

# Cosplay

## Costumes & Characters for October—and beyond!

Maybe you are planning a costume just for trick-or-treating or a party, or maybe you really like costumes and want to enjoy them more than just once a year. Is there a book, movie, or game character that you want to share with the world? Cosplay is the place for all those things! Let's get creative, use resources wisely, and explore how your costumes can come to life anytime during the year!

How to earn the Cosplay patch the Girl Scout way:

### Steps:

1. **Discover**—What is cosplay?
2. **Connect**—Design or create your own.
3. **Take Action**— Use it for good!

### Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- Resources: You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library. Some book ideas are listed in Step 1.
- Costume supplies: This can be anything from fabric and a sewing machine to items you find around your house. You may also want a sketchpad or notebook to draw or list your ideas. (See Step 2.)

## Step 1

### What is cosplay?

Cosplay is all about creating a costume and then having fun really learning how to portray the character that you chose!

Use your resources and find out:

- How is cosplay different than just dressing up in a costume?
- How can cosplay bring people together?
- How can cosplay help us learn about books, movies, and other forms of media?
- What character might you like to be?
- Do you have to choose a character that looks like you?
- Can you create this character/costume in a respectful way?

Your local library might have these books (or similar) to help you get started!

- *Kid's Guide to Fandom: Exploring Fan-fic, Cosplay, Gaming, Podcasting, and More in the Geek World!* by Amy Ratcliffe
- *Costume Making Guide: Creating Armor & Props for Cosplay* by Svetlana Quindt
- *Epic Cosplay Costumes: A Step-by-Step Guide to Making and Sewing Your Own Costume Designs* by Kristie Good
- *Creative Cosplay: Selecting & Sewing Costumes Way Beyond Basic* by Amanda Haas
- *Cosplay Crash Course: A Complete Guide to Designing Cosplay Wigs, Makeup and Accessories* by Mina "MistiQarts" Petrović

Ambassador, Senior, and some Cadettes may enjoy these more advanced titles.

- *The Power of Style: How Fashion and Beauty Are Being Used to Reclaim Cultures* by Christian Allaire
- *The Hero's Closet: Sewing for Cosplay and Costuming* by Gillian Conahan
- *The Cosplay Handbook: A Book of Cosplay and Prop Making Techniques* by Grace Herbert

**Bonus:** The more we know about the world and all the people we share it with, the more we can make respectful choices about the characters we create. Check out our *Diversity* fun patch to discover more about other cultures and earn another patch!

## Step 2

# Design or create your own!

Start by answering these questions to help you really think about your costume and what details it should include.

- Who is your character?
- What book, show, or movie are they from?
- What do you know about this character?

Go beyond just what they look like.

- What are they like?
- How old are they?
- Where are they from?
- What do they do for a living?
- What is their backstory?

Once you've jotted down everything you already know, see what new things you can find out about them! Try to find a still photo of your character to analyze the details of their entire style. Write a supply list or sketch your character to plan your costume. Then, find your supplies!

Maybe you would like to practice your sewing skills and build your costume from scratch. Maybe you'd rather search out items that are already made and available. Cosplay is a world of creativity, so feel free to do either—or both!

**Pro Tip:** Thrift stores can be a great place to find items that will really set your costume apart.

As you build your costume, continue asking yourself as many questions as you can. The more we know about a character the more we can really dive into how we would PLAY that character around other people. You want to be able to chat and respond “in character,” and even carry yourself like them. It may feel awkward at first, but with a little practice, you'll be a convincing cosplay character!

## Step 3

# Use it for good!

Girl Scouts are always working to use resources wisely. You can do this by making your costume efficiently and making it so that it will last.

- With this in mind, what materials and supply choices might work best?
- What new skill(s) can you learn to attach pieces together more securely or to limit waste?
- How can you use it more than once to make the most of your efforts?

Now comes the adventure! Aside from trick-or-treat or a party, think about places you could take your new character? Would your character be a good fit for lifting someone's spirits? An appearance at a special event? Teaching something? The ideas are endless!

Have fun and remember to be respectful with your choices. If in doubt, consider the Girl Scout Promise & Law and consult a trusted source.

## All done? CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Cosplay patch.

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at 800-248-3355 to purchase your patch.\* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

\*Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.