

AASC Code of Conduct

Introduction

The main objective of the American Association of Steampunk Conventions is for all steampunks to enjoy themselves in the safe and fun environments of the steampunk conventions representing this organization. This Code of Conduct exists to ensure that all associated conventions have a starting point to build off of that upholds those things the community has demonstrated are important, and so that attendees are fully aware of what behavior is expected and the consequences of behavior that is in violation of this policy. Please be sure to read this policy and understand how it applies to you. Any questions or requests for clarification can be addressed to the following email [AASC email].

General Info

We are a steampunk community and look after each other. Acting kindly and with respect makes the convention so much more fun and enjoyable for everyone, after all, that's what we're here for!

- Guests may be removed from the premises for violations of these rules or hotel rules without compensation or refund.
- Violations of this policy can be reported to any on-duty staff member or through the Incident Reporting Policy (found below).

Costuming & Attire

Patrons are encouraged to dress up in whatever theme they'd like, including genres outside what is generally considered "Steampunk". However, the event reserves the right to deem a costume unacceptable and request the wearer to make modifications as necessary. In addition, the event is held in a venue that enforces their own dress codes, so please plan accordingly.

Safety

General Prop Safety Rules

The event recognizes that props and other items are an intrinsic part of the convention experience, but one that must be enjoyed responsibly. Any potentially dangerous weapons are prohibited, and "prop", "costume"

or “toy” weapons are permitted. Each event has a specific policy regarding weapons and props in order to ensure attendee safety, which all attendees are expected to observe. Have fun, be creative and bring your amazing stuff, just don't hurt anyone else!

Additionally

- The event may contain weapons related events such as sword-fighting demonstrations, gun-related panels, or weapons sales in the dealer room. Items for these events are specifically allowed. Be aware that using a weapon is dangerous and as such, the event has made the proper arrangements to keep such situations as safe and law-abiding as possible.

Misconduct

The following activities will not be tolerated during an AASC event, and violation of these policies could result in expulsion from the event you are attending and potential prohibition from attending future AASC events:

- Harassment of members, guests of the convention, convention workers, the public.
 - This includes both physical and verbal harassment, but also non-consensual contact (regarding a person or property), non-consensual photography, hate speech, stalking, aggressive or confrontational actions, or any other inappropriate behavior. Harassment applies to electronic communication as well as physical. Misconduct at any convention venues or convention-related social events, or in virtual space that is reported will be considered grounds for corrective action.
- Engaging in disruptive and unsafe behavior that disturbs members, guests of the convention, convention workers, the public or hotel staff.
- Possession or use of any illegal drug, narcotic or banned substance.
- Distribution of alcoholic beverages to any person under the age of 21.
- Inappropriate behaviors, or any engagement in an activity prohibited by law.
- Sexual harassment, whether physical, verbal, or otherwise.
- Physical violence and threats thereof are equally not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Any situation involving a physical altercation will be immediately turned over to local law enforcement.
- Any act which could result in substantial risk of harm to people or property, or theft.
- Any violations of other policies within the specific event Code of Conduct.

Remember: It does not matter what "your character would do" you are always responsible for your own behavior.

Interactions Policy

Rules of Courtesy

AASC events require all attendees to abide by these Rules of Courtesy, which is the exhibition of respectful and courteous behavior to fellow attendees.

- CONSENT IS KEY.
- There is no “one way” or “right way” to do Steampunk, or any particular cosplay. There will be no gatekeeping or elitism at AASC events. Unwelcome or unsolicited criticism of cosplay, costumes, or props is unacceptable.
- We expect attendees to be mindful of those around them. Steampunk is a diverse group, and that is one of the main factors that has drawn most of us into this amazing community. We vary in race, age, belief, sexual orientation, personal style, body size, ability, and so many more other variants too numerous to fully list. When attending, be mindful of not only who you are specifically interacting with, but those around you as well. We are an inclusive group by nature and should be celebrating everyone’s own uniqueness. Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, ageist, or any other demeaning or degrading commentary or remarks have no place here. This additionally applies to costumes and buttons. Racist or hateful costuming will have no home here. Hate speech or gestures, to include those gestures commonly used by known hate groups, or otherwise used to spread or display hate will not be tolerated.

We take the safety of attendees very seriously. If at any time anyone feels that these rules have been violated, and feel harassed, harmed, demeaned, or unsafe it is imperative that the unwelcome behavior be reported. All reported instances will be investigated according to the “Incident Reporting Procedure” below. As matters such as this are sensitive, investigations and any administered corrective actions may be conducted confidentially by event staff, but will be relayed to the AASC for further review and so that other events will be aware of any potential dangers in our community. All reported instances will be reviewed and addressed on an independent basis and done so objectively. If the situation warrants it, or if a clear law has been broken, the proper authorities will be notified.

Consent

Enthusiastic Consent: Please get clear and enthusiastic consent before any sort of physical contact, or interaction with others. Enthusiastic consent can be as simple as “YES!” to a clearly asked question. More complex situations may require more discussion, especially with people you are somewhat unfamiliar with or haven’t seen in a while. The general idea is to make sure everyone is really ok with what’s going on.

The Venue, City, County, State, and Federal Policy and Laws

Individuals are reminded that events conform and abide by all Venue, City, County, State, and Federal Policy and Laws. Due to insurance, liability, safety, and by choice at the discretion of the Organization, some policies may be further restrictive than those specified by the Venue, City, County, State, and Federal Policy and Laws. Items of concern will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the judgment of the event and venue is final.

Incident Reporting Procedure

If A Situation Occurs

If an attendee, entertainer, staff member, or any other person at the event is being inappropriate, someone may choose to report the offender. Reporting is always a choice but not something you should feel pressured to do. Reports may be made anonymously or with your name, and whatever level of information you're comfortable sharing, this includes the option to be, or not to be contacted by incident reporting staff. We take all reports very seriously and follow up immediately whenever possible.

Incident Reporting

- Each event within the AASC will follow the Incident Reporting Procedure, as agreed upon by the policies set forth within the AASC. The procedure will continue to be improved as time and need determine. The purpose of this procedure is to keep staff, guests, and patrons safe within the convention scene.
- Incident Reports may include (but are not limited to): safety concerns, harassment, non-consensual contact (regarding a person or property), unacceptable photography, hate speech, or any other inappropriate conduct. In all cases, complaints will be handled promptly and with the utmost care.
- If you have experienced any situation, even if you're unsure if it rises to the level of an incident report, please contact your event staff as soon as possible. Event staff can walk you through the procedure.
- All reported incidents will be relayed to the AASC to ensure proper follow-through. However, victim names and identifying information will be redacted. The purpose of sharing this information is to track potential problems within our community, NOT to discuss the victims. Victims are kept strictly confidential.
- Our full Incident Reporting Procedures can be found at: [Procedure Link]
This includes how we handle policy violations and the steps we take to resolve them.
- Printable Incident Reporting Form:
- Online Incident Reporting Form:

Liability

The AASC, the participating events, their venues, and any associated partners are not responsible for any loss, damage, theft, or injury with regard to any attendee at any time. Attendees are responsible for their individual actions and any repercussions that may result. Civil or medical emergencies must be reported to venue staff who will contact the proper authorities.