



## **Costume Guide**

by L. Angotti (revised 2018-19)

Part of LARP is creating someone who isn't yourself, so if your character is someone who isn't you, then shouldn't they be wearing different clothes? Well, the answer to that is yes; LARP isn't just about the combat, it's also about the role-playing, including dressing as one's character. Costumes usually help a person better roleplay their character, as they are dressed as that character. By wearing costumes, we establish that we are not on earth, we are in the world of Etheraz, which is most definitely not Earth. Costumes are important in LARP because they provide levels of immersion that helps with role-playing and aesthetic appearance of the game.

This costume guide is provided to improve your LARP experience by helping to create better costumes among everyone in the community. First this guide will also provide to you expectations of costumes based on rank, there are different expectations for a person who has been in the program for less than a year and for someone who has been with the program for more than a few years. This guide does raise the expectations as a person spend more time in the program, so also provided is suggestions for places to find costume pieces. Costuming is usually very fun so don't think of it as a requirement, go into it open-minded and with a creative attitude.

## Some Ideas on How to Start a Costume

Imagine your character just defeated the worst monster they have ever seen, or maybe they are out in the tavern catching up with their friends. What does your character look like? Does your character have any scars from battle? Or maybe they have a tunic with their heraldic colors.

Typically before you start getting your costume pieces together it is good to sketch out what you want your character to look like, what kind of clothes he or she will be wearing. When sketching your character, remember you should be drawing how you imagine your character, no restrictions, be creative.

Next you should look at the clothes your character is wearing and label what everything is (ex. black pants or brown leather vest). Once everything is labeled it's a good idea to choose the pieces that are the most easily attainable and start there. As you spend more time LARPing, you will most likely acquire more and more costume pieces that either add to the costume or replace other pieces. Also, as you continue the program the costume expectations will go up, so it is expected that you keep acquiring costume pieces.

We understand that money isn't endless so we can encourage that people try to make pieces of their costumes, like armor or tunics.

## Costume Expectations

### Some General Rules for Costuming

- Stay away from jeans, especially blue jeans.
- Bright sneakers are not recommended
- Logos are a no no (practice demodification)
- Remember to rep your race

### Expectations:

- First Year
  - Solid colored shirt (earth tones)
  - Solid colored pants (earth tones)
    - Cargo pants are recommended
  - Sneakers or Boots
  - Extras:
    - Pouches are very helpful!
    - Cloaks are awesome!
    - Duct tape and cardboard armor
    - These costumes should be solid colors and show the practice of demodification.
- Second Year
  - Shirt Options:
    - Tunic
    - Solid colored shirt with vest
  - Pants Options:
    - Cargo Pants
    - Sweatpants
    - Other solid colored pants
  - Shoes:
    - Solid colored sneakers (demodified)
    - Boots
  - Extras:
    - Fun Foam Armor
    - Belts with pouches always are good!
    - Frogs are handy!
    - These costumes should be well put together, but don't have to be crazy authentic.
- Third Year
  - Shirt Options:
    - Tunic
    - Blouse
    - T-shirt with vest
  - Pant Options:

- Cargo Pants
    - Cotton poofy pants
  - Shoes:
    - Solid Colored Sneakers
    - Boots
  - Extras:
    - Leather Armor
    - Modified Painted Sport Armor
    - Rep your race and your class well.
    - These costumes should be well put together and show that time and effort was well spent.
- First Year Marshall
  - Shirt Options:
    - Tunic
  - Pants Options:
    - Cotton Pants
    - Cargo Pants
  - Shoes:
    - Solid-colored sneakers
    - boots
  - Extras:
    - Must be repping your race
    - Well decorated Sports armor
    - Leather Armor
    - These costumes should be examples for others to strive for and should show that time and effort was well spent in creating this costume.
- Second Year Marshall
  - Shirt Options:
    - tunic
  - Pants Options:
    - Cotton Pants (poofy pants are awesome)
  - Shoes:
    - boots are preferable
    - solid colored sneakers are acceptable
  - Extras:
    - Must be repping your race
    - remember to accessorize!
      - belt
      - pouch
      - necklaces
      - cloaks or half cloaks
    - These costume should be almost complete and show effort in every piece.

- Third Year Marshall
  - These costumes are expected to complete by this year. This entails, no jeans even colored jeans are a no. No logos whatsoever! At this point you should have solid colored sneakers or boots. Your armor should be above and beyond amazing regardless of if you made it or bought it. Remember you are inspiration for others!
- Fourth Year Marshall
  - This costume must be complete and fantabulous.

## Costume Builder

Where to go looking for costumes pieces:

- First, it's always good to check your closet, your parents closets, and even the attic or basement. Ask your parents for help, parent usually have one or two tricks up their sleeves.
- Next best place is goodwill, we highly encourage thrift shops or goodwill because they usually have some awesome pieces for costuming at great prices.
  - <http://garmentdistrict.com/>
  - <http://www.goodwillmass.org/stores/store-locations-and-hours.html?gclid=CPua25Tp8ccCFc4WHwodSpQOjg>
- Sometimes if someone you know, is good at sewing , you could design a piece, go buy fabric and have someone help you make it. In general learning how to sew is also a very good idea and a helpful skill to have.
- Ask people who are higher ranks than you if they have anything they could give you that they don't use anymore.
- Be sure to check out Ayla's Armory at guild nights and events!
- During the Fall King Richard's Faire is a great place to find some awesome costume pieces.
- Through our community, you will be able to custom order pieces made by Laura Angotti.
- Some Websites People in the Community Shop:
  - <http://www.threadsoftime.com/>
  - <http://www.ravenswoodleather.com/>
  - [www.etsy.com/](http://www.etsy.com/)
  - <http://stores.renstore.com/>
  - <http://www.by-the-sword.com/default.aspx>