

2020 West Coast Haunter's Convention Costume Ball Costume Contest Criteria and Rules

The 2020 West Coast Haunter's Convention Costume Ball Costume Contest is the chance to show your creative and artistic skills.

Judges will be using the following CRITERIA to determine the winners of the Costume Contest:

Craftsmanship – This is how well the costume and makeup is executed. Simple and well done items can be more impressive than average craftsmanship on complex costumes. Judges will examine the costume seam stitching, construction, makeup application, prosthetic edges and blending. The quality of your finished product is important.

Presentation – How well does your costume and makeup show off the character you are trying to portray? Having a gory zombie that is covered in blood may hide the details of your design. Does your character portray the regal nature of your Galaxy Queen? Feel free to be in character and let your actions complement your costume. Unfortunately we do not have time for skits so keep your acting to a brief introduction to the judges.

Functionality – Being able to wear and exist in your costume is as important as how good it looks. Are you able to move as appropriate? Does it move and allow you to move freely or in the manner the character would? Will the costume last more than one night?

Originality/Accuracy – If you are portraying an existing character from movies, TV, video games, novels or other media an accurate recreation will earn you higher marks. If this costume is an original or blend of characters show your originality in concept. Creative use of materials, adaptation of materials props or original props will also score higher.

Rules:

1. Costumes will be judged on Craftsmanship, Presentation, Functionality, and Originality/Accuracy.
2. Costumes should ideally be 70% hand made or from items that have been altered by the creator. Costumes that do not meet this level will not be turned away but it may affect total score of the contestant.
3. Purchased and rented costumes may enter for exhibition but will not be eligible for prizes.

4. Costumes that have won at previous WCHC events are not eligible for prizes.
5. No electrical power connections will be provided. If your costume requires power it must be supplied by you and a part of the costumes' design.
6. "No costume is no costume." Nudity is not allowed within the costume competition. Body paint requires pasties covering the nipples and areolas and a garment (skin tight is acceptable) that covers the pubic area and buttocks. Also remember that this event takes place in a hotel with other guests, please be courteous to them.
7. Group themed costumes that enter the competition will be judged as one entry.
8. Only one costume per participant. If the costume is a large one that requires multiple operators those participants may only compete in that group effort costume.
9. No pyrotechnics, live flames, or smoke generators of any kind. No functioning guns that are able to fire a projectile (real firearms, airsoft, paintball guns, etc).
10. If your costume has a reference material or source please bring it with you for the judges to judge your execution of it. This will likely aid them in judging the accuracy of your costume. The judges cannot be expected to be familiar with every character out there.
11. Any bladed weapon must be sheathed and peacebound. These items will be inspected by judges and failure to comply will lead to disqualification. All weapons carried must be inspected at registration and given approval there.
12. No liquids, messy substances, anything that poses a danger to other participants, or could cause damage to the facility will be allowed.
13. Judges and event coordinators may reject on entry any participant on the basis of inappropriate or unsafe behavior or content.
14. Large and elaborate costumes must be handled by the contestant or by assistants provided by the contestant. WCHC will not be able to provide assistants for you.
15. Costumes do not have to be worn by the creator. However the costume's creator must be present to answer the judges' questions and explain the process behind the costume.
16. Pictures and video of the participants will be taken during the judging process. These photos and videos are the sole property of WCHC and may be used for advertising and promotion.