

Get Out The Float Code of Conduct

Revised Thursday, August 10, 2023

Summary

Get Out The Float requires that all members do their best to contribute to a safe, fun and welcoming environment at Get Out The Float (GOTF).

Most importantly, Get Out The Float (GOTF) is an all ages event with a maximum rating of PG-13/SFW. Please be sure the way you present yourself and your actions are suitable.

Major disruptions to the PG-13 environment may result in the loss of membership privileges, removal from events, and suspension of future participation. If you see or experience violations of the Code of Conduct, please report them to the F.L.A.R.E. office during the convention.

Anyone who accepts a Get Out The Float (GOTF) membership or badge agrees to indemnify and hold harmless GOTF from any claim for personal injuries or other damages or equity arising out of any individual's activities at GOTF, even if such injury or damage is caused by negligence by or on the part of GOTF. As a condition of membership, everyone attending GOTF is required to abide by the rules set forth in this document for the entire duration of their stay.

Thank you for reading and for your understanding.

In Detail

Get Out The Float (GOTF) started as an event that blurred the lines between the depth and breadth of a furry convention and the public interaction of a charity fursuited group. Then as now, public fursuiting is done for as many reasons as there are fursuiters. Below we detail some of the specifics that need to be addressed to facilitate events that are good for our staff, good for our participants, good for our venues, and the public good.

Public Areas

When in public or public areas, participants may not wear clothing which is overly revealing or inappropriate to the atmosphere of the event. Fursuits are to be in good working order and complete. Partial fursuits are allowed so long as no skin is visible. Video and sound recording may be conducted by anyone, for any purpose without our permission or consent.

Non-Public Areas

Non-public areas include spaces inside our venue(s), when we are renting spaces that are not open to the general public at the time we are there. Wear appropriate attire, whether it be clothing, kigu, full or partial fursuits or some combination thereof. Video and sound recording may be done by any of our members provided they are unobtrusive and respectful. Media are allowed only if specifically authorized by GOTF and escorted by a staff liaison.

Private Areas

Private areas at GOTF are our Headless Lounges. There may be people changing from one outfit to another or partially dressed to cool off. Taking photos or recording sound or video are not allowed in our headless lounges.

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Firearms / Weapons

Any guests, including law enforcement personnel not in a working capacity, are prohibited from bringing weapons to GOTF. Weapons may not be checked in to our operations or F.L.A.R.E. offices. Weapons include but are not limited to the following: firearms, ammunition, explosives, stun guns, handcuffs, brass knuckles, sticks, clubs, batons, martial arts instruments, pepper spray, tear gas and knives.

Uniforms / Military Gear

Police, military, paramilitary gear, or uniform equipment may not be worn in conjunction with a costume/fursuit. Uniformed personnel must be in an active-duty status with their military or organization.

Insignia

Hateful symbols, insignia, or markings that promote activities not appropriate for the environment of the convention are not allowed.

Intimidating Attire

Spikes, rubber masks, and costumes with excessively gruesome, disturbing, or violent costumes are not allowed. Examples include, but are not limited to, creepy clowns, excessive blood, dislodged limbs, etc.

Pooltoy-safe Attire & Areas

In some areas of the convention, where inflatables are displayed, a staffed shoe and badge desk is provided with video surveillance. Spikes, some studs, badge clips, pins, and other objects, that may damage inflatables or bouncy castles, will be removed and stored in this area. Use this area for entry/exit to the Pacific Room at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center (SCCC), as you will need to wear your badge and shoes outside of this area.

Inflatables at Get Out The Float

Bouncy castles and inflatables used at GOTF are owned by others and not by the convention. Respect for the property of others is required. There is a gap in inflatable etiquette between furies and inflatables similar to a gap in fursuit etiquette between the general population and fursuiters; to this end we have designated toysitters to help ensure that toys and furies both make it through without anything more than normal wear and tear.

Additional rules of conduct and safety rules will be posted near the main entrance to inflatable areas. Inflatables should be in good repair and presentable for the environment of our convention. Knock-offs or unauthorized copies of furry community characters are not allowed.

Care for Personal Property

Events during GOTF are not all inflatable- or fursuit-focused. That said, the investment made by our members in their fursuits and inflatables is significant. Some events, by their nature, impart wear and tear on these items; abuse of these items is not welcome. Be considerate when interacting with items that belong to our friends.

Consent

Obtain consent before physically interacting with any guest or member of the public. It is important to be respectful of personal boundaries.

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Harassment

Any kind of harassment, whether it takes place physically, verbally, and/or in writing, in real-world or online spaces, is not welcome at GOTF. If you are told "no" or asked to leave, your business with that person is done. If you continue to attempt to have contact with someone after being told to stop, you may be removed from the premises. If you are the target of harassment, we urge you to report the incident immediately to a member of F.L.A.R.E. or to Convention Operations (Con Ops). The sooner an issue is reported to us, the more quickly and appropriately we can address it.

Membership Considerations

The lanyard colors and membership types are described below.

| Lanyard Color | Membership | Themed Membership Name |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------|
| RED | Youth | Trainee* |
| GREEN | Guardian | Trainer* |
| BLUE | Participant | Apprentice |
| WHITE | Sponsor | Specialist |
| PURPLE | Patron | Practitioner |
| ORANGE | Staff | Staff |

* Trainee and Trainer memberships allow for one paired membership at no additional cost. They have differently colored lanyards to distinguish their responsibilities from those in other roles.

GOTF functions are open only to members and all attendees must prominently wear their membership badges. A badge is valid only for the person to whom it was issued; badges may not be shared under any circumstances.

Accessibility Information

The SCCC meets or exceeds all structural and service requirements as stipulated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Following services are available to accommodate the needs of our guests with disabilities:

- **Assistive Listening Devices:** ALD are available for loan; contact Convention Operations.
- **Accessible Parking:** Designated parking is available for those with Disabled Person Parking Permits along 1st Ave in front of the Convention Center.
- **Accessible Seating:** Seating locations vary depending on particular events. Please inform Convention Operations if you will require accessible seating.

Advertising at GOTF

Advertising or promotional materials must be approved by Con Ops and placed only in designated areas. Advertising and promotional materials may only be displayed for events or services that are completely suitable for all ages and rated PG-13/SFW. Do not affix anything to the hotel or convention center walls, elevators, or to GOTF signage without prior permission from Con Ops.

AEDs / First Aid

The SCCC is equipped with two (2) Automated External Defibrillators. Locations include: main level Front Lobby (N.E. Entrance) and upper level Landing. GOTF and SCCC do not provide first aid services. Please dial 911 in case of emergency, *then* notify GOTF Operations staff or F.L.A.R.E. We will notify the convention center.

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Bag Inspection & Searches

All guests entering SCCC may be subjected to a voluntary bag or clothing search. The search is voluntary because the guest can refuse, but that guest will not be permitted entry to the event. If contraband is found during a search the guests will be asked to return it to their vehicle or room or discard it.

Balloons

Helium balloons are prohibited inside the SCCC.

Elevator Etiquette

This applies to hotel and SCCC elevators. If you are not in fursuit, please use the stairs if you are able. Please encourage persons with disabilities, non-attending hotel guests (at hotel elevators) and fursuiters in fursuit with up to one handler priority to use the elevators.

Expulsion from Event by Venue or Hotel

If you are expelled from the hotel or other venue for violation of their rules, you immediately forfeit your event membership, must surrender your badge, and will receive no refund. Attendees who commit vandalism or conduct themselves in such a way that is grossly offensive to the venue or hotel staff may also be subject to long-term bans from future GOTF events.

Food and Beverage, Bottles and Cans

Guests are not permitted to bring any outside food or beverages into the SCCC.

Gatherings or Parties in Hotel Rooms

Gatherings in hotel rooms must not generate any noise that can be heard in neighboring rooms during quiet hours. Hotel doors must be kept shut during social gatherings and guests are not permitted to congregate in the hotel corridors. Hotel guests who host any gathering are responsible for cleaning up afterward. Excessive amounts of unbagged trash must not be left for housekeeping staff to clean up.

Goods and Services

Those offering goods or services for sale must be registered as a vendor with GOTF and have an Oregon state retail certificate or temporary business license. Panhandling, busking for donations, or collecting money of any kind is not permitted outside of activities specifically authorized by GOTF and venue policies.

Guest Conduct

The convention center intends to provide our guests with a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable atmosphere. Therefore, we have established the following rules regarding guest conduct:

“Guests interfering with other guest’s ability to enjoy the event may be asked to leave.”

“Guests using foul or abusive language or gestures may be asked to leave.”

This is the standard set by one of our venues; if they ask you to leave, F.L.A.R.E. can help guide you to an exit.

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Hazardous Chemicals and Materials

Hazardous chemicals or materials that, in the judgment of GOTF and/or the Convention Center, would or might cause damage to the center, endanger the life or cause bodily injury to any person in the center, are not allowed without prior written approval of the Managing Member of GOTF, the SCCC General Manager, and appropriate authorities of the City of Seaside. If materials are questionable, contact Convention Operations for further information. Arrangements should be made more than thirty (30) days prior to the convention.

Livestreaming

All participants are responsible and legally required to ensure all content being streamed is in compliance with Federal, State, and local laws, including copyright and licensing. Many seminar presenters include internet media in their sessions, which falls under the same legalities. Music licensing for official convention activities is provided by a US-based performance rights organization known as Broadcast Musicians Incorporated (BMI).

Livestreaming services administered by the Convention Center are available in the Pacific Room only. Livestreams can be made for public or private viewing. Livestreams can be recorded on a client-supplied SD card. A list of approved SD cards is included in the Convention Center's Livestreaming Services and Limitations document. Arrangements for livestreaming should be made ahead of the convention through GOTF Con Ops.

Lost and Found

During the convention, Lost and Found will be located at the F.L.A.R.E. office. After the convention our Lost and Found will be turned over to the Seaside Civic & Convention Center.

Guests who wish to claim or report lost articles should contact the administrative offices. Guests who would like to inquire about items lost at a previous event should call the administrative office during regular business hours at 503-738-8585.

Lost Children / Persons

Children should be told to contact the nearest member of F.L.A.R.E., GOTF Staff, or SCCC Staff member should they become lost. Lost children will be taken to the administrative offices. Parents looking for a lost child should contact F.L.A.R.E. and go with them to this location as well.

Parking

Free parking is available for all participants and staff. Parking is located on First Avenue just west of the Convention Center.

Payments to GOTF

GOTF only accepts VISA, MasterCard, and Discover cards for payment. Cash or checks are not accepted. Chargebacks (denying a charge) that are made for the sole purpose of avoiding payment, that are made without sufficient cause, or that are made without first attempting to resolve the dispute with GOTF may result in permanent revocation of membership.

Members who have an outstanding balance due for GOTF must settle that balance and pay any chargeback fees before being permitted to attend the convention.

GOTF cannot involve itself in financial disputes between individual members and cannot divulge information about an individual member to any party other than to banking officials or legal authorities.

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Reporting Crimes to GOTF

Individuals who report a serious crime to GOTF must also file a police report. Failure to file a police report will result in loss of membership privileges. Operations staff can assist you with the reporting process.

Revoked Memberships / Appeals

If your membership has been revoked, you are entitled to appeal with the convention chairpersons or owners of GOTF. Every effort will be made to gain a complete understanding of the situation, and ensure respect is granted to all parties involved. Instructions on how to appeal will be included in a ban letter sent after the convention is over.

Right to Refuse Service

GOTF is a private event; staff retains the right to deny entry to anyone and you can be asked to leave at any time without a warning. Attendees should not ignore any reasonable request issued by convention or venue staff. If you feel an unreasonable request has been made, please bring your concern to the Con Ops team and every effort will be made to resolve your concern.

Service Pets and Animals

Only trained service dogs, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are permitted in the SCCC building. The ADA defines a service animal as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. Dogs or therapy animals whose function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals according to the ADA, even with a doctor's note. Service animals must be under the control of the individual at all times and must be housebroken.

Staff Expectations

As a staff member, you are held to the highest standards of conduct. Your behavior is to reflect positively on the community at all times. Your conduct should set an example and exemplify the GOTF Code of Conduct.

A staff member's primary purpose is to provide hospitality and support to the guests, vendors, and hotel. A staff role is a service opportunity. If someone looks uncomfortable or doesn't wish to participate, you should give them plenty of space. Greeters and fursuiters should take special care to follow this rule.

If you do not complete your minimum service commitment listed on the volunteering page and you utilize the benefits of volunteering, you will be required to purchase a membership for the year in which you were unable to complete your service before attending any future conventions.

Smoking

Smoking and e-cigarettes (vapes) are strictly prohibited inside the SCCC and our hotels within 15 feet of all entrance and exit points; follow posted signage and any instructions from convention or venue staff.

Substance Abuse

The sale, distribution, or usage of any illegal or controlled substances is unwelcome at GOTF and may be reported to local authorities if appropriate. This includes anyone knowingly or unknowingly providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Please, please don't do this.

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Transportation from PDX

Public transportation from the Portland International Airport (PDX) to Seaside involves 2 steps:

1. From PDX, take the Trimet MAX Light Rail Red Line toward Beaverton, then get off at the Sunset Transit Center. Visit <https://trimet.org/schedules/index.htm> for maps, schedules and fees. There is a ticket kiosk at PDX to purchase a MAX ticket onsite. The MAX runs approximately every 20 minutes.
2. From Sunset Transit Center, board the Point bus to Seaside (refer to the NorthWest route). Visit <https://www.oregon-point.com/route-landing/?route=northwest#northwest-schedule> for routes, schedules and ticket information (tickets are sold by Amtrak). Tickets should be purchased in advance on the Amtrak website, or at the locations listed on the Point website. ***The Point generally only runs once or twice daily.***