

Member Policy

Guild of Nerds

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Introduction

Welcome to the Guild of Nerds! By joining, you're not just signing up to volunteer for a single event — you're becoming part of a passionate, inclusive community dedicated to supporting the cosplay communities in the UK and Ireland.

This policy outlines what it means to be a Guild Member, the expectations we have for you, and the benefits and support the Guild gives to Members.

Membership Expectations

As a Guild Member, you are committing to help grow and strengthen the cosplay community by supporting various Guild initiatives and events. Here's what we expect from all Members:

General Involvement:

- The average weekly time commitment of members is approx. **3 hours per week**. This can vary based upon upcoming shows, and the individual Member's availability and skills.
- During busy event periods, you may choose to contribute more hours, but your participation remains flexible.

Discord Communication:

- All Members are required to join and actively participate in the Guild's Discord server. This is where we handle all organisational communication, updates, and event coordination.
- Information shared in the Discord server non-social channels is presumed to be confidential unless stated otherwise

Team Assignments:

- Members are assigned to a **regional team** based on their location and report to a Regional Director.
 - You may also choose to join **objective teams** focused on specific projects (e.g., social media, graphics), led by Member Coordinators.
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Member Participation

Show Support: Guild members get **first priority** when volunteering for events.

Eligibility: Membership is open to individuals aged 18 and above, who have some connection to the cosplay community (be it as a cosplayer, cosplay photographer, cosplayer handler etc.)

Show Flexibility: While we encourage event participation, Guild membership involves more than just show support, and you aren't signing up for a specific event. Your contributions can take many forms, depending on your skills and availability.

Member Benefits and Support

The Guild's mission is building and supporting the cosplay community. One of the ways we do that is by supporting our Members. Here are some of the things you can expect to gain from the Guild:

- **Professional Support:**
 - The Guild can act as a referee on job applications.
 - Participation in the Guild counts as voluntary work for service projects.
 - **Event Access:**
 - Members receive tickets to cover their entry for shows at which they are volunteering.
 - **Skill Development:**
 - Access to training sessions tailored to Member-specific and cosplay-specific skills.
 - Opportunities for leadership roles within objective teams or as event leads.
 - **Organisational Involvement:**
 - Members hold a **stake in the organisation**, participating in quarterly Member-wide meetings to discuss the Guild's direction and goals, and have an impact on the organisation.
 - **Community Engagement**
 - Get to be a part of a passionate and supportive community of cosplayers
 - Access to social + cosplay advice channels in the Guild Discord server
 - Opportunities to contribute to the cosplay community beyond events.
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Code of Conduct

Guild members are expected to uphold a standard of professionalism and respect in all their interactions. The [Code of Conduct](#) is a separate document that members must sign and agree to uphold. Some of the details included are:

- **Inclusivity and Respect:** Treat all Members, event organisers, and attendees with kindness and professionalism.
- **Community Standards:** Refrain from harassment, discrimination, or inappropriate behaviour.
- **Professional Representation:** Always represent the Guild positively, both online and in person.

Failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of membership.

Events and Competitions

- **Internal Competitions:** Guild members **cannot compete in Guild-structured masquerades or competitions**. This includes any competition where the Guild has written the rules or formatting.
 - **External Competitions:** Members may compete in externally organised events like the **Extreme Cosplay Gathering (ECG)**. This is possible because only Directors are involved in the organisation and planning of external competitions.
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Maintaining Membership

- **Active Membership:**
 - Membership activity is periodically reviewed. Members who remain inactive for an extended period without communication may lose their status.
 - **Leaving or Taking a Break:**
 - If you need to step back or resign, please inform your Regional Director. Open communication helps us adjust and support you wherever possible.
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Thank you for choosing to be part of the Guild of Nerds! We appreciate your commitment to growing and supporting the Cosplay Community.

Directors

Guild Director: Hazel M. (hazel@guildofnerds.org) @hazelthewriter

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