

# **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, contest Awards and Recognition, and Responsibility for 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 National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) affiliated state/regional association is eligible to enter two wreaths per class (decorated and undecorated) in the NCTA Wreath Contest. In no case shall one person, family or farm enter more than two wreaths, one decorated and one undecorated.
- 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. 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 of 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.
- The contestant entering the wreath must be a member in good standing of the NCTA. Winners and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the National Contest immediately following the one in which they won, but are eligible to participate the following contest (i.e. the winner in decorated and undecorated in 2019 will next be eligible in 2023)

#### **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. Wreaths may be single or double faced. They will be judged either hanging on a wall or on an easel. All Wreaths must be made on a 12-inch diameter ring only.
- Both decorated and undecorated wreaths can be made of mixed evergreens. On decorated wreaths, natural or artificial decorations may be used. Decorated wreaths must have a bow.
- Undecorated wreaths can be made of coniferous evergreens only.
- The wreath contest committee, prior to judging, shall disqualify any wreaths failing to meet these qualifications.

### **Contest 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.

### **Judging Procedures**

- No contestant shall 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.
- Scoring: See current guidelines for judging.
- A panel of at least three (3) industry judges will determine the first, second and third place winners in each category. Industry judges may be growers, retailers, wholesaler, previous wreath contest winners or others who have appropriate knowledge of wreath production.
- 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.
- Each industry judge shall 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 wreath that receives the highest score in each class shall be declared the first-place winner in that class. The wreath that receives the second highest score shall be declared the second-place winner

and the wreath receiving the third highest score shall be declared the third-place winner.

- 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.
- The first place and second place winning wreaths in each category as selected by the judges shall be prominently displayed in a row. The first and second place decorated wreaths shall be randomly labeled A and B and the first and second place undecorated wreaths shall be randomly labeled C and D for the determination of the Grand Champion in each category.
- The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion undecorated and Grand Champion and Reserve Champion decorated wreaths shall be determined by popular vote of the attendees.
- Each person casting a vote shall vote for one decorated and one undecorated wreath. Each farm in attendance shall be given one ballot.
- Soliciting votes for a particular wreath may result in disqualification and/or suspension from future contests.
- The popular voting period will be open for no less than four (4) hours during the event.
- Ballots shall be counted and winners determined by a panel of three NCTA board members.
- The two Grand Champion and Reserve Champion winners shall be announced at the awards presentation.
- Decisions of the judges and contest committee are final. Copies of score sheets will not be provided to the contestants.
- The names of all wreath entrants will be displayed following judging.

### **Contest Awards and Recognition**

- Winners will be selected by judges in each of two classes: (A) Undecorated and (B) Decorated.
- After the judging, contest wreaths will remain in place until the awards presentation. Winning wreaths (1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) 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 shall receive ribbons: First place–Blue ribbon, Second Place-Red ribbon and third place-White ribbon. The Grand Champion in each class as determined by popular vote will receive a Grand Champion Purple ribbon and plaque. The Reserve Champion 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 wreath 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.
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(2-19-2019)