

# COASTAL COSPLAY COSTUMES

## AGES

Teens/tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Be the wonder in the ocean! Invite teens and tweens to come up with funny, clever, or realistic interpretations of oceanic characters to wear to a cosplay event at your library. For example, someone could wear a “Mariana Trench-coat” or dress as the “Deep Blue ‘C’”. They could be a Sharknado, paint their face to emulate the amazing camouflage techniques of cuttlefish, or dress as an enormous sea mammal and constantly say “Why I otter!” Provide a list of famous ocean characters (such as Ursula, Ariel, or Jack Sparrow) if they struggle to come up with their own. Suggested runtime: 90–120 min.

## TIP:

Combine with Tabletop Role-Playing Games on page 144 for a multi-part program. You can also have teens/tweens create a photo booth and props before the cosplay event.



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## GAME/ACTIVITY

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Fabric, sewing supplies
- Paint, markers, glue
- Craft supplies
- Snacks/drinks (optional)
- Sewing machines (optional)
- Photo booth materials (optional)

Before the program, contact local craft stores or resale shops, who might be willing to partner with you and donate items. Reach out to local cosplayers, theaters, and school theater departments to see if they have any items to donate or someone willing to teach the basics of sewing, costume design, and/or make-up effects.

Instructions:

- Advertise the cosplay event on social media, display cosplay and sewing/crafting books, and gather materials (if hosting a sewing program in the library).
- If not hosting the creation in your library, make sure teens, tweens, and adults know when to come dressed up! Hang an ocean backdrop, or set up a photo booth with props.
- Invite patrons to come dressed as their cleverest, watery-est selves. Optional: hold a vote for Best Cosplay, expand the event to an ocean-themed festival, or scale down to just encourage patrons to post photos on social media in their cosplay outfits with your library tagged.

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

For an in-person program, you will need several volunteers to help with design and sewing. For an event, create a wide open space for characters to gather.

## GAME/ACTIVITY

## RESOURCES

**Books**Fiction

*You Brought Me the Ocean* (2020) by Alex Sanchez and Julie Maroh (YA)

*Fangirl* (2013) by Rainbow Rowell (YA)

*Rick* (2020) by Alex Gino (YA)

*Geekerella* (2017) by Ashley Poston (YA)

Non-fiction

*The Costume Making Guide: Creating Armor and Props for Cosplay* (2016) by Svetlana Quindt (YA)

*1,000 Incredible Costume and Cosplay Ideas: A Showcase of Creative Characters from Anime, Manga, Video Games, Movies, Comics, and More* (2013) by Yaya Han, Allison DeBlasio, and Joey Marsocci (YA)

*The Hero's Closet: Sewing for Cosplay and Costuming* (2017) by Gillian Conahan (YA)

*The Fangirl's Guide to the Universe* (2020) by Sam Maggs (YA)