**2022 PAGS Gourd Festival Competition** *Rules and Basic Information*

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. There are three Classes: Grower, Crafted and Other/Special
2. In the Crafted class, there are Four Divisions: Youth, Novice, Intermediate/Open and Advanced/Masters. Youth is further divided by age groups.

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| **CRAFTED GOURD DIVISIONS**  Y = Youth  N = Novice  I = Intermediate/Open  A = Advanced/Masters | **YOUTH CRAFTED GOURDS: Any Technique**  Y-1 Best youth craft (Age 1 to 5)  Y-2 Best youth craft (Age 6 to 12)  Y-3 Best youth craft (Age 13-18) |

1. An entrant may only enter in one Division
2. Participants may enter as many classes as they wish, but only one entry per class is allowed
3. Entries previously entered in a PAGS Competition are not permitted
4. Grower Class – ALL entries must be grown by the person entering them
   1. Raw gourds should have stems (where possible), be mature, and be clean
   2. No finish of any kind is permitted
   3. Gourds in the grower’s competition must have been grown from the crop of the last 3 years

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| **GROWER CLASSES** (Select all that apply)  ☐ G-1 Conformation (3 identical in size & shape)  ☐ G-2 Greatest Circumference  ☐ G-3 Longest Gourd  ☐ G-4 Smallest Gourd  ☐ G-5 Most Unusual Gourd by natural growth  ☐ G-6 Single or Multiple Hand-Trained (manipulated) Gourd(s) (dry & clean)  ☐ G-7 Single Molded Gourd (dry & clean) |

1. Crafted Gourd Class – ALL entries must be the sole work of the entrant(s)
   1. *The* *Gourd Must Predominate*
   2. Technique classes*: Specified technique must predominate (75%) if other techniques are also included*
   3. If you sign or put your initials on the bottom of an entry, it must be hidden with tape.
   4. The inside of a cut gourd (except birdhouses) must be cleaned
   5. When the stem is left on the gourd as part of the entry, it must be cleaned and/or finished in relation to the entry.
   6. Work not meeting category criteria will not be judged, or the entry may be moved to a proper class
   7. Accessory materials/embellishments are allowed unless specifically denied; bases, stands or hangers provided by the entrant to support crafted gourds are allowed. The stand or hanger will not be considered in the judging of the gourd unless it is permanently attached
   8. No feathers/parts from protected species are allowed
   9. Musical instruments must be functional
2. This is a family event, therefore any entry that is deemed offensive or inappropriate for children to view will be removed from the competition

| **TECHNIQUE CLASSES** (for Novice, Intermediate & Advanced)  *NOTE: \*The category technique must predominate (75%)* | **PROJECT CLASSES** (for Novice, Intermediate & Advanced)  *NOTE: \*Multiple techniques are permitted* |
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| ☐ T-1 CARVED: Relief carving, cut/fret/filigree, chip carving are allowed. Gourd may be whole or open; color and rim treatment may be added.  ☐ T-2 COLORED: All paint, dye, stain, ink, glaze, waxes and pencil forms allowed; Color must predominate, other techniques and embellishments allowed  ☐ T-3 PYROGRAPHY: Gourd may be cut or whole; color may be added. Rim treatments permitted.  ☐ T-4 WEAVING/COILING/TENERIFFE: Coloring or embellishment may be added to enhance the weaving/coiling pattern. Gourd must predominate (51% or more).  ☐ T-5 CLAY: Air-dry, epoxy, oven-baked clays allowed. Hand-formed, cookie cutters and/or molds are permitted. Armatures are allowed to support the weight of the clay (not to form the contours of the figure). Gourd must predominate. Photos of the process are recommended, especially if gourd is completely encased with clay. | ☐ P-1 MUSICAL Instrument: Gourd musical instrument, functional. Includes drums, rattles, shekeres, flutes, whistles, etc.  ☐ P-2 WEARABLE: Any wearable gourd - mask, jewelry, belt, hat, purse or other wearable-themed gourd. Gourd must predominate.  ☐ P-3 CHRISTMAS Theme: Christmas theme only. Whole or cut gourd.  ☐ P-4 HALLOWEEN Theme: Halloween theme only. Any technique(s). Whole or cut gourd.  ☐ P-5 LAMPS and LUMINARIES: Gourds must dominate. Must be functional, with or without electricity. (Candleholders, lanterns, lamps, etc). Electricity provided for judging. If you provide a power cord or power strip electricity can be provided during the show when open to the public. |

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| **OTHER/SPECIAL CATEGORY:** | |
| ☐ O-1 CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS – Set of 3 hanging Christmas tree ornaments of similar shape, size & design, by a single entrant.  ☐ O-2 EASTER EGGS – Set of 3 different size & design Easter Eggs made from ornamental gourd eggs displayed on grassy material, by a single entrant.  ☐ O-3 COLLECTION – A display of a collection of at least 3 but not more than 6 gourds by a single exhibitor; based on a theme or technique(s) of his/her choice. The collection of gourds display must fit into a 2 ½ ft. by 4 ft. table space. | ☐ S-1 THANKSGIVING COLLABORATIVE PROJECT - A gourd entry created by 2 or more artists. Any techniques, artists may combine their skills and techniques in this category; any Thanksgiving subject; gourds must predominate  ☐ S-2 PATRIOTIC/AMERICANA COLLABORATIVE PROJECT - A gourd entry created by 2 or more artists. Any techniques, artists may combine their skills and techniques in this category; any Patriotic subject; gourds must predominate |

**Definition of Crafted Gourd Divisions**

**Youth Crafted Gourds** - The Youth division is divided into classes based on age for youth up to 18 years of age. All types of gourd art may be entered. One entry per person.

**Novice Division** – A novice is a new artist, defined as a person who is relatively new to gourd crafting using basic techniques. A novice artist may not have sold gourds or taught a class for a fee.

* The new artist is eligible to compete in this division for up to 3 years, but is encouraged to move up to a higher level earlier, as soon as they realize they are working at a higher level.
* The new artist MUST move up to the next level once he/she has earned 5 blue ribbons or Best of Novice division.
* An artist who has developed artistic skills working with other media they are using in their gourd art (e.g., painting, wood carving, weaving, etc.) is NOT considered a new artist and must compete in a higher division.

**Intermediate/Open Division** – Generally, the intermediate level artist is one that routinely uses basic to intermediate techniques but has not yet reached the skill level required for advanced techniques in gourd arts and crafts.

* They may sell their work and display their work in juried art shows but do not teach classes for a fee.
* Entrants in this category may not enter a piece they completed during a class or from a tutorial. The art could be an adaptation that is original to the artist.
* Entrants MUST move up to the Advanced Division once they have earned 10 blue ribbons at the Intermediate level or Best of Intermediate Division.

**Advanced/Masters Division** –This division is for competitors who have progressed to a more complicated level of work using multiple techniques and finishing skills.

* These artists may have received Best in Show ribbons and/or multiple blue ribbons in past competitions against their peers, sold in juried art galleries, displayed at juried art shows, and/or taught art classes which included advanced techniques.
* All entries must be the competitor’s original work and design. Work completed at a class, workshop or seminar are not eligible unless the work is the original design of the artist.

# **Other/Special Categories** – All competitors may enter these categories – including those who have entered in other divisions.

* Regardless of the Other/Special category, individual or group entries, the Gourd Must Predominate

**ENTRY FEES**

Membership in the Pennsylvania Gourd Society is not required, but encouraged. **Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.** Entry Fees are:

1. All Youth division entries are Free
2. PA Gourd Society Member
   * Free, if pre-registered
   * $2 per entry at the door
3. Non-PA Gourd Society Member
   * $5 if pre-registered
   * $5 per entry at the door

Entry fees will be collected at the door; Cash or check - payable to PA Gourd Society

**PRE-REGISTRATION**

1. The entry form is available on-line: <https://www.pagourdsociety.org/>
2. Save the file to your computer or other device, then rename it to include your name. When you have completed the entry form, send by email to Terry Noxel at [noxelts@aol.com](mailto:noxelts@aol.com) as an attachment.
3. This form may be printed and mailed if preferred. Send form to Terry Noxel, 100 Barton Rd, Windsor, NY 13865
4. Pre-registrations will be accepted until **Sunday, June 12th**.
5. Entry tags will be ready at the door for Pre-Registered Entrants when you arrive with your entries
   * *Pre-registration is extremely helpful to the set-up team as they prepare the competition tables to ensure that there is adequate room to properly display your crafted gourd(s)*
6. Walk-in Entries: Competitors should
   1. Print, complete and bring the entry form
   2. Bring Labels with your contact information. *See examples below.* NOTE: Your labels will be attached to the entry tags at the festival when checking in.
   * Label: no larger than 3-1/2” wide x 1-1/2” high (such as Avery mailing labels).
   * The labels should be labeled with the following information:
     + *Name, Street, City, State & Zip Code*
     + *Phone & email*
7. Please carefully read the descriptions of the competition Divisions (Youth, Novice, Open/Intermediate, and Advanced) and Categories for each
   * Be sure that you are entering in the proper Division and Category
   * The judges reserve the right to reassign your entry to a different Division or Category if necessary. If necessary, an entry may be disqualified (such as if it does not meet the criteria for a category)
   * Space will be provided on the back of the entry tag for the entrant to provide required and optional additional information
   * If the competition Category description asks for written information, please be prepared to provide the required information, which will be included on the back of the gourd entry tag that you will receive at check-in. Missing information may be cause for disqualification
   * In addition, it is the responsibility of the artist entering to note any special characteristics, unusual or irregular technique that may affect the judging of a specific entry

If you have questions, contact the PA Gourd Fest Competition Chair, Terry Noxel, at noxelts@aol.com

**GOURD DELIVERY AND RETRIEVAL**

1. **Registration forms, fees and entries need to be delivered in person either on** **Wednesday June 15th between 12 PM – 6 PM and Thursday June 16th, no later than 8:30 AM**. All entries must be delivered by no later than 8:30 AM on Thursday.
2. A claim ticket will be presented for each entry at the time of check in.
3. All gourds must be left on site until retrieval of the gourd art on Saturday June 18th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. No exceptions, please. You may delegate retrieval to a friend by giving them your claim ticket(s)
4. Claim tickets must be presented to the Retrieval Escort prior to picking up the art
5. Gourds not claimed by Saturday at 3:00 PM become the property of the PA Gourd Society, unless prior arrangements have been made

**COMPETITION SET UP**

1. There will be a receiving table for the entries as they come in.
2. Judging team volunteers will place the entries on the competition tables.
3. If a judge sees that an entry is entered in the wrong Division or Category the *Head Judge* is notified and he/she may move it to the correct placement position.
4. Entrants are not allowed to move their entries after they have been placed.
5. The competition area is closed to everyone except the judging staff during the judging process. Please be patient, the judging process may take a little time but we want to look carefully at each entry. Ribbons will be awarded at this time.
6. Judging will take place on Thursday morning beginning at 9:00 AM. **Judges’ decisions are final.**

**JUDGING / AWARDS**

Judging Points for Growers:

* 50% Cultural Perfection: mature, clean, and minimal imperfections, such as bug scars, etc.
* 50% True to Type: represents the ideal shape and size of its type name

Judging Points for ALL Crafted Gourds

* 50% Workmanship: skill, technique and attention to detail
* 40% Creativity: originality and impact of design; use of color and line; enhancement of gourds natural beauty and shape
* 10% Gourd Quality: gourd variety, size, shape and structure “fit” well with the overall design used

1. Entries in each Category of competition may be awarded
   1. 1st place Blue Ribbon
   2. 2nd place Red Ribbon
   3. 3rd place White Ribbon
2. At the judges’ discretion, fewer awards may be issued. If there is only one entry in the category, it does not guarantee a 1st place award. It will be judged for its own quality of work
3. In the Youth Division, a yellow Honorable Mention ribbon will be given to those that did not place in the top three
4. **Division.** A Best of Division award will be given in each Division, selected from 1st place winners
5. **Best of Show.** One Best of Show award is selected from the Best of Division entries

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

1. The judged gourd art show will be open to the public Thursday afternoon/evening, and all-day Friday and Saturday, until the show closes Saturday at 3:00 pm.
2. Exhibitors may place their business cards by their entries Thursday afternoon when the Competition opens to the public
3. All entries must remain in place until at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 18th
4. Photography will be allowed at this competition. By entering the PA Gourd Fest Competition, you are agreeing that your work may be photographed. A photography permission form is included as part of the entry submission form to permit the use of images of entries for Judge-training purposes.
5. The PA Society will provide reasonable security during the festival but assumes no responsibility for damage to or theft of items

**RULES**

1. Originality. Infringement(s) of intellectual property, copyright, trademarks or licensing rights are NOT allowed unless written approval by the owner is included with the entry. This includes logos, lyrics, slogans, etc. Entries that violate this rule will be disqualified and will not be judged and will be removed from the show.
2. Gourd bases/stands are permitted, but are not mandatory. The base should be complementary to the gourd art and of stable construction. Electrical outlets are not available for revolving stands - thus it should be battery operated. The base will not be considered in the judging unless permanently attached or a note is included with the entry to include the base with the judging.
3. Electricity for lighted entries will be available for judging, but may be limited when open for viewing by the public unless an extension cord is provided along with the entry. (Please put your name on the extension cord/power strip so it is returned to the right person).
4. *No fractal burning or laser-cut entries are allowed*
5. Natural vs Artificial. While our rules allow our artists to use some artificial products, the spirit of the “natural” rule is to keep the gourd art as natural as possible. Art that has obvious artificial embellishments will not score as high as those with all-natural embellishments.
   1. There are a great number of artificially made products that can be used that will not detract from the natural beauty of gourd art if used appropriately. Examples include acrylic paints, Apoxie-Sculpt®, QuikWood®, artificial sinew, and plastic armatures to allow moving parts (if not visible)
   2. An entry with artificial materials shall not be penalized for the usage of man-made material unless there is a tie
   3. Natural accessories include wood, dried plant material, seeds, shells, stones, sand, glass, bone, feathers, wool and small amounts of clay, metal, etc.
   4. Artificial flowers, glitter and Styrofoam are not permitted as embellishments (unless the Category Description states otherwise)
   5. A clear finish, such as wax or varnish is acceptable on all entries, except for the Growers Category
   6. Limited embellishments may be used for any category unless if specifically excluded in the category description
   7. Make certain all materials (feathers, plant or animal parts) are legal to possess under state and federal statutes

**Special Note:**

Many may not know that it is illegal to collect, buy, sell or to use most native wild bird feathers according to the US North American Migratory Bird Act (MBTA). For more information, https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php

Exceptions exist for the feathers of legally-hunted gamebirds, and for the use of feathers by Native Americans. For more information, see the FAQ page http://www.fws.gov/lab/featheratlas/faq.php

In addition to feathers, each state has lists for endangered or threatened native species of plants and parts of animals. For PA, see https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/RareThreatenedAndEndangeredPlants

It is the responsibility of the individual to be able to demonstrate

* Feathers did not come from protected wild birds
* Endangered plant materials were not used
* Protected animal parts were not used

Materials used in the entries shall NOT violate any state or federal laws. It is the responsibility of the artist to investigate and demonstrate the animal or plant materials are legal to possess and use.