

NCTA NATIONAL WREATH CONTEST

Contest Rules and Procedures

The following items shall establish the Purpose of the Contest, Eligibility of Entrants, General Requirements for Entries, Entry Procedures, Judging Procedures, Popular Vote Procedures, Determination of Winners Procedures, Contest Awards and Recognition, and Interpretation of the Contest Rules and Procedures.

Purpose of Contest

- To establish an opportunity for NCTA to encourage and promote the use of Real Christmas Tree evergreens.

CONTEST RULES

Eligibility of Entrants

- Each NCTA affiliated state/regional association is eligible to enter two wreaths per class (decorated and undecorated) in the NCTA Wreath Contest.
- Entrants must be 'Members in Good Standing' of the NCTA and their respective affiliated chartered association at the time of affiliated/state contest to be eligible to enter the NCTA contest.
- The State/regional association can determine their representative either by contest or by appointment. To be eligible, the state/regional association must certify their representatives to the NCTA Office.
- Each NCTA membership, whether it be a person, family, or farm, may not enter more than two wreaths, one decorated and one undecorated.
- Entrants must be United States residents.
- States that do not have a state/regional association and want to enter the contest may make early application to the NCTA office for the current year's contest 30 days prior the contest. Each of these states will be limited to two wreaths per class, the same as the states/regions with affiliated associations. The NCTA office will notify the applicants of their acceptance.
- Winners and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the next biennial National Wreath Contest immediately following the contest in which they won. Eligibility of the winners and their immediate family is restored beginning with the second biennial NCTA Contest subsequent to their win. (Example: the winners selected in 2019 are next able to enter the National Contest in 2023 at the NCTA Biennial Convention.)

General Requirements for Entries

- Wreaths are to be made of Real Christmas Tree conifer evergreen material, grown within the state of entrant. No colorant may be applied.

- Both decorated and undecorated wreaths can be made of mixed evergreens.
- Undecorated wreaths will be made of coniferous evergreens only.
- On decorated wreaths, natural or artificial decorations may be used.
 - Decorated wreaths must have a bow.
- Wreaths may be single or double faced.
- All wreaths must be made on a 12-inch, inside diameter, diameter ring only. Wreath size must be measured by the tree check-in committee and marked approved before being allowed into contest area. Wreath size will be measured by placing a 12-inch X shaped measure between ring used to create wreath.
- Wreaths will be judged either hanging on a wall or on an easel.
- The wreath contest committee, prior to judging, shall disqualify any wreaths failing to meet these qualifications.

CONTEST PROCEDURES

Entry Procedures

- At least 14 days prior to the contest, each entrant will provide a signed two-part “qualification statement” to the NCTA office. Part one shall state that the entrant is eligible to enter the contest as a representative of his/her state/chartered association and be signed by the state/chartered association executive director, executive secretary, or president. (If there is no state association, entrant may sign this statement.) Part two shall state that the entrant was a member in good standing of NCTA and their chartered association at the time of the affiliated chartered contest. Application must be signed by the entrant. Eligibility will be crosschecked with NCTA and chartered association membership records before applications are accepted.
- Securely attached to each wreath will be a sealed envelope containing a card with wreath maker’s name, address, and telephone number. The card should also contain the name and location of the grower of the evergreen materials if it is different than the entrants.
- No contestant will have entry to the judging area to view competitive wreaths prior to submitting their entry to the wreath contest chairperson
- Wreaths are to be ready for judging by the appointed time. (See entry form for times.) NCTA will provide directions to or details regarding the location of the contest area, as well as person(s) to contact and phone number(s) for those bringing wreaths early.
- All wreaths will remain as originally placed at start of contest during the judging and voting process.

Judging Procedures

- A panel of at least three (3) industry judges will be selected to assess and judge the first phase of the contest.
- Industry Judges will not have access to the contest area until all contestants and their helpers are out of the area.
- Industry Judges cannot be affiliated with any family, farm, or individual participating in the contest.
- Industry Judges should be from varied geographic areas.
- Industry Judges will participate in a pre-contest orientation conducted by the NCTA wreath contest committee. At orientation, industry judges will be given score sheets and an explanation of contest procedures.
- Scoring: See current guidelines for judging.
- Each industry judge must complete a score sheet for each wreath entered into the contest.
- Upon turning in their score sheet, each judge will wait until a committee member quickly peruses each sheet for accuracy, completeness, and legibility.
- Completed score sheets for each wreath shall be averaged to determine the final score for each wreath.
- The averaged score will then be assessed a point value based on the number of wreaths in the largest category.
 - E.g., if five wreaths are in the largest category, the highest average score will receive five points, the second highest average will receive four, and on down to the last wreath receiving one point. The same system will be utilized for both decorated and undecorated wreaths with the highest average wreath in each category receiving five points.
- In the unlikely event of a tie score, the judges will be asked to re-evaluate wreaths involved in the tie and determine the order of placement for those wreaths.

Popular Vote Procedures

- After the judging has taken place, each registered NCTA membership will then vote.
- Each NCTA membership, whether it be an individual, family, or farm, in attendance and registered for the meeting will be given one ballot. All sections of NCTA membership are eligible to vote if they are registered.
- Each NCTA membership casting a ballot will vote for **TWO** wreaths – one undecorated and one decorated.
- Soliciting votes by word, print, or social media, either during or preceding the contest, for particular trees may result in disqualification and/or suspension from future contests.
- The popular voting period will be open for no less than three (3) and no more than four (4) hours during the event, depending on the time available.

Determination of Winners Procedures

- Winners will be selected in each of two classes: (A) Undecorated and (B) Decorated.
- The point value derived from judging and the vote count of the registered members will be totaled to determine the first, second, and third place in each class, as well as the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion wreaths in each class.
 - The first, second, and third place wreaths in each class will be determined by the wreaths receiving the highest number of points in that class.
 - The two Grand Champion wreaths shall be the two wreaths with the highest number of total points in their respective class, the two Reserve Champion wreaths shall be the wreaths with the second highest total points in their respective class.
- Ballots will be counted and winners determined by a panel of three NCTA board members.
- Decisions of the judges and contest committee are final. Copies of score sheets will not be provided to the contestants.

Contest Awards and Recognition

- After the judging, contest wreaths will remain in place until the awards presentation. Winning wreaths (1st, 2nd and 3rd) will be displayed at the awards presentation.
- Following the presentation, wreaths will be released to the persons that entered them. At the end of the event, remaining wreaths will be considered unclaimed and will be discarded.
- The top three places in each class as determined by the qualified judges will receive ribbons: First place – Blue, Second place – Red, Third place -- White ribbon. All other contest wreaths will receive a green participant ribbon.
- The Grand Champion in each class will receive a Grand Champion Purple ribbon and plaque. The Reserve Champion in each class will receive a light purple ribbon and plaque.
- Award ribbons will be placed on wreaths the day of the judging.

Interpretation of Rules and Procedures

- The tree contest committee shall consist of three NCTA board members appointed by the NCTA President.
- Interpretation of the Rules and Procedures for the NCTA National Christmas Wreath Contest shall be the sole responsibility of NCTA's Executive Committee.

- The NCTA Executive Committee will have the right and responsibility to amend the rules or wreath donation in the event of an emergency or unavoidable circumstance.

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(2-16-2021)