Frequently Asked Questions

Panel Deadlines

When are Panel Submissions due?
This year Panel Submissions will have a deadline of February 1st, 2018.

No Panel Submissions will be accepted after this date.

When will I know if my panel has been accepted?
Once your panels form has been submitted through our website, you should receive a confirmation email letting you know that we have received your panel submission. If you do not receive a confirmation within 24 hours please reach out to the Panels Coordinator, as your submission might not have gone through.

After that, you should receive an email at the **beginning of March** with either a panel acceptance or a waitlist letter, detailing next steps.

If you do not receive either an acceptance or a waitlist letter email by **March 5th**, please email the Panel Coordinator at panels@sakuracon.org.

Panel Ratings

What should I rate my panel?
At Sakura-Con, we have a ratings system loosely based on the same system they use to rate movies. The guidelines are:

SC-ALL	No cursing, no suggestive themes, light slapstick humor
SC-10	No cursing, no suggestive themes, light humor and light adventure violence
SC-13	Possible light cursing (no F-bombs, S-bombs, or C-bombs), some suggestive themes, light raunchy humor, adventure violence.
SC-MA	Possible cursing (use good judgment), mature themes, raunchy humor, more intense (but not graphic) violence.

NOT ALLOWED IN ANY PANEL - nudity, uncensored sexual images, inappropriate touching, discriminatory dialogue, non-slapstick/adventure violence

Note: all panelist must meet the age requirement for the panel. For example, someone under the age of 18 will not be allowed to host a SC-MA panel.

I have a panel idea, but it may not be appropriate for all ages. Can I still submit it to be considered?

Yes. All panels that are submitted are considered. Sakura-Con is a convention for all ages, including adults. However, we do reserve the right to ask that you change any unnecessarily graphic or sexual content as a condition of acceptance.

Will my panel be appropriate for its rating/the convention?

The ratings above are what you should use to determine how your panel will add to the convention, and who your target audience is. As always, if you feel uncertain about your panel content, stop and ask, "Do I really need this for my panel to work?" You may be surprised at your answer.

Note: the rating of your panel may be adjusted by the Panel Coordinator based on content. We will email you prior to the convention to confirm the rating change.

Panel Submissions

How do I sign up for panels?

Fill out the panels form located on the Panels page and submit it to our staff. You should receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of the submission. Please note that all panels are subject to an approval process, and we do not guarantee that all panels submitted will be accepted.

Do I need anything special to become a panelist?

To be a panelist, you will need to be a registered Sakura-Con attendee by the time of your panel. Other details will be given once your panel is approved and put into the schedule in February.

How much does it cost to run a panel at Sakura-Con?

Nothing, but you do need to be a registered attendee (or staff member). All you need to do is fill out a panel request form properly.

I've never done a panel before, but I have a great idea. Can I put in a panel request?

Yes! Sakura-Con is more than happy to review your panel request, no previous experience is needed.

I want to submit a panel that has nothing to do with anime/Japan/video games or Asian culture. Is this okay?

Yes, go ahead and submit your panel (we obviously do have some very popular off topic programming), but remember that these "off topic" panels will have lowest priority when it comes to scheduling.

If we have to make room for "on topic" panels, these are the first to be moved or cut completely. If you can find a way to tie in the subject to make it "on topic" that would be best!

How many panelists can I have in my group?
All of our panel rooms have a limit of 8 panelists, with only 4 being allowed on stage at a time. If you have more than 8 panelists, you will be asked to trim your panelists down to 8 people to even have your panel considered.

If you absolutely need more than 8 panelists, please be aware that we only have ONE room that we can use for a large number of panelists. This room is normally reserved for Cultural Panelists, Guest Panelists, Industry Panelists, and Cosplay Chess games that require the space. Unless you request a Late Night or Night Owl panel, be aware that it is extremely unlikely you will able to use this room. This is especially true if your panel does not relate to anime/Japan/Asian culture.

Can I run the same panel multiple times during the convention?
No, we don't allow the same panel to run multiple times during the convention.

However, if you wanted to separate the panel into two parts (i.e. covering 1/2 of the anime in one panel and the other 1/2 in a second one) that would be fine. Please submit the panels separately and add a note to the comments section to let us know what you are planning.

I submitted my panel on time, but it wasn't in the guidebook. What happened?
In some years, MA rated panels were not included in the guidebook. It MAY happen again this year. If it matters that much to you to be in the guidebook, don't run an MA panel. MA panel descriptions will be listed online after they are finalized.

Special Requests
I need a large room with an open area. Is this possible?
This is the HARDEST request to schedule. We only have ONE room that has a large open area and priority goes to Cultural Panelists, Guest Panelists, Industry Panelists, and Cosplay Chess games that require the space. Unless you request a Late Night or Night Owl panel, be aware that it is extremely unlikely you will able to use this room. This is especially true if your panel does not relate to anime/Japan/Asian culture.

Can I request a specific room?
No. Returning panelists who have proven their need for larger rooms will be given priority for size. The questions on the panel form will be used to gauge the approximate attendance of that panel as well as specific tech requirements only certain rooms have. These, in addition to to your panel topic are the deciding factors in who is placed in which rooms.

Can I schedule an event in a public space, such as Freeway Park or by the escalators?
No. Public areas are not under the jurisdiction of Sakura-Con, so we cannot guarantee or reserve space for you in public areas. Please note that if you block access or become a fire hazard, you may be asked to move by WSCTC employees and must comply.

Can I request prizes for my panel?
Yes. There is a space on the panel request form for you to request prizes (Petal Points) for your panel. While we will do our best to meet your request, please know that there is no guarantee that the prize allotment you receive will match your original request. The Prize Room Coordinator will contact you if you mark on your panels form that you are interested in receiving prizes.

Can I request internet access for my panel?
No. Although in various years in the past Wi-Fi may have been available, this is no longer a convention provided service. If you require the internet for your panel, you will be responsible for making arrangements.

Can I request an adapter to connect my laptop to the project?
No, we don't have any adapters that we can loan to panelists. Please remember to bring your adapters with you.

Who should I talk to if I need any other special accommodations?
The panel submission form has all you need to request special accommodations for your panel.

Please note that the equipment listed on the form for you, is what we have, period. If an item is not on the form, we unfortunately do not have it, and you will need to provide that item.

During the Panel
What is a Panel Moderator and why are they in my room?
Panel Moderators are staff members assigned to each panel. They will help whoever is hosting the panel in cases of set-up, tech issues, line control, MA stamp checking, bringing a microphone to audience members during a Q&A, etc. Please note, though, that Panel Moderators do have the power to call someone and stop a panel if the hosts or attendees break Sakura-Con policy or start to go beyond the age rating of the panel.

Can I rearrange my room for my panel?
No. Panel rooms must be left in the condition in which you found them for the duration of your panel. It is against WSCTC policy for Sakura-Con to rearrange rooms without approval.

Can I put tape on the floor, or mark any surfaces for my panel?
No. WSCTC has asked us that we not mark surfaces in any way and we are dedicated to honoring that request. If you require special setup, please let us know and we will try our best to accommodate your needs.

Can I give out or do a demonstration with food at my panel?
No. All food and drink must be provided by Aramark within the convention center.

Can I sell things at my panel?
No. While activities such as swap meets or trading sessions are allowed, money is not allowed to change hands. If you would like to sell something at Sakura-Con, we strongly encourage you to apply at artist alley or purchase booth space in the Exhibitors' hall.

If I have trouble with the tech at my panel, can I fix it myself?
No. Let your Panel Moderator know, and they will find someone to fix the problem for you or call someone to have the problem fixed. One of the benefits of hosting a panel is that you can have someone fix your tech problems for you!

Help! There are minors in my MA panel! What should I do?
Ask them to leave. Ask your Panel Moderator for help if you need it to check badges and hand stamps to get the minors to leave the room or if anyone puts up a fight. Adult badges and wrist stamps are required for all MA panels and will be checked at the door by a Panel Moderator.

After the Panel

Can I get the contact information of the panelist for the amazing panel I went to?
Maybe, you can try asking the panelist directly after the panel. If you miss the panelist during the convention, you can try emailing the Panels Coordinator but we need to check with the panelist to see if they are comfortable with us sharing their information.

Couldn't find the answer to your question?
Post your question to our Facebook group (http://www.facebook.com/SakuraCon) or email the Panels Coordinator at panels@sakuracon.org.