

Find out how you can earn a free membership by running panels!

We are happy to announce that fan panelists will have the opportunity to earn a free membership by running panels.

Requirements

- You must be 18 or older.
- You must provide **at least 3 hours** of on-topic programming that reflects Sakura-Con's mission of the "understanding of Asian culture through the use of traditional and contemporary media." Although Sakura-Con is filled with many different types of pop culture, the panels that qualify toward free memberships **must be focused around teaching and sharing Asian culture.**
- You may also provide 5 hours of off-topic panels for the same complimentary badges.
- You may also provide 2 additional hours of panels either on or off topic to gain an additional badge for a third co-panelist.

Examples of panels that would qualify toward a free membership:

- "Otaku 25 and Older"
- "Superhero Time: a Tokusatsu Primer"
- "The Touhou Project"
- "Fairies and Dragons Along the Silk Road"
- "Anime Art Basics"

Examples of panels that would NOT qualify toward a free membership:

- "Ask" type character panels (ex: "Ask Hetalia" or "Ask Usagi Anything!")
- Dating games and game shows or games in general (ex: "Cosplay Limbo")
- Cosplay panels, unless it is about its impact on Japanese culture, or cosplay as a cultural art form.
- Any panel that is about comics/cartoons/pop culture that does not relate to Japan/Asia (ex: Futurama, Homestuck, Star Wars, Adventure Time) unless it's expressly about how Japan/Asia has influenced the media or vice versa.

Anyone is welcome to make their case for why their panel should be considered toward a free membership, but the Panels Coordinator has the final say. If you have a question about if a panel you want to submit qualifies toward a free membership, please email panels@sakuracon.org

Restrictions

- For the minimum of required hours, **only two members of your group will qualify for free memberships.**
 - Everyone receiving the free membership must be 18 or older.
 - Make sure you list your co-panelist on the panel submission form if you want them to also receive a free membership. If you are running panels by yourself, then you will only receive one free membership.
 - You may not list a friend as a co-panelist in order to get them a free membership if they are not hosting the panel with you. The Panel Moderators will have lists of the panelists and will be checking for any abuses of the system.

- More hours *can* mean more memberships; if you have two co-panelists, you must all run 5 hours of culturally relevant content, or 7 non-relevant, respectively. If a third member of your group submits 3 different hours of qualified programming under their name, then they would be eligible by themselves.

Anyone who uses this system to acquire free membership, but does not fulfill their responsibility will have a one-year panel ban, their membership pulled if we find you during the convention, as well as a strike against your membership (remember, three strikes and you're out).

Notification

- Panelists will be notified of their free membership once the schedule is set and all panels have been approved in February. If you haven't heard from us by this time, but feel that you qualify, please contact the Panels Coordinator at panels@sakuracon.org.