

Showcase and Craftsmanship Information and Guidelines

Cosplay Divisions

The May 2026 Motor City Comic Con Cosplay Contest will feature two divisions: the Cosplay Showcase and the Craftsmanship Contest.

The Cosplay Showcase is a noncompetitive division for cosplayers who do not wish to compete or whose cosplays are purchased, commissioned, thrifted, or otherwise not handcrafted from scratch. Cosplay Showcase participants take the stage to pose and display their cosplays for the audience. Cosplay Showcase participants can be individual or in groups. Groups participating in the Cosplay Showcase must match in theme (examples: all Avengers, all Sailor Scouts, all Gravity Falls).

The Craftsmanship Contest is a competitive event for cosplayers who have handcrafted a minimum of 50 percent of their cosplay by themselves from scratch. Craftsmanship Contest participants meet privately with the cosplay judges either Friday or Saturday for a 5-minute prejudging appointment, during which their cosplays will be evaluated. During the contest, the competitors take the stage to pose and display their cosplays for the audience.

Craftsmanship will be split into two categories: Novice and Advanced. Awards will be presented for 1st Place Novice and 2nd Place Novice; 1st Place Advanced and 2nd Place Advanced; Best of Show; and Judge's Choice. Craftsmanship Cosplay participants must be individuals and cosplays must be based on characters from the anime manga, film, television, and other Western and Eastern pop culture. Original characters and mashups are not allowed.

Showcase

Cosplay Showcase Guidelines

Registration for the Spring 2026 Motor City Comic Con Cosplay Showcase closes at 11:59 PM Eastern on May 14, 2026, or when all spots are filled, whichever comes first. If there are spots available, on-site registration will be held at Cosplay Director AMHCosplays' Booth until 2PM Eastern on Saturday 16 or until all remaining spots are filled, whichever comes first.

Should a participant mistakenly register for the Craftsmanship Contest when they should be in the Cosplay Showcase, they will be transferred if spots are available. If no space is available, the participant will be removed from the contest roster.

Cosplays for both divisions must be able to move freely through the Motor City Comic Con venue hallways. Please note that there are steps leading to/from the contest stage. Participants using mobility aids should note this in the “Is there anything else we should know about your entry?” field in the registration form.

All pre-registered Showcase participants must confirm emailed receipt of their assigned reporting time to the cosplay director no later than Friday, May 8. All Showcase participants must report to the pre-staging area at their assigned time. Once there, pronunciation of the participant’s name, character, and cosplay source will be verified. Participants arriving later than 5:20 PM will not be allowed to take part in the Cosplay Showcase.

Cosplay Showcase participants are expected to check their email regularly in the weeks leading up to the Cosplay Showcase for any announcements, changes, or updates. Showcase participants are also strongly encouraged to attend the Motor City Comic Con Cosplay Events panel scheduled for 10:30 AM on Saturday, May 16 to ask any last-minute questions and to learn exactly how the Cosplay Showcase will run.

Participants are expected to behave with courtesy and respect to their fellow cosplayers, the judges, the cosplay director, and all Motor City Comic Con staff and volunteers. Poor sportsmanship and negativity has no place here.

Motor City Comic Con and the Cosplay Director reserve the right to disqualify any participant at any time if the participant or their costume is considered inappropriate, offensive, or insensitive with respect to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic

Any participant that does not follow the guidelines listed above, on the Motor City Comic Con website, or in any email communication from Motor City Comic Con will be disqualified.

Craftsmanship Contest

The Craftsmanship Contest Categories

The Craftsmanship Contest will be split into two categories: Novice and Advanced.

Novice: Contestants qualify as novice ONLY if they have never previously competed in a cosplay contest or have never won 1st Place, Best Craftsmanship, or Best of Show. Awards

will be presented for 1st place and 2nd place in the novice category. Contestants in the novice category have the ability to win Best of Show.

Advanced: The Advanced category is for cosplayers who have won 1st Place, Best Craftsmanship, or Best in Show at least once during their cosplay career. The Advanced category is also for professional costume designers, tailors/seamstresses, and those who earn an income from sewing, costume commissioning, or cosplay creation. Additionally, it is for anyone who wishes to compete in the Advance category. Awards will be presented for 1st place and 2nd place in the Advanced category. Contestants in the Advanced category have the ability to win Best of Show.

Craftsmanship Cosplay Contest Guidelines

Registration for the Spring 2026 Motor City Comic Con Craftsmanship Cosplay Contest closes at 11:59 PM Eastern on April 24, 2026 or when all spots are filled, whichever comes first. There will be no on-site registration and no exceptions.

Should a participant mistakenly register for the Craftsmanship Contest when they should be in the Cosplay Showcase, they will be transferred if spots are available. If no space is available, the participant will be removed from the contest roster.

Should a contestant mistakenly register for the Novice category when they should be in the Advanced category, they will be transferred. Judges and the cosplay director reserve the right to reassign contestants between the Novice and Advanced categories at any time, and vice versa.

Craftsmanship Contest participants are welcome to submit a Build Book but this is not required. Participants are required to bring at least one printed image of their character for the judges to use as a reference.

Cosplays depicting actual local or federal law-enforcement authorities are not permitted at Motor City Comic Con

Because Motor City Comic Con strives for a positive and fair competition experience, Craftsmanship Contest participants are not allowed to compete with a cosplay that has won 1st Place, Best Craftsmanship, or Best in Show at Motor City Comic Con or at any cosplay competition, regardless of upgrades to that cosplay.

Craftsmanship Contest Cosplays must be able to move freely through the Motor City Comic Con venue hallways. Please note that there are steps leading to/from the contest stage. Participants using mobility aids should note this in the "Is there anything else we

should know about your entry?” field in the registration form.

Any Craftsmanship participant who misses their pre-judging appointment will be disqualified. Pre-judging will occur both Friday, May 15, 2026 and Saturday, May 16, 2026. All Craftsmanship Contest participants must report to the Cosplay Contest pre-staging area at their assigned time to be checked in. At check-in, pronunciation of participant name, character, and cosplay source will be verified. Participants arriving later than 5:15 PM will not be allowed to take part in the contest.

Cosplay Craftsmanship Contest participants are expected to check their email regularly in the weeks leading up to the event for any announcements, changes, or updates. Contestants are also strongly encouraged to attend the Motor City Comic Con Cosplay Events panel scheduled for 10:30AM on Saturday, May 16 to ask any last minute questions and to learn exactly how the contest will run.

Participants are expected to behave with courtesy and respect to their fellow cosplayers, the judges, the cosplay director, and all Motor City Comic Con staff and volunteers. Poor sportsmanship and negativity has no place here.

Motor City Comic Con and the Cosplay Director reserve the right to disqualify any participant at any time if the participant or their costume is considered inappropriate, offensive, or insensitive with respect to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic

Any participant that does not follow the guidelines listed above, on the Motor City Comic Con website, or in any email communication from Motor City Comic Con will be disqualified.

Craftmanship Contest Prizes

Novice

1st Place: \$100 and 1 autograph

2nd Place: \$50 and 1 autograph

Advanced

1st Place: \$200, 1 autograph, and 2 one-day wristbands for MC3 November 2026

2nd Place: \$150 and 1 autograph

Best of Show: \$400, 2 autographs, 2 weekend wristbands for MC3 November 2026

Judge's Choice: an MC3 Judge's Choice certificate

**Cosplay trophies sponsored by AMHCosplays and Forest's Edge Studios*