



Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Event Policy

(Effective February 1, 2011)

Purpose: To establish guidelines for anime, science-fiction and gaming convention events; to establish guidelines for bringing prop weapons onto Rensselaer facilities and properties; to ensure that Rensselaer is in compliance with all federal, state and local laws regarding weapons and prop weapons; and to provide Rensselaer's faculty, staff, students and visitors with a healthy, respectful working, living and learning environment. The policy applies to all: students; employees, including faculty and staff; visitors; vendors; and members of the President's Cabinet.

Definitions: The annual Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Event sponsored by a Rensselaer Student Club, and held on the Rensselaer campus, which is currently called Genericon.

A minor, in New York State, is defined as a person who is under eighteen (18) years of age.

Prop weapon: Anything that looks like or resembles a weapon (as defined below) to anyone under any circumstance.

Peace Bonding: The act of marking a prop weapon as safe when it has been inspected and approved by a Department of Public Safety Public Safety Officer.

Weapons: This includes, but is not limited to: firearms, ammunition, rifles, shotguns, hand guns, BB guns, pellet guns, cap guns, air-soft weapons, paintball guns, blow guns, tasers, laser pointers, laser-aiming devices, or similar laser devices, explosives, knives, swords (including katana and other martial arts style swords), daggers, sword canes, switchblades, bali-song (butterfly) knives, axes, hatchets, pole arms, staffs, clubs, wooden or metal bats and paddles, bows, arrows, martial arts weapons, brass knuckles, chains, whips, pepper spray, mace, whips, projectile items, toy or real, or any item that may infer it is a dangerous item or one which would place another in apprehension of immediate harm.

Policy: Rensselaer understands that carrying props and replicas are important to many participants as part of the anime, science-fiction, and gaming convention experience. However, prop weapons will only be allowed provided they are composed of cardboard, foam, wood or other light materials. Prop firearms are allowed only if they cannot be mistaken for real weapons. The barrels of all prop



firearms MUST BE covered with brightly colored caps. Prop bows will be allowed provided all arrows have soft tips.

The following items are prohibited in all Rensselaer facilities and outdoor areas:

- Functional firearms including but not limited to live guns, air soft guns, BB guns, cap guns, paintball guns and pellet guns or stun guns;
- Functional projectile weapons including but not limited to blow guns, dart guns, crossbows, long bows, silly string, slingshots, water balloons, and water guns;
- Metal-bladed weapons including but not limited to axes, daggers, hatchets, knives, kunai, shuriken, swords, sword canes, and switch blades;
- Explosives or any incendiary devices including but not limited to firecrackers and fireworks;
- Chemical weapons including but not limited to mace and pepper spray;
- Blunt weapons including brass knuckles, clubs, and nunchaku;
- Hard prop weapons including props made of metal, fiberglass, and glass;
- Live steel, including but not limited to swords, knives, or other objects made of metal, which can take an edge, and dull metal weapons; and
- Flail weapons, including but not limited to whips, floggers, maces, nunchaku, and any weapon attached moving parts designed to impact opponents. Items on strings that are longer than a human hand also qualify as flails and thus are not permitted.

Participants may not carry or possess any weapon, openly or concealed, at any time on any of Rensselaer's facilities or outdoor areas. Weapons, firearms (including antique weapons and firearms), and all forms of live ammunition are strictly forbidden. Any weapon that is brought onto any Rensselaer facility or outdoor area will be immediately reported to the appropriate authorities.

All prop weapons must be inspected and approved for entry by a representative of the Department of Public Safety. All approved prop weapons must be in plain view and cannot be concealed.

The Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention is an alcohol-free and drug-free event. Consistent with Institute Policy, Rensselaer prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, and use of illegal drugs in all of its indoor and outdoor facilities and properties. Rensselaer also prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, and use of alcohol at the Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Event.



To ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants attending Genericon Convention, Rensselaer maintains this Prop Weapons, and Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Event Policy.

Procedure: It is imperative that costume "weapons" comply with this policy and with local, state, and federal laws.

Anyone who brings a prop weapon for his or her costume must have it inspected and approved by Department of Public Safety Public Safety Officers (PSOs). All carried prop weapons are subject to examination at any time by Department of Public Safety PSOs. Rensselaer reserves the right to refuse entry of any prop weapon it deems unfit for any reason. Rensselaer Department of Public Safety PSOs will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a prop weapon is dangerous. Determinations made by the Department of Public Safety PSOs are final.

The Department of Public Safety is not liable for damage to prop weapons during inspection.

Large props, costumes or fake weapons must have approval for entry into the event, and not be so unwieldy that they impede hallway traffic flow or have issues navigating egresses. The rough size determiner is, if it is taller or wider than a standard doorway (6'8" tall by 30" wide), then it is too large and will be prohibited. If you are found to have an obstructive costume or prop weapon that is causing navigation issues, then you will be politely asked to remove the prop weapon or costume from the event.

If you think that your prop weapon or costume may possibly violate this policy, have it inspected by Department of Public Safety PSOs at the Event Assistance Table.

If you are found using any prop weapon like object in an unsafe manner (such as horseplay, dueling, fighting, running, swinging), then Rensselaer reserves the right to expel you from the event.

Rensselaer reserves the right to initiate the progressive disciplinary process against any faculty, staff or student who is found to be in violation of this policy. Visitors who violate this policy following a warning will be escorted off campus.



Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Event Staff

Individuals who work during the Convention event who are faculty, staff or student of Rensselaer, must be approved by the Rensselaer Student Club sponsoring the event, in consultation with the Division of Human Resources, the Division of Student Life and the Department of Public Safety.

Individuals who work or volunteer during the Convention event who are not employed by Rensselaer as faculty or staff, or who are not attending Rensselaer as a student, must undergo a background check conducted by the Division of Human Resources in consultation with the Division of Student Life and the Department of Public Safety before being approved by the Rensselaer Student Club sponsoring the event to work or volunteer for the Convention event.

Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Guests

All Convention guests are expected to follow all Rensselaer Policies and Procedures, as well as comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws.

All Convention guests are expected to behave in a civil, courteous manner. Rensselaer reserves the right to ask any guest to leave the Convention event at any time, at its discretion.

Any minor (i.e., a person under the age of 18) who attends the Convention event must be accompanied by someone eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Convention guests are not allowed to sleep at the convention, or in any other Rensselaer facility or outdoor area, unless they are a guest of a Rensselaer student who lives on campus.

Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention Event Vendors

All Convention vendors are expected to follow all Rensselaer Policies and Procedures, as well as comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws, including tax laws.

All Convention vendors are expected to behave in a civil, courteous manner. Rensselaer reserves the right to ask any vendor to leave the Convention event at any time, at its discretion.

In the event that violations of these policies occur during the convention, Rensselaer will conduct an evaluation and make its determination on a case by case basis. Rensselaer reserves the right to rescind any Vendor registration, and ask a Vendor to leave the event, at its discretion.



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Any prop weapon purchased at a Vendor table must be boxed and removed from convention space immediately, and must remain boxed (for example, in your car) for the duration of event. Prop weapons are not to be taken out their packaging or wrapping at any time over the course of the Convention event.

Bootlegged merchandise may not be sold at the Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention event.

Vendors may not sell any merchandise that contains any sexually explicit, sexually oriented adult content material at the Anime, Science-Fiction, and Gaming Convention event.