

# AGS JIM STORY AWARD RULES

(Revised January 2019)

**Note: You MUST be a member of the American Gourd Society to enter the AGS National competition.**

Rule 1. To be eligible for the national competition, entrant must win 1<sup>st</sup> place in an AGS approved competition. This may be at the state or local patch level. Entrant may enter multiple competitions if desired, but only one winner will be eligible for the national competition.

Rule 2. Currently, the entry must be a single dried manipulated gourd.

Rule 3. No added finish may be applied to the surface of the gourd, not even a clear coat or hardener. If etching is used, it must be done while the gourd is green and living. Carving into the surface after the gourd has dried is not permitted.

Rule 4. Green cleaned (outer skin removed before the gourd has dried) entries may score up to five additional points during the judging process. Note: Green cleaning carries a risk of the gourd drying too fast. This may result in shrinking, cracking and possible disintegration of the gourd. So be careful if you decide to use this process.

Rule 5. All entrants must complete the Jim Story Award application and questionnaire. While no judging points have been assigned as to the completeness of the questionnaire, please provide the requested information. Unless otherwise specified, information contained on the questionnaire may be used as a teaching tool at the chapter level, on the AGS website and as a tutorial. Jim Story was all about education and sharing of information and we wish to honor those characteristics and pay them forward.

Rule 6. While not a strict requirement, photos of your gourds during the growth and manipulation process will help the national judges understand the time and effort you put into your entry and will be a valuable teaching aid for others.

Rule 7. **A minimum of two photos is required** from the local competition: **one photo of the entrant with the winning gourd, ribbon and/or trophy (if awarded) and one photo of the winning gourd only; no ribbon or trophy included.** Note: All pictures should be of sufficient quality for reprinting in The Gourd Magazine.

Rule 8. To be eligible to enter the national competition, any hand trained (manipulated) dried gourd (a single gourd only, no multiple, inseparable gourds) must have been grown by the applicant and must have won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a local manipulated gourd competition for the current year. This includes any manipulated gourd grown by the applicant since January 1, 2009 that has not previously won 1<sup>st</sup> place at a state manipulated gourd competition. The current deadline for submitting applications for the national competition is November 30

Rule 9. Criteria: Jim Story challenged everyone to push the envelope. While any method of gourd manipulation will be eligible to compete, we are looking for innovation, new ideas and new techniques. For additional information on judging criteria, check [Jim Story Award: Judging Criteria](#) on the Jim Story page of the AGS web site.

Rule 10. Beginning with the 2019 competition, the winners will receive: 1st Place--a \$200 cash award, a trophy and a Jim Story gourd; 2nd Place--a \$100 cash award and a certificate; 3rd Place--a \$50 cash award and a certificate. Also, their photos with their winning gourd will be published in The Gourd Magazine. Other entries will receive participation certificates.

Rule 11. Unless otherwise specified, by signing the application the entrant agrees to allow his/her information to be published in The Gourd Magazine and other AGS sponsored publications and electronic media.

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**NOTE:** In selecting a winner, the JSA national judges review the applicant's questionnaire, photos and any supplemental information submitted. Using a point system and Judges Score Sheet (available on the JSA pages of the AGS web site), the judges independently judge each entry according to the Judging Criteria posted on the web site. A judging foreperson then tabulates this information and determines the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.

The JSA application, questionnaire and rules are posted on the JSA page of the AGS web site, [americangourdsociety.org](http://americangourdsociety.org).

For all members of the American Gourd Society, the JSA committee is pleased to offer you this opportunity to participate in the Jim Story Award gourd manipulation competition and help carry on his work.