

NERO BOSTON

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Basic Costuming for the Beginning LARPer

Handout 1: What you need to NPC and what you need to PC

As an NPC you may want to bring the following:

Clothes that are comfortable for the season – layers for winter, cotton for summer

- Black or neutral color sweat pants with pockets
- Black or neutral color plain t-shirt
- Black or neutral color long sleeved or sweat shirt
- Socks
- Extra socks
- Comfortable shoes – preferably boots or dark color sneakers with ankle support
- Belt
- Gloves
- Hat – preferably something warm that will pass as period *and* stay on your head

Bedding

- Bedsheet
- Blankets – extra is never bad if you have space to bring them
- Pillow

Various

- Shower Kit
- Dark or older towel
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Hairbrush

As a PC you may wish to add the following generic items to your list:

- Costume shirt
- Tabard
- Armor
- Pouches
- Period Boots (Moccasins, etc)
- Baby wipes or facial soap and a wash cloth (if you play a make-up race)
- Weapons and/or spell packets
- Business Card Holder for tags
- Tights or more elaborate pants
- Cloak or Cape
- Dress or skirt (gender specific)
- Character specific make-up

Convenient gear to bring with you

In addition to the clothing and personal items listed in on page 1, you may also want to consider bringing some of the following:

Rubber bands and/or String

Great for a variety of things such as spell packets, keeping sleeves in place etc.

Rope

Good thing to have, but also used for Circles of Power in NERO.

Scissors

Good for fixing weapons, etc. Scissors are better than a knife, as real weapons are not allowed at NERO .

Duct Tape

Excellent for fixing weapons, holding things together and fixing anything that needs an improptu fix.

Extra Weapon Foam

Just in case your weapons or shield are damaged.

Safety Pins

Just in case of emergency.

In-Game (IG) Notebook

If you have the ability to Read and write IG, you may want a notebook to jot down notes so you can remember information when it becomes important. Even if your character cannot read, you may want a notebook for OOG contacts. A regular pocket notebook with fabric or leather wrapped around it will look very nice and help you keep organized.

Seasonal Tips

The kind of fabric you wear will have an impact on your comfort.

In winter, you will want to layer your clothing, and make sure that you have thick water-resistant boots or shoes. Polyester blends tend to be warm, and are great for winter, but are too warm for most summer wear. Silks and polar fleece will also make an good insulating layer. Wool is great for keeping damp feet warm, even when it is wet. Tights and long underwear are good for a bottom layer in the winter months. Make sure you have a hat and gloves during the winter.

Cotton is an excellent summer fabric, but it tends to be heavy and cold when it is wet. Muslin is a good lightweight form of cotton for the summer, though brightly colored muslin clothing tends to fade when washed repeatedly. Thick spandex tights and polyester blends should be avoided in the summer.

Many NERO chapters have food and beverages on site, but you may want to bring extra water and snacks. If you have specific dietary needs, contact the chapter where you will be playing and ask to make sure you will have everything you need.

In winter months, check to see if the campground you will be playing at has heated cabins or a fireplace.

Always drink plenty of water when LARPing.

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Handout 2: Where to find what you need

Thrift Stores

Thrift and second-hand stores are a great place to find costuming. Even though a thrift store is not a reliable source of costuming, you can find leather belts, odd boots, shirts that will pass as medieval and all sorts of other things at a great price.

Hardware Stores

This is where you can find weapon-making materials. Make sure that you buy the right types of what you need. Exacto knives can be found at hardware stores as well.

Craft and Fabric Stores

Your best bet for open cell foam. You can also get Exacto knives at a craft store.

Magic and Costuming Shops

A local store that has supplies for magic tricks and costumes will often have the make up that you may need to play a race that requires makeup or prosthetics. Party City and other chain stores may have some things during the Halloween season, but a local store is more likely to have pancake makeup, elf ears and many other items a LARPer can use.

Department Stores

Department stores such as Walmart and Kmart are likely to have plain sweat shirts and sweat pants that you won't mind getting dirty. Tights and Spandex pants can also be found for a reasonable price. A variety of notebooks, pens, and other items can be found at many of them as well.

www.larpware.com and other websites

There are a number of LARP related web sites that can help you find everything from weapons to make-up. With a little research you can find finished weapons that fit your personal needs and even get them delivered to your door step. You can order armor to your specifications and find all of the trappings you might want for any character.

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