

Please note: There is no on-site registration for these events. For groups, only one person in the group needs to fill out the form.

Below, you will find all the info on the 2025 Sugoi Masquerade! If you have any questions, just let us know by sending an email to cosplay@nerdstreet.net. Get ready to show off your most amazing cosplay and skits and be prepared to ham it up for the crowd to see!

Let's get to the Who's, When's, Where's and How's of it all!

Who can enter? Anyone and everyone with a costume or skit!

Who's running the contests? We've got

How much does it cost to enter? \$Free.99! It is entirely free to sign up for the Sugoi Masquerade.

How can I enter? Submit your application to the Cosplay Masquerade online between September 1st and September 7th to be eligible to enter. There are no onsite sign ups.

How many people can enter? Sign ups are limited. Judges will reach out via email to confirm whether your application has been accepted. Emails will come from cosplay@nerdstreet.net.

When are the contests? The masquerade is held at 3:30 PM on Saturday. Contestants are required to attend a technical rehearsal /pre-judging at 10 AM on Saturday morning in order to be eligible to compete later in the day.

Where can I go to see the contests? Head over to the Main Stage and pick out the best seat!

HOW IT WORKS:

There are three ways you can compete. You will select one.

- **Craftsmanship ONLY:** You make 75%+ of your cosplay and do ~3 poses on the stage to our pre-selected music. You attend required Craftsmanship judging, but do not attend technical rehearsal, and are eligible for judges awards, craftsmanship awards, and Best in Show.
- **Performance ONLY:** You make 0%+ of your cosplay and do a performance to your own music. You do not attend Craftsmanship judging, but must attend technical rehearsal, and are eligible for judges awards, performance awards, and Best in Show.
- **Craftsmanship & Performance:** You make 75%+ of your cosplay and do a performance to your own music. You attend required Craftsmanship judging and technical rehearsal, and are eligible for judges awards, craftsmanship awards, performance awards, and Best in Show.

COMPETITION LEVELS:

BEGINNER: Open to anyone 14 and older

NOVICE: Open to anyone 14 and older

INTERMEDIATE: Open to anyone 14 and older

ADVANCED: Open to anyone 14 and older

Youth: Anyone 13 and younger may participate in our Kid's Costume Parade on Saturday that will take place during the masquerade. Those 13 and younger may not do skits onstage. No pre-registration is needed. Just show up at the Main Stage.

If entering as a group, your competition level is determined by the most experienced member of your group. Kids (those 13 or younger) may enter with adults in a group in an adult category if they wish, but this means they will be judged for that group's skill category and they may not participate in the Kid's Parade.

AWARDS:

Awards are given out for the following:

Best Advanced Craftmanship
Best Advanced Performance
Best Intermediate Craftmanship
Best Intermediate Performance
Best Novice Craftmanship
Best Novice Performance
Best Beginner Craftmanship
Best Beginner Performance
Judge's Awards
Best in Show Overall

PLEASE NOTE: All cosplays and performers must comply with the convention's Anti Harassment policy. This means no profanity, hate speech, or otherwise inflammatory messages are allowed. All props must be checked and within the prop guidelines provided by the convention.

RULES:

Craftsmanship Rules:

- If competing solely in the costume portion of the event, this requires handmade, original costumes. The costume must be of original construction or show significant modification to the original materials. At least 75% of your costume must be handmade or altered. You do not have to weave your own fabric, make a wig, or cobble shoes, However, that is really impressive.
- Here's an example: You bought and altered a pair of pants for your cosplay. - This is about 40% of your costume. You sewed a shirt from scratch for your cosplay. - This is about 40% of your costume. You used store bought shoes. - This is about 10% of your

costume. You bought your wig from a shop and styled it yourself. - This is about 10% of your costume. In total - 75% of your costume was handmade or altered and would qualify for the contest.

- If you didn't make your costume, but someone at the convention did, you may still model it, but they should be present for judging as they are considered the contest entrant (and the one who will receive the prize).
- Only one costume can be accepted into the contest per person.
- If your cosplay has previously won a competition, it cannot be re-entered into our competition.
- You must sign-up in advance to be entered into the contest.
- During pre-judging, you will be able to chat with the judges so you can describe the details of the cosplay or provide a story about the character being portrayed. You may offer details about the construction process, materials, number of work hours, or anything that might impress them.
- Pre-judging is also the perfect time to show the judges your Work In Progress photos and your build book!
- Please remember that a good quality image can absolutely help the judges greatly in deciding your score. Don't forget to bring a reference photo of the character you are portraying if you wish for accuracy to be taken into account during your judging if the judges are not familiar with the character.

Performance Rules:

- Competing in performance does not require a handmade costume (unless you are also competing in Craftsmanship).
- All performances are limited to a maximum of 4 minutes and must consist of some kind of choreography or narrative structure. This means, we will not accept entries who wish to walk across the stage and strike a few poses in a store bought costume. But any other type of performance is permitted.
- If your performance has previously won a competition, it cannot be re-entered into our competition.
- You must sign-up in advance to be entered into the contest.

Craftsmanship and Performance Rules:

- Those competing in both craftsmanship and performance must follow the rules outlined in both sections.
- If you are in a performance group, but you are the only person competing in craftsmanship that is a-ok. Just let us know on your application. If you win a performance award, it will be awarded to your whole group. If you win a craftsmanship award it will be only for the group members who attended prejudging.

SAFETY FOR ALL COMPETITORS

For safety during the masquerade, please keep the following rules in mind:

- Cosplays and performers must also comply with Sugoi Expo's Policies, including the Anti Harassment Policy. This means no profanity, hate speech, religious, political, or otherwise inflammatory messages are allowed.
- Don't jump off the stage. The audience is also not allowed to approach the stage.
- Don't throw anything from the stage and don't throw anything on the stage.
- There is no adult-related content allowed on stage. All performances must be rated PG at most.
- You must be able to walk on/off stage and maneuver freely in your costume without assistance unless you require medical accommodations.
- All props, setups, and scenery must be taken down after your performance. Do not leave any items behind that can hinder the competitors after you. Don't make a mess. Leaving a mess will disqualify you from receiving any awards and may result in a future ban from competing.