Frequently Asked Questions!

Important Changes

Panelists are no longer being asked to pre-register for the convention. We instead will work with Membership to issue you a badge rather than go through the refund process. If you registered please inform us at that time of panel acceptance.

Panelists having their own registration line helped in so many ways for the 2026 Convention that it has become a new standard for going forward.

Panel Deadlines

When are panel submissions due?
This year, panel submissions will:
Open on November 13th, 2026** and **Close on January 10th, 2027**
Panel submissions will not be accepted after this date.

When will I know if my panel has been accepted?
Once your Panels Submission Form has been submitted through our website, you should receive a confirmation email letting you know that we have received your panel submission. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours, please reach out to the panels team at panels@sakuracon.org as your submission might not have gone through.

After that, you should receive an email with either a panel acceptance or a waitlist letter, detailing the next steps. Fan panels are the last to be scheduled behind Cultural, Industry, and Special Guest panels, meaning that the emails for fan panels will be sent in mid February.

If you do not receive either an acceptance, waitlist, or rejection email by February 21st 2027, please email the panels team at panels@sakuracon.org.

** - Opening Date may have been delayed due to Website issues beyond our control

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Panel Ratings

What should I rate my panel?
At Sakura-Con, we are moving away from a formal rating system. We are instead providing content warnings that will better provide an understanding of what could be encountered in a given panel or event. All panelists and event runners are expected to accurately represent their content using these content warnings so that attendees, parents, and guardians can make the best informed decisions on what they want to view at Sakura-Con.

The content warnings are:
ALL AUDIENCES: No cursing, no suggestive themes, light humor and light adventure violence
PARENT/GUARDIAN DISCRETION: Possible light cursing (no F-bombs, S-bombs, or C-bombs), some suggestive themes, light raunchy humor, adventure violence.
MATURE SUBJECT MATTER: Cursing (use good judgment), mature themes, raunchy humor, more intense (but not graphic) violence.

Even with these content warnings, there is still content that is not allowed at Sakura-Con.
Please review the below for more information on what content is banned in all panels and events.
THINGS BANNED IN ALL PANELS - Nudity, uncensored sexual images, implied or overt penetration, inappropriate touching, non-slapstick/adventure violence, live gambling/bets whether endorsed by the panelist or not. Additionally, endorsing or promoting things such as illegal conduct, hate speech or hate based imagery, iconography, or actions, will not be tolerated by staff or panel moderators. Any panels found violating this section during convention will be immediately ended at the discretion of the Panel Moderator or Panels Management Teams.

Regarding nudity: Realistic-looking objects and realistic-looking depictions of body parts/areas that the convention dress code says cannot be shown *still count*.

I have a panel idea, but it may not be appropriate for all ages. Can I still submit it to be considered?
Absolutely! Sakura-Con is a convention for all ages and therefore welcomes adult only content. However, we do reserve the right to ask that you change any graphic or sexual content as a condition of acceptance.

Note: The Content Warning of your panel may be added or changed by the panels team based on content. We will email you prior to the convention to inform you of the change.

Panel Submissions

How do I sign up for panels?
Fill out the Panels Submission Form located on Eventeny. You should receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of the submission. Please note that all panels are subject to an approval process, and we do not guarantee that all panels submitted will be accepted.

How much does it cost to run a panel at Sakura-Con?
Nothing! All you need to do is fill out a Panel Submission Form fully and properly. Omissions and Errors can lead to your panel being rejected, or badge reimbursement being missed.

I've never done a panel before but I have a great idea. Can I put in a panel request?
Yes! Sakura-Con is more than happy to have you! No previous experience is needed.

I want to submit a panel that has nothing to do with anime/Japan/Asian media (i.e. video games) or Asian culture. Is this okay?
Yes, go ahead and submit your panel. We do have some very popular “off topic" programming, but most “off topic” panels will have lowest priority when it comes to scheduling. If we have to make room for “on topic” panels, “off topic” panels are the first to be moved or cut completely. If you’re not a fan of the idea of your panel being the lowest priority, find a way to tie in the subject to make it “on topic!”

How many panelists can I have in my group?
All our panel rooms have a limit of 8 panelists, with only 4 allowed on stage at a time. If you have more than 8 panelists, you will be asked to trim your panelists down to 8 people to have your panel considered for approval. If you absolutely need more than 8 panelists, please be aware that we only have ONE room that we can use for a large number of panelists. This room is normally reserved for Cultural panelists, Guest panelists, Industry panelists, and Cosplay Chess games that require the space. Unless you request a late night or night owl time slot (11 pm to 2 am), be aware that it is unlikely you will be able to use this room.

Can I run the same panel multiple times during the convention?
While we don’t allow the same panel to run multiple times during the convention, you are allowed to separate your panel into two parts (i.e. covering half of the anime in one panel and the other half in a second one). Please submit the panels separately and add a note to the comments section to let us know what you are planning.

Can I run a maid cafe even if I don’t serve food?
No. Any panels simulating a maid cafe, providing a cafe-like experience, etc. will not be approved. The only maid cafe-related content that will be approved are panels that are *about* maid cafes themselves. This subject matter includes but is not limited to the history of maid cafes, the cultural impact of maid cafes, how to behave as a maid for a maid cafe, maid cafe fashion, the financial and business aspects of a profitable maid cafe, how to be a good maid cafe customer, or the global spread of maid cafes. Basically, talk about them, don’t do them.

Special Requests

I need a large room with an open area. Is this possible?
We will do our best to accommodate these requests, but only have a few large rooms available at any given time. If you request a late night or night owl time slot (11 pm to 2 am), we are more likely to be able to meet your request.

Can I request a specific room?
Unfortunately, no, with the exception of the Work Shop room should the panel require a classroom style. We will not be placing any Lecture or Performance styled rooms in the Workshop.

Then how do you decide who gets what specific room?
The questions on the panel submission form are used to gauge the approximate attendance of a panel as well as specific technical requirements only certain rooms meet. These in addition to your panel topic are the deciding factors in which panel receives which room. Returning panelists who have proven their need for larger rooms are prioritized in room scheduling.

Can I schedule an event in a public space, such as Freeway Park or by the escalators?
Public areas are not under the jurisdiction of Sakura-Con and as such we cannot guarantee or reserve space for you in public areas. Please note that if you block access or become a fire hazard, you may be asked to move by SCC employees and must comply.

Can I request prizes for my panel?
Yes. There is a space on the panel submission form for you to request prizes (Prize Coupons) for your panel. Sakuracon Prize Support team can provide small prizes for up to 8 attendees at your panel.

While we will do our best to meet your request, please know that there is no guarantee that the prize allotment will be issued or, if granted, match your requested amount. The Panels team will work with the Prize Room team to ensure you receive your Prize Coupons during the convention if your request is granted.

What are Prize Coupons?
Prize Coupons are paper prizes of varying tiers that can be exchanged for prizes in the Prize Point Prize Room. These prizes range from keychains and patches all the way up to large figures and Gunpla. All prizes available are at no cost to you and are often underutilized. Prize Coupons are a great way of getting higher audience participation in your panel as well as a way of having a higher audience return rate when doing repeating panels every year.

Can I request internet access for my panel?
Although in various years in the past Wi-Fi may have been available, this is **not** a convention provided service. If you require the internet for your panel, you will be responsible for making those arrangements.

Can I request an adapter to connect my laptop to the projector?
Unfortunately, we don't have any adapters that we can loan to panelists. If your panel requires your equipment to be hooked up to our provided tech, you will have to bring your own adapters. Our projectors are HDMI/VGA compatible.

Who should I talk to if I need any other special accommodations?
That would be the Panels Coordination team! Reach out to us at panels@sakuracon.org and we will be happy to help or help direct you to the correct persons.