** to determine if the prop is allowed.

### **Martial Arts/Stage Fighting**

Stage fighting is to be limited to half-speed quarter-strength, and, like billiards, one foot must remain on the floor at all times. (E.g. No jumps, leaps, flips or rolls, or climbing). This is to ensure your safety and the audience's safety.

### **Time Limit**

Walk-ons are given up to 30 seconds to come out, show off their costume, and then exit. This is much longer in reality than it is on paper. (Note: An average walk-on is about 5-10 seconds.) Use this time as you wish: i.e. smile, wave, sashay to the music. This will help in the judging process, so show-off your costume to the best of your ability.

Skits, whether it is a single entrant or a group, are given three minutes per performance. The three-minute time limit is **NOT** negotiable; any entrants insisting on extra time, or who do not leave the stage after the three-minute limit, will be disqualified.

### **Before the Contest**

If you plan on eating, do so before entering backstage to prevent littering and costume destruction.

Please observe courtesy rules that will be posted there and available on the website.

Only competitors are allowed backstage. The sole exception is for minor children, who **MUST** be accompanied by a parent and/or guardian.

No photos backstage. Take photos outside in the halls before or after the contest.

## **DURING THE CONTEST**

### **NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUDIENCE DURING THE CONTEST!**

Flash photos will be allowed before and/or after the cosplay event. All cosplay participants implicitly grant permission to be photographed in connection with the Tora-Con Cosplay. Photos of entries may

be used by Tora-Con for our website, publicity, etc.

### **Backstage Courtesy Rules:**

While you are backstage, we ask that all members please follow these simple rules, to ensure that everybody gets along.

- Eat and drink beforehand. Try not to bring food/drink(s) with you since it can cause spill/stain accidents.
- No photography!
- Please keep the noise down as much as possible. Screaming is strongly discouraged and may result in point reduction or disqualification if persistent. The audience is listening!
- Please follow cosplay staff directions at all times.
- Please don't touch other people's belongings, costumes, props, etc.
- Please throw all trash, wrappers, water cups, etc. into the trashcans provided.
- Once you're lined up in order backstage, remember your order, and try to stay lined up as much as possible.
- Please be organized and on time for your final lineup call. If it's your turn to go on, and you or a member of your group is missing, you may not go on.
- No drugs or alcohol!
- Please remember to take all your stuff with you when you finally leave.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

Wear shoes. This is both an institute rule and a point of personal hygiene.

Eat, drink, and use the restroom beforehand. Don't starve yourself. Stage lights and the backstage area are hot places where dehydration could occur especially if you're in a hot, stuffy costume. So, remember to drink plenty of water before your performance.

If you've been shopping or are lugging around several things you don't want lost or damaged, have a friend hold onto them for you. Backstage is a crowded place with many people rushing about. If all your friends and acquaintances are in your skit, the first row of the auditorium will be allotted for personal items. This is a courtesy, if any belongings are in the rows or other isles this courtesy will not be allotted next year and may reduce your points if the judges deem it necessary. **Tora-Con is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.**

For elaborate costumes, bring a crisis kit. Through an accident, or another act of fate, parts of your costume may become loose, damaged, worn, etc. Plan on this. A small package of thread and needles, tape, scissors, safety pins, etc. can go a long way. So come prepared!

Do not attempt to keep secrets from or surprise the Cosplay Staff. Tell us everything so we can help you plan.

For large and cumbersome costumes be sure you can safely get on and off the stage. Stage ninjas may be available to guide and steer you on and off stage, but not lift or support you or your costume(s).

Do not have your friends hold you a space. There is limited seating and all entrants have predetermined seating set up in the front of the auditorium.

## **DISCLAIMERS**

*Tora-Con is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items. Keep important belongings at home. Avoid taking things you do not need.*

*Changing rooms are provided by the public washrooms or in the Green Room. Please do not use space that is being used by classes or the general public. If you are asked to leave an area by staff, professors, attendants, or janitorial staffs, please do so.*

*Tora-Con does not provide any materials for costumes. If you require tape, pins, or anything else to maintain or finish your costume, please bring them.*

*If you feel your questions were not answered in this document, or require more clarification concerning the rules above, please feel free to contact the Cosplay Coordinator at [ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com](mailto:ToraCosplayContest@gmail.com). We will reply to you as soon as possible; however, we are also students, so please be patient. Thank you.*

## AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT

In order to be eligible for the contest you must have already registered and paid for Tora-Con, and filled out both a *Cosplay Registration Form* and have read and signed the *Cosplay Rules and Guidelines Form* in order to be eligible to participate in the contest.

A separate sign-up sheet **must** be included along with the agreement form to list everyone participating in the contest.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print), have read and understand the rules and terms laid out for participation in the Cosplay Contest and will abide by the rules set forth for participation. Should I break any of the rules for either the contest or Tora-Con itself, I will accept the possible consequences as laid out in the Convention Rules without complaint unless extenuating circumstances exist and will be brought before convention organizers for possible appeal.

*By entering my name below, I certify that I have read and agree to the above.*

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Signature - This signature is to serve as my legal electronic signature.

Date

Check for craftsmanship judging

Check for judging of skit for contest

Check for walk-on (not judged)

## TORA-CON COSPLAY REGISTRATION

Name of Skit:

Group Leader:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

**Skit description:**

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**Do you have any special requirements such as music?**

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1) Sign-up

2) Line-up

X:XX - lineup for pre-judging and rehearsal in Webb Auditorium, room1350 in building

7

X:XX - Rehearsal begins

X:XX - Pre-judging begins

\*Make sure to take all props, accessories, etc. with you to the lineup as you may not have time to get it later. Plan on being early with everything you need so you don't risk losing your entry.

*The best of luck and we can't wait to see you there!*