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THE FURRIES OF FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

Raul Martinez Rico | Reporter
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“Furry is more of a label. So many things encompass being a furry,” said Lu Colmenero, president of The Furrries of Fresno City College. “It’s a large hobby that I feel it connects so many different kinds of people.”



LU COLMENERO, PRESIDENT OF THE FURRIES OF FRESNO CITY COLLEGE, HOLDS UP A PEACE SIGN AT THEIR CLUB RUSH BOOTH WHILE C’JAY PACHECO, INTER-CLUB COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER, COVERS HIS FACE WITH ART OF SAMMY THE RAMMY, THE CLUB MASCOT, ON AUG. 27. PHOTO BY RAUL A. MARTINEZ-RICO.

The Furrries of Fresno City College, a club founded last semester, are a club for one thing, but the president, being highly driven and motivated, aims to create a safe

space for others, literally anybody, to find an open and welcoming community on campus.

The furry community, in a similar fashion to the anime community, is part of a niche subculture. Both involve people who are actively engaged in online and offline communities.

They have overlapping interests which ultimately leads to the creation of a shared creative network, much like how the club collaborates with the Art Club on campus.

“There are many people who don’t know how to draw nor have fursonas. There are many people who don’t have the time, many people who don’t even have a fursona, who, that I feel like for my club, I want to have many different ways of engaging,” Colmenero said.

Whether it’s through activities like art workshops, art collaborations, movie nights and casual hangouts on-and-off campus, this serves to create and strengthen a sense of community within the club.

While mostly done in-person, have no fear! There’s also a Discord server for those who can’t join, but still want to be active online as well.

“It’s a subculture, for one, but at its core, it’s a hobby,” said C’Jay Pacheco, inter-club council representative and social media manager.

For those who know, don’t know, are

uninformed, or actually want to be informed, the word “furry” is such a broad term, meaning so much more than what people initially perceive it to be.

There are furrries who create comics, digital art, music, action figures, fursuits and glass art. Furrries sing, dance and are part of the opera. There are furrries who are doctors, nurses and lawyers. There are furrries who worked on the COVID-19 vaccine and there are furrries who are involved in so much more.

All in all, you don’t have to be an artist, you don’t have to be a furry and you don’t have to have all these requirements in order to join this club on campus or even the furry fandom.

Whether it’s to engage in one’s hobbies with other people or simply being proud that one’s a furry, there’ll be no shortage of an opportunity to meet someone new by joining this club.

One of the primary reasons for the club’s founding is to make this community club space accessible for anyone local to the Fresno area, for those who don’t attend Fresno City College

With the fall 2025 semester heading towards the midpoint of its academic stretch, the Furrries of Fresno City College aim to have meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays with more information on meeting times and a classroom coming soon.

CLUB RUSH PUTS THE C IN COMMUNITY

Sara Cisneros | Reporter
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Fresno City College held its fall semester club rush at the College Mall on Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event provides exposure for participating clubs and invites students to sign up and get involved on campus.

Twenty clubs and organizations were set up at booths, including the Anime Club, the Gender and Sexuality Association and the Asian American Club.

Asian American Club

Club rush is a great opportunity to meet new faces through different kinds of clubs according to Haley Chun, president of the Asian American club. She expressed the importance of bringing people together to build communities.

Gender and Sexuality Association

Indy Williams, president of the GSA club believes now is an especially important time to do just that.

“Because not everybody has a community and I think part of college retention is having people around you that are in similar mindsets or places in their lives, people that you can relate to,” Williams said.

Williams encourages anyone interested to stop by the new Pride Center located in LI-143 open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for resources, counseling or to simply hang out. GSA meetings will take place in the Pride Center Thursdays at 3 p.m.

“We’d love to have you,” Williams said.

Anime Club

This semester’s club rush also came with the revival of the Anime club, formerly inactive due to lack of interest. Club President Rae Gimbarti said she had no idea people wanted it back for so long.

Gimbarti hopes to grow an environment where people can truly be themselves.

“We just want people to be sociable. We want people to be friends. We want people to be able to talk about silly things that we may not be able to speak about to other strangers because you don’t know peoples’ interests until you join a club,” Gimbarti said.

The Anime Club plans to incorporate activities into their meetings such as game days, crafting days, open discussion and more.

“We’re back for the semester and hopefully future ones,” Gimbarti said.

But even an event like this has its struggles. Janice Wong, senior program specialist at Student Services shared that not every club available on campus can participate in Club Rush, she believes the key to success within the event is communication.

“We try to host a club rush right near the beginning [of the semester] but we understand students are still trying to settle into their schedule,” Wong said.

To find information about clubs available on campus visit Fresno City College’s Club Directory.



PAYTON ARIAS (STANDING) PROMOTES THE ASIAN AMERICAN CLUB WITH PHOENIX SIMPSON (SITTING) DURING CLUB RUSH OUTSIDE THE FRESNO CITY COLLEGE CAMPUS CAFETERIA ON AUG. 29. PHOTO BY LOGAN PAYNE.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) ZOEY ARAGON, BEETLE WITT, SUNNY GENINI AND APOLLO JUAREZ (SITTING) HOLD THEIR PHONES TO REVEAL FOOTAGE OF “SUBWAY SURFERS” AND “MINECRAFT” GAMEPLAY VIDEOS, ALONG WITH A MARKIPLIER YOUTUBE VIDEO IN AN EFFORT TO GRAB STUDENTS’ ATTENTION AND PROMOTE THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY ASSOCIATION AT FRESNO CITY COLLEGE DURING CLUB RUSH ON AUG. 29. PHOTO BY LOGAN PAYNE.



STUDENTS ATTENDING CLUB RUSH AND VISITING CLUB BOOTHS AT THE COLLEGE MALL ON AUG. 27. PHOTO BY ANGELINA ALATORRE-AMAYA.