

AFUROTAKU

Afurotaku Cosplay: SYLA

So, you like anime • Fact Sheet

A celebration of culture, creativity and community in Gaborone, with cosplay, short for costume play (コスプレ, kosupure), at its heart.

Detail	Information
Name	Afurotaku Cosplay: SYLA (Cosplay SYLA for short). SYLA stands for So, you like anime.
Date and time	Saturday 28 November 2026, 9:00 to 17:00. The closing time may be extended.
Venue	Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC) facility, Gaborone
Admission	BWP 20
Who it is for	All ages, and family friendly. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
Centrepiece	The cosplay showcase. Every registered cosplayer joins a parade and takes individual stage time.
Sections	Junior (ages 12 and under), new this year, and Open (ages 13 and over). Each is judged and awarded separately.
Tracks	Replica, a faithful recreation of an existing character, and Creative, a handmade main costume.
Awards	Judge's Pick, Most Creative and People's Choice in each section, each with a single winner. Prizes are items rather than cash.
Also on the day	A market day with booths and stalls from local creatives in art, craft and animation, alongside food, games, activities and a photo area.
Partner booths	The Embassy of Japan in Botswana and Animaniacs Botswana
Organiser	Afurotaku, Gaborone
Rules and policies	afurotaku.com/rules

The Day in Five Phases

Phase	Name	What happens
Phase 1	Arrival and Atmosphere	Doors open, partner booths receive visitors, cosplayers meet visitors and People's Choice voting opens.
Phase 2	Main Hall Programme	The opening ceremony and planned performances, with a ramen eating contest and an icebreaker.
Phase 3	Cosplay Showcase	Judges are introduced, cosplayers parade and each takes individual stage time. Voting closes.
Phase 4	Awards Ceremony	Three awards are presented in each of the Junior and Open sections.
Phase 5	Open Floor	Stalls, games, activities and the photo area open across the hall.

Times for each item will be announced by Afurotaku.

Background

Afurotaku began in March 2021 as a podcast about the life of an African otaku, and it now runs events for the Gaborone community. Its SYLA Spring Festival on 21 March 2026 at Ledumang Senior Secondary School drew more than 500 attendees and 16 exhibitors, and Cosplay SYLA builds on it.

Contact

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This fact sheet reflects plans as at October 2026.