

# A Guide to Hosting a Successful Photo Shoot at MomoCon: 2025 Edition

By Serith Vastyne

## Disclaimers

- All shoots are fan-run and simply organized by MomoCon for more visibility for all to enjoy. All content during the shoots is determined by the host and is not monitored by MomoCon.

## Submission Guidelines

- Email [cmpvastyne@gmail.com](mailto:cmpvastyne@gmail.com) for any questions, changes, or requests not covered by the submission form.
- Plan ahead and submit early. The earlier you submit your planned shoots, the chances of getting your slot are higher compared to submitting later.
- There will be only one specific fandom shoot per day, meaning that there won't be two Sailor Moon shoots on the same day.
- **Fandoms centered around 18+ content of any kind is not allowed and will be automatically declined.** You also cannot have age requirements to attend a shoot. If the property is what would be considered R-rated (ex: Berserk, Elfen Lied, things with language, violence, or sexual language in the property similar to an R rated movie) it would be ok for a shoot. If the property is what would be considered X-rated (i.e. Bible Black, any Hentai, H-games/Ero-games, explicit games, actual sex acts, etc.) it would not be permitted.
- Large scale performances are also prohibited.
- Hosts can create a social media page to advertise their shoot, such as a Facebook event page, Carrd, Instagram, X/Twitter/Bsky, etc. If the host chooses to not make a page, a generic Facebook event will be created on their behalf.
- General photoshoot submission begins on **January 1st, 2025**.
- Entries submitted before **April 1st** will appear in the app and printed schedule materials.
  - Please let me know of any changes you might make before that date so the correct information will appear in the app.
  - In the case of a change after April 1st, the most up to date information will be found on the MomoCon app and at the photoshoot booth located in the Dealer's Room.
- The cutoff date for submissions is **Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**, at midnight EST. No new submissions will be accepted after that date.
  - Last minute changes will still be accepted by already submitted entries, but please be aware that any changes received during the con may or may not be updated on the MomoCon app in a timely manner.

## Post-Submission/Approval

- Shortly after your submission, you will be sent an email with either **APPROVED**, **DECLINED**, or **PENDING** status.
  - **APPROVED** status means you are all set for the con, pending any future changes.
    - Please note that in case your fandom turns out to be exceptionally popular, you may be contacted to get your shoot moved to a different location. We will do our best to send emails well in advance of the con if this is the case.
  - **DECLINED** status indicates that all slots are filled for that particular fandom across the weekend, or you were a no-show for hosting/having too many poor reviews in 2023. You may also get this if we deem your shoot to have inappropriate content.
  - **PENDING** status indicates that a change in time/date/location is needed to be fully approved.
- **March 24th:** Everyone with APPROVAL status will be emailed asking for any changes before the app deadline.
- A reminder email will go out on **March 27th**.
- A final email with final details and reminders will go out on **May 18th**, the day after new submissions are closed.
- After the convention ends on **May 25th**, an email will be sent to all hosts to distribute two feedback forms: one for the host to fill out, and one for the shoot attendees and friends who attended any shoot during the weekend. The attendee feedback form will also be posted on every Facebook event page.

## Basic Rules

- All shoot content is not monitored by MomoCon and volunteer photoshoot staff, but please adhere to convention policies, which can be found [here](#).
- No 18+ content. You also cannot set an age requirement for your shoot and must be open and suitable for all ages.
- Harassment of any kind is not tolerated. If any host is found to be harassing attendees for any reason, they will be banned from hosting any shoots at future MomoCons. Likewise, should any harassment occur at a shoot, please report it to any safety/Information desk first. For more details on MomoCon's harassment policy, click [here](#).
  - Likewise, any unofficial cohosts not listed in your submission are also bound by the rules. Hosts can be liable for any problems caused by cohosts.
- Please show up to your own shoot on time. ***Failure to show up at all will result in an immediate ban from hosting at MomoCon in 2026, with a chance to host again in 2027.***

## On-Site Check-in Information

- New to 2025, we will be moving to an entirely digital format, detailed below.
  - Each location will have a banner denoting it as a photoshoot location, and each banner will have a sign with a QR code. Scan the QR code to fill out a quick Google form to let us know that you have checked into your shoot.
  - It is recommended to fill out the form roughly 10-15 minutes before your shoot begins.
  - In case of inclement weather and you are forced to move, please notify staff in Discord and scan the QR code at your original intended location.
  - Failure to fill out the form at some point during your shoot will leave us to assume that you were a no-show to your shoot, which can lead to a ban as mentioned above.
    - Please send an email or Discord message if you forgot to check-in within 24 hours of your shoot happening.
- Staff will be roaming and will conduct checks at random. You may or may not be directly approached by staff.
- Please ping a staff member on Discord if you need direct assistance and we will get to you ASAP. Staff members on Discord have their names in **Green**.

## Discord Information

- Hosts can optionally join our Discord server for all the latest updates. **This is highly recommended for all hosts, especially those who are new to hosting shoots.** This is likely to be faster for quick questions and concerns, but emailing about changes to dates/times/locations should be sent by email for easier record keeping.
- **Do NOT** request changes to your shoot via Discord only. You can message me on Discord (Serith Vastyne#6113) as a reminder, but requests for changes will only be done if you've emailed me as well.

## The Cosplay Sets

- The sets are open for use at all con hours. Confirmed sets include:
  - Moon Palace
  - Fighting Game Arena
  - Japanese Sakura Tree
  - Waffle Home

## 2025 Photoshoot Locations

Images of the locations can be found here: <http://www.momocon.com/photo-locations/>

Each location will have signage telling you which area you are at.

- The End of Hall B (Indoors) Photo Area 1
  - Located at the end of Hall B, near the photoshoot department table and cosplay sets. This should be suitable for large groups (except maybe Genshin Impact shoots), and is secluded away from the rest of the con. It is a bit of a walk to get there, so wearing comfy shoes is a plus.
- Flagpole/Hedge Wall (Outdoors) Photo Area 2
  - Located right outside Hall B. This is suitable for medium to mildly large groups. This is an outdoor location, but there should be sufficient shade to make it more comfy.
- Koi Pond (Outdoors) Photo Area 3
  - Good for small groups. Anyone attempting to step into the water will be removed from the premises immediately. Please do not leave any trash in this area and keep it nice and tidy.
  - This is a smoke-free zone. Please report on Discord if people are smoking where they shouldn't be. The designated smoking area is located further behind the Koi Pond, outside the doors just behind The End of Hall B.
- International Plaza (Red Deck Park and Statue)(Outdoors) Photo Area 4
  - Located just outside the B Fountain, this wide, open area is great for any group size.
- B Indoor Fountain Upper Level (Formerly A/B Fountain) (Indoors) Photo Area 5
  - Good for medium to large groups. Take a left from the registration area and into Hall B and it's right there (you'll hear it).
- B Indoor Fountain Lower Level (Indoors) Photo Area 6
  - Good for medium to large groups. This is simply located on the bottom floor of Hall B, underneath the upper fountain. This area is pretty dim in terms of lighting, and you may have noise issues since panels are happening nearby and will also lineup nearby.
- International Lounge A/B- Registration Area (Indoors) Photo Area 7
  - This wide, well lit open area is suitable for small and medium sized groups. Relatively heavy foot traffic and noise level here during the morning and early afternoon, but should be calmer after registration for the day becomes less hectic. You will be able to sign up for slots at 1pm and onwards, but not before.
- Gaming Hall Spot (Indoors) Photo Area 8 NEW!
  - A simple backdrop for photos can be placed in the gaming hall, similar to cons like ACen. Should be good for groups of all sizes, but large groups may struggle with foot traffic and the general loudness of the area. Lighting will not be optimal and a megaphone/speaker will be must if you pick this location. (At this time we will not be able to provide one for you)
  - Size of the spot will be determined closer to the con.
- B/C Window Corner (Indoors) Photo Area 9 NEW!
  - Previously used for weather backups, we'll be adding this location for small-medium sized groups. Plenty of natural lighting.

- Located en route to Hall C/The Signia, just a bit beyond the big cafe at the entrance of Hall B.

### **Retired Locations**

- Hall C Courtyard (Outdoors)
  - Deleted for now. It may make a return in 2024 depending on feedback.
- Centennial Olympic Park (Outdoors)
  - Introduced in 2017, it ended up being a little too massive to reliably find each location designated within. You are still permitted to go here for private shoots, but not recommended for public group shoots. High traffic area due to being a tourist destination.
- GWCC/Omni Connecting Courtyard A (Outdoors, closer to the CNN Center)
  - Retired for 2022 since graduations are going on in the area. Strictly off limits for 2022 and you will be asked to leave by GWCC security.
- GWCC/Omni Connecting Courtyard B (Outdoors, the lawn closer to the Omni)
  - Retired for 2022 since graduations are going on in the area. Strictly off limits for 2022 and you will be asked to leave by GWCC security.
- Omni Location
  - Semi-retired for 2020 onwards.

### **Suggestions for an optimal and fun shoot**

- Have a strong, clear voice (for bigger groups, you might need a megaphone or a second person to help you direct the group)
- Build momentum for your shoot prior to the con. I personally set up FB events and submit shoots for cons as soon as they are available. Do your research from the above section, and put it to a community vote for the best day and time possible for your shoot.
- People will always show up late. If you have a Facebook event set up online, be sure to update it frequently with posts as to where you are located to help people who might be lost trying to get to your photoshoot spot. You'll probably end up starting about 10 minutes into your given time slot.
- Split up your shoot so that each person can get their share of the fun. For example:
  - Final Fantasy shoot
    - All FF1 Cosplayers have a turn, then all FF2 Cosplayers, etc
    - Pairings (Cloud X Tifa, Squall X Rinoa, etc)
    - Requested stuff from the group.
    - Group photo
  - Depending on the size of your group and what fandom it is, you could even do groups by order of popularity. Example: All the Narutos first, then Sasukes, etc.
- Give about 15-20 seconds for each group to have their time in the spotlight. You can increase or decrease the time depending on group size and time left.

- Be kind and courteous to everyone, including non-congoers. If you are sharing a space with another group, be considerate and divide the available space accordingly!
- Unless absolutely necessary, don't move your shoot location/time a few days or during the con. Since shoots submitted before the day that the program books are printed will appear in the book, changing the date and time suddenly will throw everyone off, possibly leading to less people showing up to the shoot since they were under the impression that it was at a different time. The MomoCon app will still be the most up to date source of information, as well as the Info Desks at the con, but don't expect any instantaneous updates if you inform me of a last-minute date/time/location change.
- Fawn over everyone's costumes, make new friends, and have fun!