

Niagara Falls Comic Con Masquerade Rules and Info

The Masquerade will take place on Saturday June 3rd at 4 PM.

Key Masquerade Info:

1. All contestants names must be included on the form.
2. Real names must be used. but you can request for the MC to use nicknames or cosplay names
3. Name and e-mail of your contact person.
4. Registration will close Saturday at 1pm
5. All contestants must check in with the Masquerade registration desk on site (look for Cosplay for a Cure booth) prior to 1:00PM on Saturday.
6. There is no music player or special lights available
7. This is a walk on , Strut your stuff and walk off Masquerade due to time and stage constraints
8. Workmanship Judging will happen on Saturday from 1-3pm at the Cosplay Area (Cosplay for a Cure booth and Cosplay Guest Booth) this may change so double check with Masquerade Registration Desk

All contestants must register at the Masquerade Registration Desk. This will be open on Friday from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM, and on Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 PM. You must register by 1:00 PM on Saturday in order to be in the competition.

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The Standard Division System, in accordance with the International Costumers' Guild Guidelines, will be used as follows:

- **Master:** Any entrant may compete in the Master division.
- **Artisan Division:** Any costumer who has won three or more awards in this or any lower division;
- A contestant who has won "Best in Show" or "Best Artisan"(3 or more times) at a competition may not compete in the Artisan division;
- anyone who wishes to can enter this division, provided that they do not belong in a higher division in use in the competition.
- **Journeyman:** Professional costumers may not compete in the Journeyman division. A contestant who has competed and won in the Master division at an international competition (Worldcon, Anime North, or Costume-Con masquerade) or in the Artisian division at a large regional convention may not compete in the Journeyman division. A contestant who has won "Best in Show" or "Best Journeyman" at an international competition may not compete in the Journeyman division. A contestant who has won more than three major awards in the Journeyman division in international competition may not compete in the Journeyman division. Anyone else may compete in the Journeyman division.
- **Novice:** Professional costumers may not compete in the Novice division. A contestant who has competed and won in any division other than Novice at an international competition may not compete in the Novice division. A contestant who has won "Best in Show" or "Best Novice" at an international competition may not compete in the Novice division. A contestant who has won other major awards in the Novice division at international competitions is encouraged to enter in the Journeyman division or higher and should discuss with the Masquerade Director which level to choose.
- **Young Fan/Junior:** An entrant who is under 13 years of age on the day of the masquerade and who is not part of an adult entry may enter the Young Fan division. This division is for costumes designed and/or made by the young fan, either in their entirety or with assistance from adults (such as parents).
- **Self-made:** A Junior contestant who has constructed 50% + his/her own costume.
- **Junior Adult-Made:** A Junior contestant whose costume has been 50%-75% constructed by an adult.
- A child wearing a costume designed and built entirely by an adult should be entered either in the adult's appropriate skill division or Not in Competition.

Group entries should compete at the level of the group's most experienced member(s).

An entrant may choose to compete in a division that expects higher skill levels. If in doubt about which division to enter, consult the Masquerade Director.

All contestants must have a valid weekend or Saturday NFCC pass to compete

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The Masquerade is an amateur competition. Purchased or rented costumes may not be entered in competition for awards, but may be shown on stage in the Out-Of-Competition Division

No contestant may appear on stage more than once. Costumers may enter more than one costume, but each must appear on a different model. No “cameos” allowed, either.

Never Surprise the Crew: Entrants should surprise the audience. Never surprise the crew! No exceptions to the “never surprise the crew” rule will be permitted and entrants who attempt to do so will be disqualified.

Judging

The judges will consider both entry categories and skill divisions in making their awards. The masquerade’s philosophy is “excellence deserves award”; there are no predetermined minimum or maximum number of awards the judges may make.

Presentation Judging: A panel of judges will be at the front of the audience watching the entries as they present their costumes. They will look both at the costumes and at how they appear on stage: Judging by them is mandatory for all entries except for costumes entered “not in competition”.

Workmanship Judging: Judging for Workmanship Awards will take place prior to the start of the Masquerade. These awards, for excellence in construction, will be given out in addition to the Masquerade awards. You can be judged on your costume or only on a specific piece or prop. Workmanship judging is optional, so please indicate on your entry form if you wish to be included in this judging. Workmanship applies to entries in any of the Divisions, except the Out-of-Competition Division. Quality is quality, no matter the Division, and a beautiful job deserves recognition. Our Workmanship Judge(s) will look for technical skill, finishing, fit, handling of fabric and materials, etc.

Documentation can include any pictorial representation of your costume. Provide copies only; do not bring originals. It is strongly recommended that you provide documentation for re-creation costume entries if you feel the Judges may not be familiar with a particular Anime/Manga. We recommend that, if in doubt, you let the workmanship judges evaluate your work, even if you’re not impressed by it. If you don’t, you deny them the opportunity to give you an award! And never tell the judges what you don’t like about your costume or what you feel you did wrong.

Your entire costume need not be judged; you can (and many do!) submit just one part of it for judging. For example, you may present just one prop, or a headdress, or all the beading.

If you think you may want workmanship judging, please check the YES box on your entry form. If you’re sure you won’t, please check NO. This will help us schedule our judges’ time better, to ensure everybody’s work gets a fair viewing.

Awards: Awards will be presented when the judges have reached their decisions After the show, contestants are usually brought onstage to pose for fan photos while the judges deliberate. It is not mandatory, but if you’re competing, we urge you to stay in the area and be prepared to be called back on stage for an award. Awards will be announced by skill division and will include both awards for stage appearance and for workmanship.