

Call for Entries for the



Cosplay Contest

Show off your cosplays at the seventh Geek/Art CONfluence COSPLAY CONTEST organized through Syracuse University on April 19, 2026.

We will have both a Cosplay Contest *and* a Cosplay **Dance** Contest this year! We are also expanding the number of prize categories for the cosplay contest for even more winners! See the separate rules for each type of contest below.

See the separate rules for each type of contest below. [You can get to the contest page through this link](#) or the QR code:



COSPLAY CONTEST DETAILS

Our traditional in-person cosplay contest will be held at 4:00 in **Goldstein Auditorium in the Schine Student Center** on the Syracuse University campus on April 19.

Anything that looks like a weapon must be kept under wraps except in the actual CON room—don't parade them around campus, please.

Standard "safe weapon" rules apply—nothing that can actually shoot, nothing that would hurt somebody if we whacked or poked them with it. We reserve the right to temporarily confiscate any accessories that we deem to be too dangerous, solely on our judgement, and will return them after the show.

In-person contestants must sign up at the judge's table on the day of the CON. Sign-ups will end an hour before the contest begins, so you must sign up between 11:00 and 3:00.

Please be ready to give the judges this information:

- your name and/or cosplay name
- the name of your character
- the show/game/comic etc. that the character is from
- a reference image of your character, unless your cosplay is an original character
- how much of your costume you made yourself

PRIZE CATEGORIES

- Grand Prize—the best overall costume in the contest
- Excellence in Construction—the costume showing the most technical skill in construction
- Best Closet Cosplay—the coolest costume pulled together from existing or slightly-modified clothes and materials you might find at home
- Best Expression of Character—the cosplayer who best inhabits their character's persona on stage
- Best Group Cosplay—the most amazing themed group of cosplayers
- Favorite Kids Cosplay—for kids 12 and under
- Most Fun—for the cosplayer and costume that just shines on stage as being hella fun

If you wish to be considered for Excellence in Construction or the Grand Prize, please see the judges ahead of time so they can see your costume in detail. You must have made/ altered at least 75% of your costume for Excellence in Construction and the Grand Prize. Group Cosplays do NOT need a skit, they just need to be a themed group. Kids' costumes can be made or purchased by the kids or their families.

COSPLAY DANCE CONTEST

The cosplay dance contest will be held earlier in the afternoon. It does *not* require advanced sign-ups. When we announce the Dance Contest, everyone interested can simply come up on stage and shake it! We will play three

songs that have featured prominently in geek culture (movies, video games, anime, etc.) and you can dance your heart out! We will give out at least three prizes for the Dance Contest. Contestants will not be judged on their costume construction, but on their dancing awesomeness. The Dance Contest is for FUN for EVERYONE.

GENERAL RULES AND TIPS

Costumes can be from any genre, including original characters and mash-ups.

We will photograph all participants in the contest. By entering the contest, you are allowing us to photograph and video you, and you are granting us permission to post those images or videos publicly on our website, social media, and other sites, and to use them as publicity and documentation for the CON this year and in future years.

We reserve the right to refuse cosplays that are offensive in nature, based on our judgment.

PRIZES

We're giving out more money and more prizes for our in-person contest than we ever have before! Our prizes include cash for the Grand Prize and Construction categories and significant bundles of swag for all other winners. Plus, every winner wins a trophy custom-designed for their category!

"Swag!" will consist of a generous trove of collectibles, comics, and art, including items from our excellent vendors, as well as tickets to other local cons such as NoCoCon. One of the "Swag!" bundles will *also* randomly have an additional \$50 in cash secretly inserted inside!

- Grand Prize: \$200
- Excellence in Construction: \$100
- Best Closet Cosplay: Swag!
- Best Expression of Character: Swag!
- Best Group Cosplay: Swag!
- Favorite Kids Cosplay: Swag!
- Most Fun: Swag!
- Dance Prizes: Swag!

QUESTIONS?

Email Chris Wildrick, chris.wildrick@gmail.com, or message him on [Facebook @geekartconfluence](#).

We're also on [Instagram @geekartcon](#).