

# Masquerade in Ghent Costume Contest Guidelines

Masquerade in Ghent is a community celebration designed to bring people together for a fun, festive, and family-friendly experience. We welcome creativity, humor, imagination, and a wide variety of costume ideas.



**To help ensure an enjoyable and respectful event for everyone, participants are asked to follow these guidelines:**

- Respect all people and cultures. Costumes should not demean, ridicule, or promote harmful stereotypes about individuals or groups based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or other personal characteristics.
- Celebrate creativity, not discrimination. Please avoid costumes that use cultural or ethnic caricatures, racial slurs, or demeaning representations of a group of people.
- Keep it family-friendly. Costumes should be appropriate for an event attended by children and families.
- Costumes featuring explicit content, threatening behavior, or depictions of real life violence are not appropriate. Example: Fictional villains in horror movies are okay; Nazis, the KKK, and ICE are not. All prop weapons must be clearly fake and look distinct from real weapons from a distance.
- Political and topical costumes. We recognize that Halloween costumes may include satire, humor, and commentary on current events. Such costumes should remain respectful and should not violate the guidelines above.

Masquerade in Ghent organizers reserve the right to address costumes that are inconsistent with these guidelines and disqualify costumes from the Costume Contest Parade. Any concerns will be reviewed fairly and consistently, with the goal of maintaining a welcoming environment for the entire community.

**Thank you for helping us keep Masquerade in Ghent a fun, creative, and inclusive tradition for everyone!**



**Presented By:**

