

# *SakuraCon IdolFest*

Do you enjoy the experience of J-Pop, K-Pop and other idol performances? Are you into Love Live, Zombieland Saga or the dozens of other Idol Anime? Did KPop Demon Hunters open your eyes to Idol Culture? Did Umamusume make you want to get some friends together and “Make Debut?” Or are you part of one of the many amazing PNW’s Idol Groups? It’s time you get a stage in Seattle to show off. Welcome to the Sakuracon Idolfest! A place for all Idols to showcase their talents for the audience and win prizes!

**The Contest will open for applications on 1/25/26 at 12PM PST**

**Enter Here!**

## **How It Works**

The Sakuracon Idolfest is for solo and group performances of up to ten people live on stage. Convention attendees will submit a video of their auditions through the links below showing off their Lip Sync performance skills. The organizers and hosts will review every application to select this year's list of performers. Unlike the Cosplay contest, Idolfest is NOT a first come/first served event. Performers will be selected based on the coordination showcased in their audition video. The more prepared you are, the more likely you are to be selected for the event. A set number of performances will be allocated to Solo Performances and Group Performances regardless of the number of entries received in either category.

IDOLFEST 2026 HOSTED BY THE ONE AND ONLY:



## How To Enter

- Submit an application at this [Link](#) beginning on January 25th
- The deadline for online auditions is March 1st, 2025, at 11:59pm PST
- As part of the submission process, you will need a shared online folder containing your:
  - Audition Video (More information below)
  - Lyric Sheet (More information below)
  - Performance Audio (More information below)
- The audition video will need to be a minimum of 90 seconds of you or your group performing. It must include a full body view of all members for at least a majority of the video. It must also be done in one shot without any filters or edits. (Group names or information on songs used in the video will be allowed)
- Performers will be selected by a small judging panel including the event organizers and the hosts of this year's show. There will be a separate waitlist for the top 5 solo and group performers not selected during the audition process for drop outs or if extra time is allotted to the event.
- Performers must check in at the designated rehearsal and show times. Any performers who do not show up for rehearsal will be removed from the run of the show and replaced with a wait list candidate.
- Each performance is allowed up to 5 minutes to perform, and will be given an opportunity before and after their performance to greet the audience.
- Costumes are required but are not needed for the audition video. Costumes do NOT need to be hand made. Store-bought costumes are welcome.
- Performers can either elect to use pre-recorded audio or are permitted to sing. Be aware that for group performers there will only be two microphones available, and audio quality of the microphones isn't a guarantee. We highly encourage pre-recorded audio for performances.
- Be aware at this time we are not sure if we will be able to accommodate any lighting requests. If this changes, we will have a request form for all accepted performances closer to the convention

## Music

- Entry is limited to 1 audio file with a maximum of 5 minutes run time per performer or group.
- Songs must be either from or inspired by K-Pop, J-Pop, or similar Idols.
- Your audition folder must include a lyric sheet so we can check over the performance material for content that may not meet convention guidelines. If the song is not in English, you must include lyrics in the original language and the English translation.
- If singing, the performer must upload a Karaoke track to their folder in addition to an example of the original version of the song.
- Please have at least two songs prepared. If two performers have the same song, one or both will be asked to perform an alternate song. We will only allow one performance of any song during Idolfest
- You must have your preferred song uploaded to your shared folder.
  - MP3 or M4A are preferred audio formats. Other standard audio formats will be accepted, but must be audio only. No music videos will be accepted.
  - While it is not required, we do recommend having a backup copy of your song with you on a flash drive or easily accessible link in the event of a late song change that might not get put into the show playlist ahead of the rehearsal.

## General / All Entries Rules

- All entry members 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](#). No live steel, no functioning or previously functioning projectile weapons, no indecent exposure, etc... please see Sakura-Con policies for a complete list. 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.** Applications will be accepted from **January 25th at 12PM PST through March 1st at 11:59PM PST**. [LINK HERE](#). 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-13/PG-13 event – please keep this in mind when planning your stage presentation. No cursing will be permitted, and any innuendo must 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 or equivocal fantasy race/ real human skin tone\* 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 performer 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 and props 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 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 performers 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 Staff, for an accurate

head-count. Handlers should only be used if you are incapable of using your hands/maneuvering your costume alone, or if 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.

A Parent/Guardian may accompany participants whose age requires them to be under this supervision according to SakuraCon policy. Entrants must notify the coordinator of any handlers/guardians that will need to be present. This is all for safety/security, to make sure we know everyone who should or should not be allowed backstage, and to make sure the limited space is not overly crowded with extra bodies.

- 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 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 that they are accidentally broken.

If something is not listed here but you are unsure, please ask the cosplay coordinator.

- Surprise the audience, but never surprise the staff/crew -- Any 'surprise elements' must be run by the cosplay coordinator for approval. Absolutely NO jumping on or off the stage. No acrobatics/flips/cartwheels will be allowed. Violating this will result in disqualification from the competition and participation in future SakuraCon cosplay contests. *When in doubt, ask.*
- In the sign up form, **all entries will be required to link to a public file-share folder** containing the appropriate files/documentation for your entry type. Google Drive is preferred, but DropBox or One Drive are also acceptable. At the time of sign-up, your folder **MUST** contain the following:
  - A) Your Audition Video
  - B) Lyric Sheet
  - C) Intended Audio File

Please see the Sample Folder and details in the rules below for clear examples of what your folder should look like.

### IdolFest Examples

If your folder share link does not work for cosplay staff (example: If we must request permission to view your folder, the link is broken, or the link goes to a single file in your folder instead of the main folder), you will be asked to update the link. You will be given 24 hours to update the link from the time of our request **before** it's rejected. You'll be asked to submit the application again if that happens. We suggest having a friend test if your folder can be viewed by anyone with the link, and that the link is correct *before* submission!