**Wellsboro Comic Con Cosplay Contest**

**Saturday, August 9th; 4:30pm**

**Deane Center Lawn**

Like comics, cosplay (or the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game) can be both story and art, a noun and a verb, a journey of creation and final presentation.

We welcome first-time cosplayers and seasoned veterans of the craft. Regardless of your experience level, please review the following rules and entry information to help us all celebrate together and lift each other up!

General Cosplay Contest Information

There is no cost to enter the cosplay contest, but all contestants must register prior to 4pm on Saturday, August 9 at the registration booth.

**By registering for the Cosplay contest, you authorize that you have read and agree to all rules and guidelines outlined here, as well as any instructions given by Wellsboro Comic Con staff and affiliates during the event. Your registration also grants permission for photography and/or video of you to be used for future promotional/publication purposes.**

At registration, a safety check will be conducted (see additional rules below), and you will be asked for your name, costume fandom, and character name. You will receive a contestant number which will need to be visibly displayed with your costume.

**All contestants must report to the Deane Center Lawn by 4:15 pm!**

Judging will be conducted in three categories.  Adult (18 and over), Youth (17 and under), and Group (2 to 7 members).  Emphasis will be placed on personal craftsmanship and creativity!

Each participant/group will enter the stage and pose for the judges while your number, name(s), “fandom”, and character’s name(s) are announced by the Emcee. You will then move to the awards/photo area. If you are entering both the individual and group category (7 members max), return to your group after your individual presentation. Cosplay contestants will not be able to interact with the crowd/Emcee verbally during the Cosplay contest - your costume must speak for itself! If you are interested in portraying your character through words/actions, you may join us on the Deane Center lawn at 4pm for a fun, informal character session prior to the contest!

Youth and Adult categories: prizes will be awarded for Creativity, Craftsmanship, and Character.

Group contestants may first present in the individual competition, then gather back in line as a group, where judges will again award prizes based on Creativity, Craftsmanship, and Character.

Prizes for all categories will be awarded after all have presented. Please stay in the awards/photo area after presenting and cheer on your fellow cosplayers while waiting for awards - whether they are nervous 1st timers or confident participants, the event will be at its epic best when everyone is positive and supportive!

Additional Rules / Prohibited List

* All cosplay props are subject to inspection by convention staff upon entering the convention. Props and weapons will be “tagged” by the staff to signify they have been deemed safe. Metal or sharp objects are prohibited.
* If a cosplay judge sees you at the con and your weapon is NOT tagged, they will have someone bring you to the inspection area to ensure that everyone at the convention is safe, including yourself!
* PA State weapon and firearms laws are in effect.
* No profanity, political, or religious statements should be made during the competition, this includes messages or signs on clothes. If you fail to comply you will be disqualified.
* Nudity is not acceptable for the convention area. We are promoting a family-friendly environment and if you do not follow this rule, you are subject to removal from official events and venues without a refund. If you have any questions about a cosplay you are planning on wearing that may be deemed unacceptable, please contact us with any questions or photos of the cosplay in advance to help avoid any disappointments.
* Costumes must not be made or trimmed with any messy substances as these can damage other participants’ costumes. You may not use anything wet, oily, or dusty such as wet paint, powder or unfixed sparkle. The same goes for poorly-set or sticky coloring and sharp, pointy, or rough finishes that may become snagged.

Other rules and regulations:

Any weapon that could seriously hurt somebody is not allowed. Specifically, but not limited to:

* Functional firearms – that includes paintball, airsoft, bb guns, cap guns, any gun that shoots a real projectile or causes a real explosion.
* Realistic firearms – any gun that could be confused for a real gun unless tagged and with an orange tip.
* Prop weapons made of a hard material such as metal or glass
* Functional projectile weapons – any weapon (crossbow, slingshot, etc.) that discharges a projectile
* Metal-bladed weapons
* Whips
* Explosives
* Blunt weapons
* Loud props such as whistles, horns, etc.

Prop weapons are allowed as long as they meet the following criteria:

* That they are composed of cardboard, foam, something light.
  + Prop firearms are allowed only if they cannot be mistaken for real weapons.
  + The barrel of all prop firearms must be covered with brightly-colored caps.
  + Prop bows will be allowed providing all arrows have soft tips and cannot be shot.

Safety is paramount - we will always err on the side of caution!