

Masquerade

Welcome to the Norwescon Masquerade!

We would like to invite you to participate in the Norwescon masquerade. It is open to all convention members of all costuming skill levels and is held on Saturday night of the convention. Please familiarize yourself with the International Costumer's Guild guidelines for rules and skill levels.

Norwescon Masquerade Rules

Please review these rules carefully. Violation of any rule will disqualify an entry. Please help us make the masquerade safe and enjoyable.

1. Never surprise the Masquerade Director. No jumping off or throwing things off the stage.
2. Backstage space is limited, so the overall size of costumes and number of helpers is also limited. Costumes can be no longer than twelve feet, no taller than ten feet, and no wider than six feet.
3. Attendance at one of the two pre-masquerade meetings during the convention is mandatory. One is usually Friday night, the other, Saturday morning.
4. Attendance at the Saturday afternoon rehearsal is mandatory. Come to your rehearsal prepared. There will only be time during your rehearsal to set lighting and sound cues. Do not expect stage time for development of choreography or blocking.
5. No live microphones are provided for contestants
6. *See Sound Notes Below.
7. No live firearms, no live explosions or fire, and all weapons must be peace-bonded, except as needed for stage presentation.
8. The masquerade is PG-13. Lack of costume is not a costume.
9. No messy substances – wet, dry, or oily – that might ruin another contestant's costume or make the stage dangerous are permitted.
10. Each entry will be limited to a maximum of 60 seconds of presentation time. The Masquerade Director may grant an exception for groups of five or more people on a case-by-case basis. Time-limit exceptions must be requested prior to rehearsal.
11. Purchased or rented costumes may not be entered in competition. Credit must be given for all makeup and costume construction.
12. No flash photography is permitted while contestants are on stage, or in the backstage area. A designated photo area will be provided for contestant photos during or after the masquerade.
13. Last but not least, the Masquerade Director has the final say.

***Sound Notes**

6. Audio CDs, CD-Rs, or USB Drives must be completed and submitted prior to the morning of the Masquerade. Bring two copies of your sound accompaniment to the meeting of your choice (see Rule #3). Contact the Sound Manager (via the Masquerade Director) if you have any sound questions.

Please read the following suggestions regarding your presentation music. Note that some items contradict the "conventional wisdom."

- We highly recommend music for every presentation! We can use Audio CD, Audio CD-R, Data CD-R and USB Drives (as the preferred method), subject to the conditions below.
- If you are copying from a CD, please bring the original CD to the con as well (in addition to your CD-R); we may want to use it instead. Please write the track number legibly on the original CD.
- We will have limited capability to make custom recordings or conversions on-site. We can only cue an Audio CD to the beginning of a particular track (there is not enough time

during the Masquerade to cue within a track). If you need to have a specific cue point associated with your presentation, please convert it to an .MP3 file and put it on a USB Drive.

- For presentations on .MP3 or other Compressed Music Formats: Please make sure that the file is encoded as 128Kbps or higher (256Kbps Recommended)
- For Audio CD presentations on CD-Rs: If you record your material on to a CD-R, please make sure it is a standard audio CD.
- For Data CD presentations on CD-R: Please make sure that the CD is WINDOWS compatible and that your MP3 or other Compressed Audio file is located in the ROOT Directory (not buried in Folders).

Norwescon Masquerade Skill Divisions

Anyone may choose to compete in a higher skill division. Group presentations will be judged based on the highest skill division of the individual members.

Rising Star is for any contestant 13 years of age or younger who is not part of an adult group. Rising Star costumes must be made by the entrant with no more than a minimum amount of supervisory help. An adult-made costume may not be entered in this category and should instead be entered in the appropriate skill division of the adult.

Novice is for any contestant who has not previously won an award for a costume in any masquerade, or who has won a maximum of two awards in the Novice division for different costumes at a world-class convention masquerade such as World Con or Costume Con, or at a regional convention masquerade such as Norwescon or Westercon.

Journeyman is for any contestant who has won a maximum of three awards for different costumes in the Journeyman division at a world-class or regional convention masquerade.

Master is for any contestant who has won four or more awards for different costumes in the Journeyman or Master division, or who has won one or more Best in Show awards, at a regional or world-class convention masquerade. Professional costumers must enter the Master division.

Children's Masquerade

Have a padawan learner in the family? Or a Crusader knight? A fairy princess who wants to show off her wings? Bring them to the Norwescon Children's Masquerade! The children's masquerade allows children who are too young to compete as Rising Stars (self made costumes by children 13 years and under) to show off their costumes. To accommodate early bedtimes and short attention spans, the children's masquerade is the first part of the Masquerade. But should you wish to see the rest of the amazing costumes, seats will be saved for you and your child.

Since entrants will go on stage shortly after 8:00 p.m., all children wishing to enter must meet with the Children's Masquerade head prior to the Masquerade. We will have forms and all necessary info available for you, then. Bring your Star Trek ensigns, aspiring Quidditch players and Narnian queens to Norwescon's masquerade in April!

[Children's Group Registration Form](#)

Masquerade Judging

Presentation judging is mandatory. It consists of your presentation on stage. It judges everything from your costume's appearance from stage, to how you act and move, to your music and voiceovers, etc. The Judges will give awards divided by skill levels and excellence of performance within those different skill levels.

Workmanship judging is optional. It takes place in the masquerade backstage area before the show begins. It allows the workmanship judges to consider exceptional accomplishment in crafting costumes, props, and accessories. This is the place where exquisite attention to detail may be recognized. Re-Creation costumes (a costume whose design is copied from a film, television show, theatrical presentation, book illustration, comic, work of art, or other medium) must provide a color picture of the original for the workmanship judges. Let your Den Mom know if you want your costume and/or props and accessories judged for workmanship.

Norwescon Fantasy and Science Fiction Masquerade

Registration Forms: Page 1 of 2

Entry No _____

___ **Rising Star (13 years and younger made by self)**
___ **Novice** ___ **Journeyman** ___ **Master** ___ **Non-Competition**

Costume Title: _____

Costume Source: _____

Name(s) of Entrants: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(If for a group, Print name with address) **City:** _____ **State:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-mail Address: _____

Designed and/or Made By: _____

(If different than entrant) _____

Audio Tape/CD: Yes _____ No _____

Printed Text for MC to read: Yes _____ No _____

Default Tech (**see next page for definition): Yes _____ No _____

Entrance: **Behind MC** ___ **Opposite Side** ___ **Both** ___

Other (Must be approved): _____ **Runway** _____

Exit: **Standard** (down runway) ___ **Other** _____
(Must be approved)

Liability Release:

I/We have read and understood the rules of this Masquerade as set forth in the instructions and agree to abide by them. Further I/We agree to permit photography and/or video taping and agree to permit the use and/or dissemination of said photographs and/or DVDs. Further, I/We do agree to hold the convention, its organizers, and the facility both Collectively and individually blameless for any accident and/or injury suffered by Me/us during the course of the Masquerade.

Full Legal Signature of Contestant(s)* : (MANDATORY FOR PARTICIPATION)

***IF Minors, parent or guardian MUST sign.**

Norwescon Masquerade

Costume Particulars

(For use in determining entry order only)

Costume Color:

(Circle predominate ones)

Black

Brown

Red

Orange

Yellow

Green

Blue

Purple

White

Gold

Silver

Flesh

Other:

Costume category:

(Circle predominate ones)

S-F

Fantasy

Gaming

Horror

Myth

Humor

Beautiful

Comics

Star Trek

Star Wars

Vampire

Anime

Other:

Norwescon Fantasy and Science Fiction Masquerade

Registration Forms: Page 2 of 2

Entry No _____

___ **Rising Star (13 years and younger made by self)**

___ **Novice** ___ **Journeyman** ___ **Master** ___ **Non-Competition**

Costume Title: _____

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Designed By: _____

Constructed By: _____

MC Text to Read:

Audio Tape or CD: Yes _____ No _____

MC Instructions: **Default Tech**** _____ **Other** _____

Ninjas: **No Help Needed** _____

Help Needed (please explain) _____

****Default Tech**

1. Lights black with spot light on MC, ninjas set any props.

2. MC introduces the contestant.

3. Lights and sound up on the contestant's entrance; MC reads dialogue if not on tape/CD.

4. Sound and lights fade as contestants exits; MC announces contestant info and ninjas strike props.

5. Repeat.

When and where to turn in these forms

Both pages of the registration form and any tape/ CD are due in the Masquerade Director's hands by Saturday at the end of the Saturday morning masquerade meeting. You must attend one of two meetings- see pocket program for times.