

# Sakura-Con 2025 18+ Skit Contest Official Rules

See your favorite characters come to life on stage! The Sakura-Con 18+ Skit is a competition showcase of stage performance, open to Cosplayers of all levels of experience. This is not a Popularity Contest or a Look-aLike Contest. It's YOUR opportunity to showcase performance skills and ham it up in front of a live adult audience.

The show will be judged on the performance specifically. And while costumes will be required, they will not be a primary focus of judging.

Awards will be given in each of the following 3 categories: Drama, Comedy, Musical. We will also be awarding Best In Show.

(limit one entry per person or group).

Sign-ups are processed on a first-come- first-served basis, separated by category. All submissions will be reviewed by the Cosplay Contest Staff in the order they are received. Those not completed fully and correctly according to submission requirements below, will be rejected and asked to re-submit. Please take the time to thoroughly read the rules, and ask any questions before sign-ups are open.

All correspondence for the contest (including initial acceptance and rejection/revision emails) will be coming from [cosplay.contests@sakuracon.org](mailto:cosplay.contests@sakuracon.org) - In the past, our emails have been caught in some spam filters, even by those who previously received emails from us without issue. Please make sure to add this email to your 'allowed' address list, and check your spam folders regularly.

We are not responsible for any missed emails due to individual provider's spam filters.

For any questions regarding the rules and sign-up details, please contact the Cosplay Contest Coordinator at [cosplay.contests@sakuracon.org](mailto:cosplay.contests@sakuracon.org)

\*Coordinator and staff have the final say on rules. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. SakuraCon and ANCEA are not responsible for any damage or loss to a prop or costume brought on-site.

## Contest Format / Time Requirements

Participating in a Skit Contest requires time commitment for the show itself, but also at other times during the convention. Be prepared to devote the necessary time during the weekend to check in on Friday and attend rehearsal on Saturday before the show. Any potential scheduling conflicts must be brought to the coordinator's attention ASAP to see if any accommodations can be made.

### General Rules

All contestants must be registered attendees of Sakura-Con and possess a Sakura-Con Convention Badge.

All costumes and performances must adhere to the [Sakura-Con policies](#). All policies remain in place during the event. Some major points related to the contest are listed below.

“Section III: Convention Policies for All Members at the Sakura-Con Convention

#### D. Footwear

Due to public health and safety requirements, all Members are required to wear approved footwear while in the convention space. Acceptable footwear includes shoes, sandals, flip-flops, aqua sox, and slippers. Unsafe or hazardous footwear is not allowed to be worn while in the convention center.

#### E. Costumes

We are all excited about dressing up as characters and in costumes for the upcoming Sakura-Con convention. Sakura-Con reserves the right to deem a costume unacceptable and request the wearer to make modifications as necessary. This convention is a family-friendly event. Please keep this in mind when choosing costumes and allow common sense and good taste to prevail (see section III-N regarding Indecent Exposure). Footwear, per the Bare Feet policy (section III-D), is required in the convention space. Please remember to follow hotel policies for items such as towels that may be permanently stained by makeup removal.

#### L. Hate Speech Policy

Sakura-Con is open to everyone. We feel strongly that our differences make us a better community overall, and that our membership, staff, vendors, exhibitors, sponsors, and

guests deserve a welcoming and inclusive space to celebrate all things Asian Culture. With that, we are proud to announce that we have a Zero Tolerance for Hate Speech.

Zero Tolerance for Hate speech.

Hate speech is any form of expression through which speakers intend to vilify, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group or a class of persons on the basis of race, religion, skin color, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, or national origin.

During our event, we ask that you are respectful of everyone in attendance by following this guidance:

Be mindful of your communication and your choice of words, actions, or gestures. Please refrain from anything that is harassing or abusive, or that could be obscene. This does include, but is not limited to slurs, hate speech, discriminatory language, bullying, mocking, ridiculing, or mimicking another's attributes.

Threatening or intimidating anyone during our event is unacceptable in any way.

Any action that directly or indirectly takes into account an individual's culture, ethnicity, race, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, immigration status, religion, disability, gender identity and expression, accent, appearance, or customs, is prohibited.

Clothing that displays or projects hate speech, symbols that promote hate speech, derogatory or abusive language, pornography, or obscene content is strictly prohibited. You will be asked to remove the item of clothing or leave the premises until it is removed. If you return while still wearing the item or refuse to remove it or leave until it is removed, you will be banned from attending Sakura-Con and your membership revoked.

Swastikas and anti-semitic imagery and language is strictly prohibited.

Any anti-Asian language or imagery is strictly prohibited.

Please keep in mind that while you might not find something offensive, another member might. Offensive behavior is defined by how it is perceived, not by your intention. While we are a very diverse community, we still have minimum standards as to what we will and will not allow at our event to keep our membership safe. If you think something is not offensive but others do, that behavior is not acceptable, we will take action to protect our members and keep them safe.

#### P. Indecent Exposure

Sakura-Con requires that all Members wear attire equivalent to at least a non-thong swimsuit while in the convention space. Sakura Attendee Services may, at their discretion, ask Members to change their attire if they are not complying with this policy; repeat offenders may earn a strike against their badge as per the "Three Strikes" policy (see Section III-Z).

Overt sexual behavior or attire will result in Sakura Attendee Services, herein known as SAS, asking the Member to stop, and may result in a strike against the Member's badge. If there is any disagreement with the decision of SAS, or if the Member feels that he or she is being treated unfairly by SAS, he or she may appeal to the Director of Operations, but the Director of Operations decision is final.

## CC. Weapons

No Members will be permitted to carry any kind of functional projectile weapon. This includes individuals who possess a weapons permit or concealed weapons permit. Keep them at home. Anyone found in possession of such a weapon will immediately have their membership revoked. Individuals caught in the illegal possession of a functioning projectile weapon will be reported and turned over to the proper authorities. All other items that could be used as a weapon MUST be peacebonded.

You must have your props submitted for peacebonding. Complete this action BEFORE entering convention space or you will receive a strike against your badge as per the "Three Strikes" policy (See section III-Z). Peacebonding will be conducted at the peacebonding table. **Please see the Convention Souvenir guide for locations.** Government issued photo ID is required at peacebonding to have your prop peacebonded. Members seventeen and under must have their guardian or accompanying adult with them to have their prop peacebonded.

Bladed Weapons: All weapon props made out of metal and designed to represent a blade (including, but not limited to, swords, daggers, kunai, and scythes), with an edge a quarter of an inch in width or narrower and/or a sharply pointed tip) must remain sheathed. Additionally, it must be possible for peace-bonding staff to securely zip-tie the prop into its sheath so that it may not be drawn. Ribbons, cloth, or tape wrapped around the blade do not qualify as sheaths.

Weapons should never be waved around in a manner that may be construed as use of the weapon (this is considered brandishing).

Gun props or other prop projectile weapons should not be pointed at anyone at any time. Prop pistols need to remain in a holster; prop rifles need to be slung. Permanently disabled cap guns and permanently disabled water guns are permissible.

Paddles (all varieties-including "yaoi paddles") are not allowed.

Drawing a weapon in the convention space, including parking lots, may result in immediate revocation of convention membership. Keep in mind, police will assume all drawn weapons are functional, and will act accordingly. If you are unsure whether your weapon is acceptable in the convention space, please ask Sakura Attendee Services personnel or ask at the Convention Office.

Exotic weapons will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Do not bring weapons that Sakura Attendee Services cannot tell are fake from ten feet away.

No functioning or previously functioning projectile weapons, or functional portion thereof, including, but not limited to, AirSoft, Nerf, or pellet guns will be allowed.

Bows: All props designed to represent a stringed weapon must be unstrung, regardless of the manner in which they were constructed. 'Unstrung' means that no length of cord, string, rope, or other flexible material may be connected from one limb of the prop to the other."

### **Additional rules (listed below) also apply.**

All sign-ups are Online Only -- No Entries will be accepted for the show or wait-list at the convention. If all slots fill before sign-ups close, entries received after hitting the entry cap will be placed on a waiting list. If any confirmed entries drop-out, places will be offered to those on the waitlist in order of who signed up first.

This is a SC-18/R Rated event – please keep this in mind when planning your stage presentation. Cursing will be ENCOURAGED, and any innuendo DOES NOT NEED to have an equally obvious non-suggestive interpretation. If you are unsure whether something is allowed or not, please email [cosplay.contests@sakuracon.org](mailto:cosplay.contests@sakuracon.org)

The use of makeup techniques, bodypaint, and/or bodysocks with the intent to alter your skin/features to resemble a \*real human race\* different from your own, will not be permitted. This is grounds for immediate disqualification. If you have questions, please reach out to the cosplayer coordinator.

Each contestant may only appear on stage in ONE entry

You must have some kind of foot covering that is more substantial than socks. Shoes or boots are required. This is a matter of safety. If your character does not usually wear shoes, the 'inaccuracy' will be forgiven; If you are adamant about the look, consider shoes that match your flesh-tone, or clear shoes. This is non-negotiable.

Size and Mobility of your costume should be taken into consideration. For purposes of safety, your costume should conform to the following limitations while worn:

Can fit/be maneuvered through a standard ADA doorway (not a double-doorway)

Should not significantly inhibit the cosplayer's usual level of ability to navigate safely backstage in dim lighting/getting on-and-off stage, with minimal assistance (Limit 1 handler).

Should not significantly inhibit the cosplayer's usual level of ability to navigate the main stage.

Any use of height-enhancement equipment (such as stilts or platforms) may not be home-built, and may not raise the cosplayer more than 8 inches off the ground. (lifts/platforms that appear to be more than 6 inches may be subject to measurement confirmation by staff)

Only contestants appearing on stage (Cosplayers / Ninjas) and approved handlers are allowed to be in the green room/backstage during the show. Entries with very large or unwieldy costumes, or other special circumstances will be allowed to bring one (1) handler with them, but they must be requested directly with the Cosplay Contest Staff, for accurate head-count. Handlers should only be used if you are incapable of using your hands/maneuvering your costume alone, or you have other health needs. If you just need someone to hold your belongings while you're on stage, we will have a staff-monitored space to store your personal belongings if needed.

Any substances that may cause damage or mess to the stage, equipment, or other entrants costumes are not permitted on stage, in the green room, or anywhere backstage. This includes but is not limited to glitter, anything oily, greasy, or that can stain; liquids, fire, smoke/smoke machines or anything requiring an external power source, dry ice, confetti/powder/small debris. This also includes items made of glass or certain ceramics, which can cause a hazard in the event they are accidentally broken.

If something is not listed here but you are unsure, please ask the Cosplay Contest Coordinator.

**Surprise the audience, but never surprise the staff/crew -- Any 'surprise elements' must be run by the Cosplay Contest Coordinator for approval. Absolutely NO jumping on or off stage. No acrobatics/flips/cartwheels will be allowed. Violating this will result in disqualification from the competition, and participation in future Skit contests. When in doubt, ask.**

Prop Weapons brought on stage may not be brandished at the Audience, Judges, or Emcees, and must have been peace-bonded.

All contestants are required to check in at the convention on Friday, and attend tech rehearsal on Saturday. Failure to comply without communication to the Masq Events staff will result in an assumed drop-out, and disqualification.

## Performance Rules

Performance entries consist of presentations including but not limited to short stories/skits, musical numbers, monologues, dancing, and stage/costume tricks. These can involve the use of oversized

props/set pieces, and permit the use of your own stage ninjas to assist on stage during the performance.

Performances will be judged based on the qualities of the presentation, including entertainment value, stage presence/polish, and audio quality/clarity.

- Performance is an Open competition -- All entries will be evaluated equally, with awards handed out based on the Genre of the performances (Drama, Comedy, Musical/Dance). Since many great performances can fall into multiple genres, the judges will determine the category that best fits your performance when they deliberate.
- There will be a maximum of 10 entries allowed. Once this fills, the rest will be placed on a wait list. If a confirmed entry drops, the space will be offered to those on the waitlist based on the order in which they signed up.
- **Performances are limited to less than 4 minutes in length.**
- Purchased, Commissioned or “Closet Cosplay” costumes *will* be permitted as this is not a costume contest to judge craftsmanship.
- No Original Characters. This means that completely Original Characters such as your own D&D character, Fan-based Original Characters (Like “Sailor Earth”), a character from an original story you/your friends created, your Fursona, etc, **will not be permitted**. In the case of Performance entries, nameless stand-in characters (such as a narrator) or representation of a Real Life Person (example: Matthew Mercer as the DM in a Critical Role skit), or other such examples, may be permitted on case-by-case basis, as long as it serves a purpose to the performance.
- Groups in 2025 are limited to 10 persons, *including* stage ninjas (Example: 8 cosplayers and 2 ninjas are 10 persons). We should have staff to help you get props/sets on and off stage before/after your performance, but if you need assistance during your performance, you will need to provide your own help.
- All Performances must be screened for general content. You will be expected to provide a ‘script’ in your digital file-share folder at the time of sign up! A script should include any/all spoken dialogue or song lyrics, general blocking (IE: Character A sword fights with Character B), any style of dance (IE: Belly Dancing, Ballet, etc) or if you are doing a dance cover, a link

to video of the original choreography. The Cosplay Contest Staff may ask for additional information or clarification. If there is anything questionably against the rules or deemed inappropriate to convention policy, you may be rejected, or asked to make changes and given a window of time to re-submit your entry. Don't be afraid to ask questions before submitting! If you decide to make revisions after you've been accepted to the show, you will need to notify the coordinator of these changes, so they can also be reviewed for approval.

- All Audio for your performance must be pre-recorded – No Live Microphones will be permitted. The audio files will be due AFTER final approval of your script, and does NOT have to be included at time of sign-up. It will be submitted by uploading into the same shared folder you provided us with in your original sign-up.
  
- Any individual set piece must be capable of being carried by no more than 2 people, and capable of fitting through a standard interior doorway (like in your home, NOT the double doorways sometimes seen in the convention center)
  
- At this time, we do not know what custom lighting, if any, we will be able to provide. Please be prepared for full lights at all times. If custom lighting becomes a possibility, it will be discussed in communication with accepted entries as the convention approaches.
  
- **Performance entries are required to have the following items in their online shared folder, at time of sign up:**
  - **Your Script**, to be reviewed for content and approval.
  - **Reference Images** of the costumes(s) you will be presenting

**Video from last years event: [2024 Contest](#)**