

## Dragon\*Con Atlanta 2016 Star Wars Costume Contest Information and Rules

### Contest Overview

The judging of the contest is in two parts. First is the prejudging, where the contestant's costume will be judged on its technical merit, based on the overall quality of the costume, and the amount of work done by the contestant in making the costume. Then, on the day of the competition, the contestant will have 30 seconds on stage to present their costume. There, the contestant will be judged on their onstage presence, as well as the creativity of the costume. When you ascend the stage, our emcee will announce your name and your character while you show off your costume in the allotted time. Upon leaving the stage, a Contest Staff Member will direct you to be seated in a section in the audience for the contestants until the contest is concluded.

There will be two additional awards beyond the first place for the categories, Best in Show and Judges Choice.

Best in Show will be awarded by the contest judges to one of the contestants who achieved a first place victory, who the judges feel was the best entry in the competition. The two first place contestants, regardless of category, with the highest scores will be submitted to the judges. The judges will make a unanimous decision from these contestants. The chosen contestant will be awarded Best in Show. In the event the judges cannot make a unanimous decision, the contestant with the highest overall score will be the winner.

Judges Choice will be awarded by the contest judges to one of the contestants who did not win in their category, who the judges think deserve special recognition. Every contestant will be awarded a judges choice score during the competition. At the end of the competition the two non winning contestants who have the highest Judges Choice score will be presented to the judges. The judges will make a unanimous decision from these contestants. The chosen contestant will be awarded Judges choice. In the event the judges can not make a unanimous decision, the contestant with the most Judges Choice points will be the winner

### Registration

The costume contest is limited to 40 entries, accepted at a first-come, first-entered basis. A waiting list will be created if the contest meets capacity, and if a contestant drops out, the first person on the waiting list will be admitted to the contest to fill the space.

Registration forms will be available during one of the two prejudge sessions (see below for prejudge session times and location). A valid convention badge is also required to register for the contest.

You will be assigned a costume category and will be given a number which you must keep with you. We reserve the right to change your category at any time depending on the types of contestants who register (e.g. if we have more than few Padmes, we may create a category for them).

For your prejudging sessions, you will first turn in your registration form and will receive your category number. Then you will meet with a prejudge who will look over your costume and ask various pertinent questions (e.g., did you make your costume yourself or did you purchase it, particular details or construction that stands out, etc.) in order to determine your prejudging score. Finally, you will be given a quick briefing where a staff person will explain what is required of you on stage, then you are free to go.

Contestants must arrive at the contest space no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the contest.

### Costume Contest Timetable

- Friday, September 2ed
  - 2:30 to 5:30 PM - A prejudging session will be held in the Star Wars Track Room
- Saturday, September 3rd
  - 2:30 to 3:30 - A prejudging session will be held in the Star Wars Track Room
- Sunday, September 4th
  - 1PM – Contest Begins, Contestants must report 30 minutes prior to contest start.

All times and locations are subject to change.

### Costume Contest Rules

1. All contestants must be registered and prejudged. A valid convention badge is required to register. Please see the Costume Contest Timetable above for detailed information regarding prejudge session times and location.
2. No entries will be accepted after the final scheduled prejudging time period.
3. Good taste is required in the creation and presentation of your costume. Nudity, gore, and other objectionable elements are strictly prohibited. This is a contest that is held during normal convention hours and it is essential that we present a welcoming environment to all spectators. All costumes must be new entries, costumes from previous years may not be entered again.
4. Items that could give harm to the contestants, their costumes, the contest and facility staff and the audience are prohibited. Weapons must adhere to the rules set by the Dragon\*Con Convention Management and functional firearms are not permitted at the contest or the convention.
5. The Costume Contest Staff reserves the right to disqualify any contestant who does not observe these rules at any time.  
All decisions made by the prejudges and judges are final and prizes are awarded at the conclusion of the contest.
6. Special stage requests can be made of the Contest Staff but are not guaranteed. These kinds of request must be made at the time of registration and prejudging.
7. We are unable to provide a secure area for personal belongings. Contestants are therefore responsible for their personal effects but may bring along an assistant to help with those belongings.

There are 3 tiers of competition, representing the skill level of competitors. Within these tiers there may be multiple categories.

### **Tier 1- Padawan**

This tier is for children under the age of 14 to compete in, and has no categories.

### **Tier 2- Jedi Knight**

This tier is the tier that the majority of the contestants will compete in. It is intended for competitors who have a moderate level of skill. Within this tier are multiple categories. These categories are:

#### **Jedi and Sith**

Users of the Force, whether the Light side or the Dark side.

#### **Troopers/Bounty Hunters/Pilots**

Costumes such as Stormtroopers, Mandalorians and X-Wing pilots.

#### **Fringe**

Smugglers, Jawas and other non affiliated costumes.

#### **Face Characters**

The well known heroes and villains of the saga.

#### **Groups**

Category for multiple people with coordinated costumes to compete together in. For example Han, Luke, and Leia from the Death Star rescue scene.

#### **Infinites**

Costumes that combine elements from an outside the Star Wars universe, or offer an alternate take on a character. For example, a Steampunk Stormtrooper, or a Sith Obi-Wan Kenobi.

### **Tier 3 -Jedi Master**

This tier is intended for experienced costumers, or those who feel they have a costume of exceptional quality to compete in. It has 3 categories.

#### **Soft Costumes**

These are costumes composed primarily of soft goods, such as Jedi and Pilots.

**Armor**

These costumes are composed entirely of armor, like stormtroopers, or covered in armor plates, like Mandalorians.

**Aliens**

These are costumes that are defined by representing a non Human race, such as Tusken, Jawas, or Wookiees. NOTE, a costume such as a Rodian Jedi would compete in the Soft Costume category, as the defining characteristic of the costume is the Jedi garb, not the alien components.

As the members of the Rebel Legion, 501<sup>st</sup> Legion, Mandalorian Mercs, and Dark Empire are required to have costumes that conform to written standards meant to emulate the quality of costumes as seen in the Star Wars films, any member of these organizations who chooses to compete in this contest, in a costume approved by these organizations, will be required to compete in one of the Tier 3 categories. These contestants will still be eligible to win the Best in Show Award, as well as Judge's Choice Award.