

Galactic Gathering - Costumes, Weapons & Props Rules

The National Space Centre is dedicated to creating a #SpaceForEveryone and ensuring that everyone who visits feels safe during their time with us. We reserve the right to deny entry, withdraw access, or cancel tickets without refund at Galactic Gathering to anyone deemed to be breaking these rules.

Moreover, the National Space Centre and our Security team reserve the right to reject or confiscate any weapon or prop if deemed likely to cause a nuisance. Confiscated items, that can legally be returned to you, can be collected as you leave the event.

If you have an unusual item or need further clarification, please email info@spacecentre.co.uk with as much detail and images of the item as possible so we can advise. Note that no absolute assurance can be given without seeing and holding the item in question.

Props and costumes are brought to the event at your own risk. The National Space Centre accepts no responsibility for damage to props and costumes brought to the event by attendees.

Cosplay

As geeks ourselves, we welcome people who wish to cosplay for the event and celebrate their love for the fandom. However, as a family-friendly visitor attraction, we do ask that all cosplay be suitable for a family audience. We do not permit suggestive or explicit costumes, and nudity is not permitted

Please ensure that you keep your ticket on your person, even when in costumes. We unfortunately are not able to provide a changing area in the National Space Centre, so please take this into consideration when planning your costume.

As the events tend to be busy, we do ask that costumes are smaller than 2.5 metres between any two points. If your costume is bulky or has restricted vision, then we ask that you have at least one person with you as a guide when moving through the Centre. Naked flames and smoke are not permitted as part of your costumes.

The National Space Centre reserves the right to intervene should any costumes contain insensitive or explicit content, or be considered hateful or discriminatory. If you see someone at the event with a costume or make up you believe to be offensive or inappropriate, then please do speak to any of our team on the day.

If you are at all concerned that your choice of character or costume design could be considered offensive in any way please then please do get in touch with our team via marketing@spacecentre.co.uk

Weapons

We appreciate that many costumes will incorporate a weapon as a prop. Generally, we will permit any items that are clearly intended as a prop or element of a costume, with some exceptions.

Replica lightsabers, blasters and rifles are permitted, including those with a metal hilt, however we are not able to accommodate replicas that contain glass in their construction. Similarly, we are not able to accommodate sharp items such as blades, swords, katanas, etc.

Shields are allowed, including lightweight metal, as long as they do not exceed 1 metre in height or width or have any sharp edges. Whips are permitted as part of a costume, however we do ask that they remain coiled at all times. Foam weapons built round a core such as those used for live action roleplaying are permitted.

We will permit bows/crossbows so long as they are props that cannot effectively fire an arrow or bolt i.e. drawing the string does not create tension in the arms and/or string that could be used to fire a projectile effectively; said string must also not be adjustable via tightening to fire a projectile effectively. The string should be easily removable so that it can be removed at security's request.

Prop strung bows shaped to look like a bow under tension without actually being under tension are allowed if not contrived somehow to fire projectiles effectively. Prop arrows completely fixed in place in the quiver are acceptable and loose arrows or bolts must be blunt

The maximum size permitted is 150cm, or 180cm in the case of a narrow staff/spear. Any items exceeding these dimensions must be able to be dismantled into smaller pieces without tools and be so dismantled before passing through busy areas.

Banned Items

The following are not permitted at Galactic Gathering under any circumstances, even as part of a costume or prop. No exceptions will be made for licences, memberships, or training. Confiscated items may be destroyed without notice.

- Real or replica blades (sharp or blunt), including swords, knives, axes, and claws
- Functional projectile weapons, including strung bows, crossbows, slings, and catapults
- Martial arts weapons and sharp objects like loose arrows or nails
- Real or replica firearms, including airsoft, BB, paintball guns, and military-style props
- Ammunition, darts, caps, and incendiary items
- Bats, clubs, paddles, golf clubs, crowbars, metal pans
- Power tools, chainsaws, or any heavy object that could cause harm
- Pepper spray, mace, chemicals, explosives
- Gas canisters, smoke or fog machines, fireworks
- Laser pointers, silly string, vuvuzelas
- Glass props or items with glass components
- Helium balloons
- Drones, remote-control toys
- Skateboards, scooters, wheeled shoes

Permission for restricted items may be granted in advance for exhibitors or sponsors. Contact the team for approval.