

Health and Safety Policies



**FLORIDA
POLYCON**

Florida PolyCon reserves the right to amend or change these rules/policies at any time for any reason to provide for the safety, security and general well-being of the attendees and the general public. (Updated December 15, 2022)

Florida PolyCon - Health and Safety Policies

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Security Expectations

The safety and security of our staff, exhibitors, and guests is our priority. We work closely with the University and local law enforcement authorities to identify risks, assess them, and develop security plans for our event.

Everyone attending Florida PolyCon should be aware that the following are in place:

- Security may approach you to assist while at Florida PolyCon.
- Weapons checks are in operation at our event.
- Walkthrough or handheld scanners may be in operation at our events.
- CCTV in operation at our event is monitored and recorded.
- Uniformed Police Officers are in attendance at our event.

Everyone attending Florida PolyCon is requested to:

- Keep personal property with you at all times and do not leave any items unattended.
- Report anything that looks unusual, suspicious, or just out of place to Florida PolyCon Staff, Security, or Volunteers.
- Remain patient and courteous with Florida PolyCon Staff and Security undertaking weapons checks. We have your best interests at heart, and we want to get you into Florida PolyCon as soon as possible.
- Follow the instructions of Florida PolyCon Staff at all times.
- Carry a recognized form of photo ID at all times (State Issued ID, Driver's License, and/or Passport).

Florida PolyCon has many emergency phones located outdoors to ensure students, employees, and guests can contact the Lakeland Police 911 dispatch center as easily as possible. Blue Light Emergency Phones allow people who feel threatened, see anything suspicious or require any type of emergency assistance to connect with an answering service that connects you to the Lakeland Police 911 dispatch center.

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Weapons Policy

Please be advised that Florida Polytechnic University has specific rules regarding cosplay.

Failure to follow this policy may result in your removal from the convention without a refund. This policy applies to all venues hosting Florida PolyCon events.

Hate symbols are not permitted at Florida PolyCon, including as part of cosplay, and PolyCon will not allow costumes that contain hate symbols or appropriate the symbolism of hate groups, including, but not limited to, historical, comic-related, and/or satirical costumes.

At the discretion of the Florida PolyCon team, the following are **ALLOWED**:

- Lightweight Plastic and Foam Shields
- Lightweight Plastic/PVC Props/Plastic Laser Swords
- Toy guns, if they do not look like real ones, cannot function, or shoot projectiles and have an orange tip on the barrel. The barrel of all prop firearms must be covered with brightly colored caps.
- Prop bows will be allowed providing all arrows have soft tips made of foam or cardboard and the bow itself is de-strung. If it is not, our security team will be de-stringing the bow.

If any of the above items are deemed unsafe by Florida PolyCon Security, they will not be allowed on site. If you are bringing, buying, or selling something that could maim, damage, or cause bodily harm, we are going to take issue.

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Weapons Policy (Continued)

The following items are **NOT ALLOWED** at Florida PolyCon:

- Live firearms: This includes modern guns, hunting guns, historic guns, airsoft guns, BB guns, cap guns, paintball guns and pellet guns – either functioning or de-commissioned.
- Realistic replica firearms: This includes reproduction, fake or toy guns that can be confused for functional firearms – either metal, solid resin/plastic/rubber.
- Functional projectile weapons: This includes blow guns, functioning crossbows, functioning longbows, silly string, slingshots, water balloons and water guns. No props or weapons capable of firing any projectile or powder charge of any kind.
- Sharpened metal-bladed weapons: This includes axes, daggers, hatchets, knives, kunai, shuriken, swords, sword canes and switchblades.
- Explosives: This includes firecrackers and fireworks.
- Chemical weapons: This includes mace, aerosol mustard, and pepper spray.
- Blunt weapons: This includes brass knuckles, clubs and nunchaku.
- Hard prop weapons: This includes props made of metal, fiberglass and glass.
- No laser pointers. If you have a laser pointer in your prop or weapon, make sure it cannot function by either removing the batteries, or simply not bringing it.
- No excessive noise makers. Items that cause excessive noise levels like vuvuzelas, grenade whistles and grenade horns.
- Miscellaneous. No whips. No glitter.

Florida PolyCon is committed to providing a safe environment. In addition to our Policies, guests are required to follow all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and on-site instructions.

All prop weapons must be checked at the Weapons Check Table, where staff will inspect the prop.

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Purchased Props and Weapons

Any imitation weapons or replica swords or knives must remain in the original packaging until the attendee is off the University's property. If you would like to use the purchased piece as a part of your costume the item must be presented to the weapons check desk in its original packaging. If approved, it may be used in accordance with the rules stated within the weapons policy. If the item is denied approval, then it must remain in its original packaging or it will need to be securely stored in the attendee's hotel room, vehicle or left at the weapons check desk until they leave the event. Failure to comply will result in being escorted off premises and banned from the event without refund.

Cosplay and General Dressing

It is required that all attendees wear clothing that covers at least the areas normally obscured by standard bathing suits. However, we advise you to keep in mind that this is a student run convention hosted at a local university. Since there will be students, parents, and university staff in attendance, we suggest you wear clothing with a modesty level that would be appropriate at your educational or professional institution.

Florida PolyCon does not actively discourage cosplay of any character, but we do ask that you demonstrate proper tact in your cosplay. If a character, or the show from which the character comes, seems like it may be in poor taste due to current events, we suggest you retire that cosplay for a while.

PLEASE NOTE that if you violate any of the above rules you CAN and WILL be removed from the convention. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS! If you are asked by a member of Campus Security or Event Volunteers, you are required to comply with their requests or risk removal from the convention. These decisions are based on the discretion of the Events Volunteer or Campus Security you are dealing with at that exact moment. Do not think you are an exception to the rules. Use common sense. If you cannot abide by the rules, please stay home.

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Drug and Alcohol Policies

Marijuana use or possession is strictly prohibited on University and Florida PolyCon premises.

Smoking is prohibited on University premises except in designated smoking areas.

The use of smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes is prohibited in PolyCon buildings; smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes may be used in any outside area. The sale of tobacco products is prohibited on the University premises.

Alcohol is prohibited within Florida PolyCon, event spaces, and any other event premises.

Florida Polytechnic University and Florida PolyCon seek to ensure that students and guests at medical risk as a result of alcohol or substance abuse/use will receive prompt and appropriate medical attention. For this reason, no student seeking medical attention for himself/herself or for another will receive punitive sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct regarding a violation of this policy.

Lost and Found Policy

While Florida PolyCon is not responsible for lost and stolen personal items, we will do everything we can to help you recover your property. Please bring all found items to the Health and Safety Office or any Florida PolyCon Staff, Security, or Volunteer. The Lost and Found is located in the Health and Safety Office.

Inclement Weather Policy

Florida PolyCon reserves the right to shut down outside events during electrical storms, heavy rain, high winds, or otherwise dangerous weather conditions. There are no refunds for inclement weather.

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Non-Discrimination & Sexual Misconduct

Florida Poly is committed to providing and maintaining a dignified environment in which all members of the University Community appreciate and respect one another by collectively sustaining a welcoming environment from unlawful discrimination and sexual misconduct. There are regulations and policies in place for handling these types of situations.

Anyone can report harassment. If someone's behavior has made you feel harassed or discriminated based on a protected class, or if you witness the same happening to someone else, you should immediately contact Florida PolyCon Staff, Florida PolyCon Security Team, or Florida PolyCon Volunteers. You may also come to the Florida PolyCon Health & Safety Office.

If necessary, we will contact local law enforcement, provide an escort, offer a safe place, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to make sure they feel safe for the rest of Florida PolyCon.

Sexual misconduct has no place at Florida PolyCon. Keep your hands to yourself. If you would like to take a picture with or of another Florida PolyCon guest, always ask first and respect that person's right to say no. When at Florida PolyCon, be respectful, be nice, and be kind to each other.

Florida PolyCon's mission is to create a fun, safe, welcoming, awesome event where fans of all kinds can come together and celebrate. We want you to not only have the most amazing day ever, but to experience it in an environment where you are safe and accepted. As fans ourselves, we understand the importance of creating a safe space for everyone who attends Florida PolyCon.

Please review the regulation below:

[FPU-1.004 Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity.](#)

[FPU-1.005P Sexual Misconduct](#)

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Accessibility

Florida PolyCon is welcoming to individuals of all abilities and works to be a fully accessible event. We are dedicated to continually improving our efforts to ensure full access and we encourage all feedback and suggestions in order to improve your experience.

The following explains all accommodations provided this year. For any accessibility-related questions, please email us at floridapolycon@floridapoly.edu. We will do our very best to help you have an epic experience.

Pets are not allowed and will be turned away. Only service animals that are properly trained and under the proper care of their owners will be allowed into the event and provided with the appropriate credentials.

All service animals must always remain by the handler's side and must be under the control of the individual.

Service animals must be housebroken and should use the service animal relief area.

Anyone bringing an animal will be responsible for and liable for any damage or injury caused by the animal.

If you are taking a service animal to Florida PolyCon you must additionally comply with: [FPU-1.014 Animals on University Property](#)

All entrances within Florida PolyCon are ADA compliant and ADA accessible. Florida PolyCon has sidewalk ramps, automatic doors, restrooms, and elevators accessible for persons with mobility disabilities.

Motorized or manually operated mobility vehicles are not available for purchase at Florida PolyCon. Please make plans to bring your own mobility vehicles.

Strobing lights, amplified sounds, and large crowds are quite common at our show. Please be aware of your surroundings and consider taking "stimulation breaks" as needed.

Quiet Room: If you need a break from the noise and crowds, we have a Quiet Room and will be announcing the location closer to the show. Please be courteous to others when utilizing the space, this room will be monitored by Crew and Staff.

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Accessibility (Continued)

First Aid: First Aid is located within the Florida PolyCon Health and Safety Office. Staff will assist with your needs at this location and throughout Florida PolyCon as necessary.

The Florida PolyCon team and University will consider any request by a guest with a disability for reasonable request or modification of its policies, practices, procedures, effective community, or for auxiliary aids and services that will permit the guest equal enjoyment of the services offered at the event. If you would like to request ASL Interpretation for any performance or any other request, please contact us at floridapolycon@floridapoly.edu. Keep in mind, requests should be made no later than three weeks before the event to allow for sufficient processing time. We encourage you to make any such request as far in advance as possible to enhance our ability to evaluate and fulfill the request.

In continually trying to make Florida PolyCon more accessible, we encourage you to contact us at floridapolycon@floridapoly.edu for any of your accessibility-related needs. Additionally, if you have any questions about ADA policies or our services, please reach out to us.

Nursing Mothers Room

Florida Polytechnic University understands the need for new mothers to have access to a private, secure, clean space for use. This is available to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors in helping the individual ease back into work or school without having to sacrifice the healthy practice of expressing their milk. Current location designated:

- IST Building, room 1050 (connect with a Florida PolyCon staff member to obtain the key)
- ARC Building, room 1151 (this door remains opened, and can be locked from the inside when in use)

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