Sakura-Con AMV Contest 2024 - OFFICIAL Rules

The Sakura-Con AMV Contest is an event for fans to showcase their creative talents in the form of music videos. The contest is open to all, be they amateur or professional. Attendance is not required, yet heartily encouraged.

DEADLINE: Saturday, 11:59 PST, February 3, 2024

GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK TO REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE: http://sakuracon.org/contests/amv/

OFFICIAL RULES

1) **Maximum Entries –**
   a) No more than three (3) accepted entries per entrant, total*. No exceptions.*
   b) Entrants may submit multiple entries to a single category, but even if two or more qualify for the finals, only the better scoring entry may advance.
   - *(Commercials & Intros ARE AN EXCEPTION — Send as many as you wish. If it qualifies, it advances.)*
2) **Duration Limits –**
   a) AMV Entries: 75 seconds minimum, 6 minutes maximum.
   b) Trailers: 1 minute minimum, 3 minutes & 30 seconds maximum.
   c) Intros & Commercials: 15 seconds minimum, 2 minute maximum.
3) **Freshness –** Entries that debuted (be it online or live) before July 10th, 2023 are forbidden. *No exceptions.*
4) **Age 13+ Appropriate –** The content and context of all entries must be age 13+ appropriate. *No exceptions.*
   a) Discernible obscenities (especially F-words or N-words) and vulgar sexual terms are prohibited.
   b) Content that glorifies gory violence, torture, or self-harm are prohibited.
   c) Salacious nudity, blatantly sexualized innuendo, and depictions of sexual assault are prohibited.
   d) Content that is demeaning, demoralizing, or debasing are prohibited.
5) **Technical Quality –** Entries must satisfy our technical standards. See "*Audio & Video Quality Metrics*".
6) **No Clipshow Entries –** Reels of micro-AMVs (AKA "AMV-Hell") will not be accepted.
7) **No Plugging Other Events –** Please do not refer to other events unless Sakura-Con is also referred with equal or greater prominence *and* as a necessary part of the entry's concept.
8) **No "Low Effort" Entries –** Entries that consist largely of unedited segments of video may be disqualified.
9) **No Distractions –** The following are prohibited unless deemed necessary to an entry's concept:
   a) No incidental text (such as subtitles or OP/ED credits from the source footage).
   b) No inextricable intro slates, editor credits, and/or watermarks.
   c) No sing-along karaoke text (even if used to translate foreign lyrics).
10) **Video Content –** The majority of an entry's video content must be anime/manga based. Exceptions will be considered for non-anime sources heavily inspired by (or culturally relevant to) anime.
11) **Audio Content –** Essentially all audio content must be musical. No added speeches unrelated to the music.
   - *(Trailers & Commercials are an obvious exception.)*
12) **No Deepfake Audio –** No music and/or dialogue generated by voice-cloning technologies. *No exceptions.*
13) **Responsible AI Usage –** Entries created using Machine Learning technologies must provide details on how it was used. Entries deemed to have used such in a questionable manner may be disqualified.

NOTE: *The coordinators are open to considering exceptions for any for rule that doesn't state "no exceptions."*
See line #2 of "Policies & Additional Details" for more information.

CATEGORIES

Entrants are to classify each entry under one of the following categories:

- Action
- Drama
- Fun & Play
- Romance & Sentiment
- Rhythm & Vibes
- Humor
- Trailers
- Commercials & Intros

Entries are subject to recategorization if deemed incorrect for the category the editor requested. Also, certain categories may be merged and renamed in the event that a category receives a low number of entries.

POLICIES & ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1) The AMV Contest Coordinators and judges are the final arbiters of all rules. Their decisions are final.
2) The Coordinators may grant a rule exception for an entry that meets one of these circumstances:
   a) The entry would be affected by a rule in a manner the Coordinators did not intend or expect.
   b) The entry is so groundbreaking that it inspires a permanent rule change.
   c) The entry needs to bend (but not fully break) a rule to make a humorous or satirical concept work.
3) Sakura-Con AMV staff and contest judges are ineligible to compete in the contest.
4) Plagiarism is not tolerated. Mis-representing another's work as one's own <u>will</u> result in disqualification, banishment, an alert to other AMV events, and <u>public shaming</u> (and we will take *joy* in doing so). Partial plagiarism, such as using parts of another AMV without giving proper attribution, is similarly taboo.
5) All rules, prizes, and other details regarding the Sakura-Con AMV Contest are subject to change. Efforts will be made to announce such changes via the Sakura-Con website and the AnimeMusicVideos.org forums.
6) Entries submitted to this event will be entered into an AMV Archive which may be shared with AMV teams of other events that are not necessarily be affiliated with Sakura-Con/ANCEA. Such teams may choose to exhibit any Sakura-Con entry at their respective events as they see fit.
7) By registering to participate in this event, the entrant thereby irrevocably asserts their full acceptance of all policies and rules in this document, including and especially the following:
   a) Their entry may be freely shared by anyone and publicly exhibited anywhere, without limit, forever.
   b) The entrant shall have no expectation of any form of entitlement (be it monetary or otherwise) in relation to their entry other than as per the terms listed in the *Summary of Awards* section.

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

1) Use the MP4 file format with H.264/AVC 8-bit video codec. (This is the most universally playable format.)
2) Do not use next-gen codecs such as 10-bit, AV1, H.265/HEVC, or HDR. (They are not universally playable.)
3) Do not upscale your entries to 4K resolution. (There's no benefit -- We present everything in 1080p.)
4) Please limit your files to 350 MB or smaller. This is a firm limit.
5) We recommend adding one second of empty black silence to the start and end of each entry.

<u>IF YOU IGNORE THE TECHNICAL GUIDELINES, YOUR ENTRY WILL BE RE-ENCODED TO CONFORM TO THEM</u>.
This will be done with care, but any adjustment we make won't be as good as it would be if you had done so yourself. To ensure the judges experience your entry in the best way possible, follow the above guidelines.

AUDIO & VIDEO QUALITY METRICS

1) The following video issues shall be considered technical flaws (unless used as an intentional effect):
   a) Interlacing
   b) Squashed or stretched aspect ratios, or improper letterboxing/matting
   c) Chunky/blocky video
   d) Color banding (i.e., Color gradients caused by video re-compression)
   e) Blurry video
   f) Heavily aliased/jagged lines
   g) Low-resolution entries
      i) 720p is the minimum for modern shows (1080p is preferred)
      ii) 480p is the minimum for older shows that were never officially released in HD
   h) Conversions to HDR or 4K. (Our equipment doesn't support those standards anyway)
   i) Corner logos or watermarks
2) The following audio issues shall be considered technical flaws:
   a) Audible distortion
   b) Levels that are overdriven (AKA: clipped peaks)
   c) Levels that are too low. We recommend normalizing to -0.5db peak
   d) Low sample-rate/bitrate
   e) Discontinuities or jumps caused by flawed audio edits
   f) Pitch-shifted or speed-adjusted audio (unless by obvious artistic necessity)
3) Entries that require a strange degree of difficulty to work with shall be deemed technically flawed.

SUMMARY OF AWARDS

AUDIENCE AWARDS (as chosen by audience vote – Eligible to Finalist entries only):

- **Audience Best of Show**
- **Best of Category**

JUDGES AWARDS (as chosen by Judging Committee and AMV Team – Eligible to ALL submitted entries):

- **Judges' Choice** – Awarded to an AMV that our Judging Committee deemed most deserving.
- **Coordinators' Choice** – Awarded to an AMV that the Event Coordinators deemed most deserving.
- **Best Technical** – Awarded to an AMV deemed to have demonstrated exceptional technical finesse.
- **Best Concept** – Awarded to an AMV deemed to have a clever and well executed concept.
- **Best Classic** – Awarded to an AMV deemed to have made best use of any one of the following as a majority of their source material:
  1. A pre-widescreen (4:3) anime TV series
  2. An anime motion picture from 1994 or prior.
  3. Music older than 40 years old.

We will attempt to ship awards and prizes to those not present at the event. For international winners, we may discuss alternative prizing if postage is cost-prohibitive. We will contact you with details after the event.

An entrant who does not intend to be at the event may optionally specify a proxy who will accept awards and trophies on the absent entrant's behalf. Please specify them when registering to participate.

HOW WE PRESENT YOUR ENTRIES

Finalists will be shown during the main contest exhibition. During event seating, a pre-show comprised of non-finalist entries chosen by the coordinators are presented on a non-competing basis, time permitting. Other accepted non-finalist entries are played in the AMV Theatre during the weekend, time permitting.

SUBMISSION METHODS

You must provide a way for us to obtain your entry. We recommend Google Drive or Dropbox, but we accept most other download methods as well. (YouTube is NOT an accepted method.)

CONTACT US

Questions? Please e-mail us at amv@sakuracon.org. Thank you!