

New England Woodcarvers

Spirit of Wood Competition Rules

The New England Woodcarvers (NEWC) holds an annual Spirit Of Wood (SOW) show and competition. This year's competition will be held on Sunday, October 16th at the Woburn Senior Center on 144 School St. Woburn. Following are the rules governing the competition eligibility, registration, judging and awards.

Schedule

1. The show date is listed in Chip Chats, Woodcarving Illustrated and the SOW brochure mailed to all competitors in the previous year show. It is also listed on our web site.
2. Competitors may register their pieces Saturday, October 15th after 2pm and from 7am till 9:00am on Sunday. Any late entries may be placed on a separate table as time allows and would be eligible for Best of Show, President's Pick and Viewer's Choice ribbons only.
3. The show closes at 3:00 P.M. Sunday. Competition pieces may not be removed from the competition room until 3:00 P.M. Competitors must present their matching registration receipt to claim their piece(s). Any piece left behind shall be the sole responsibility of the owner. There shall be no exceptions to this rule.

Eligibility

1. The SOW competition is open to woodcarvers and woodworkers including all NEWC members and nonmembers.
2. Competitors can only enter one level (Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Open, Master)
3. There are no age limits.
4. Any carving shown in the Competition Categories list may be entered. If you have a piece that does not fit the category list consult with one of the show officials.

Registration

1. All competition entries must be listed on the NEWC SOW Registration form. Registration forms will be available at the competition during scheduled registration times. An online form is also available at www.newc.org>Meetings>Events and Seminars>Spirit of Wood Show>Registration Form. You can complete this form and make one additional copy. Bring both of these with you to present at registration. There is a maximum of six entries per person. NEWC members pay a registration fee of \$11.00 for the first entry and \$5.00 each for three additional entries (total of four), they may enter two more pieces at no additional cost (total of six). Nonmembers are charged \$16.00 for the first entry and \$5.00 per entry up to a maximum of six.

2. Registration fees may be paid in cash, check, or credit card. Checks must be made out to New England Woodcarvers.
3. To qualify for the NEWC entry fees, you must show a valid NEWC membership card or have a NEWC official verify your membership.
4. All entires must be hand delivered to the competition area at the Senior Center at registration times only.
5. At check-in, officials will advise the contestant as to the category that best suits the piece.
6. Show officials and/or judges may refuse entry of any piece that is objectionable.
7. No Fee will be charged to Youth up to and including sixteen (16) years of age. The same maximum number of entries applies.
8. New in 2017 Pieces placed into competition may have been carved at any time, however they cannot be entered in the Spirit of Wood more than one time.
9. Award winning pieces from past NEWC SOW competition cannot be reentered at any time.
10. Only pieces entered in the "team carved" category can be made by multiple people.
11. All identifying marks are to be covered on each piece that is submitted into competition.
12. Carvings must not have any loose parts. Carvings must be able to stand without falling or be secured to a base to prevent falling.

Competition Judging

1. The competition area will be closed from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. to judge the pieces in competition.
2. Judging will be done separately by level (Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Open, Master). The Best of Show will be awarded independent of level.
3. Competition pieces will be judged on the following four criteria:
 - A. Originality and Design - Unusual and exceptional interpretations of a subject matter. Where applicable, consider proportions, anatomy, balance and perspective, use of light and shadows, use of color.
 - B. Skilled Execution - Good workmanship, properly fitted add-ons, such as objects in hands. Also, the difficulty of the carving is considered. Was the intricate carving carved in one-piece with no add-ons?
 - C. Surface Finish - Carefully executed sanding where applicable: removal of blemishes such as fuzz, application of finishes. Does the finish enhance the grain? Consider choice of color and application in relationship to overall work.
 - D. Final Representation - After reviewing of all the above, take into consideration the decorative value and worthiness of the exhibit and the overall continuity and artistry of the presentation.
4. Judges are not obligated to award ribbons.
5. Judge's decisions are not subject to change after the judging is closed, all decisions are final.

Awards

Awards are in the form of Ribbons and Rosettes. These awards are given to carvings and other artistic creations in classified categories, Best of Show in each level, Overall Best of Show, President's Award, and People's Choice Award.

1. Judges may award ribbons and rosettes by level and category. Levels are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Open and Master. Categories are listed in the Category List on the NEWC web site at www.newc.org>Events and Seminars>Spirit of Wood Show>Competition Categories. Ribbons and rosettes may be awarded as follows:

| Award | Category |
|--|---|
| Best of level, not awarded in the Youth level. | One rosette awarded across all categories |
| First place in category | One ribbon, first place winners in all categories are eligible for best of level. |
| Second place in category | One ribbon |
| Third place in category | One ribbon |
| Honorable Mention | One ribbon |
| Participant | One participant ribbon for each entry. |

2. Judges will select the Best of Show entry from all Best of Level winners. The Best in Show will be awarded a rosette.
3. The President's Rosette Award is selected by the President of the NEWC. It will be chosen from all category first place, Best of level and Best of Show winners.
4. The People's Choice Rosette Award is decided by the public through a voting process on the day of the show. All entries take part in this process.

Disclaimer

1. All competition participants enter their pieces at their own risk. Competition pieces may be moved to allow photographing and display on the Best of Level/ Show table and other areas as needed. All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect entries from damage or loss. NEWC members will act as security guards at entrances/exits to avoid possible theft but cannot guarantee possible loss.
2. In addition to our competition there will be a gallery of tables to show previous or recent work by our artists that has not been entered in the competition. Business cards will be allowed here only.

(Disclaimer continued)

Throughout the show “Do Not Touch” signs will be displayed and our members will be present and watchful. The safety of all our carvings and wood working will be a full effort. Although all precautions against loss or possible damage will be taken, we all take part at our own risk.