

AGS JIM STORY AWARD RULES (2026)

1. You MUST be a member of the American Gourd Society to enter the AGS National competition.
2. The entry must have been grown by the entrant between 2009 to the present. Eligible manipulated gourd entries may not have won 1st place in prior years.
3. To be eligible for the 2025 national competition, entrant must win 1st or 2nd place in an AGS approved competition at the state level in 2025.
4. An entrant may enter and possibly win multiple competitions with different manipulated gourds, and may enter ONE of the winning gourds for each category the AGS Jim Story competition.
5. Eligible entries may be a single, dried manipulated gourd, or multiple gourds manipulated together (inseparable), small manipulated gourd (less than 8" in all directions)
 - a. Multiple manipulation techniques may be incorporated on an entry (knotted, coiled, molded, etching and so on)
 - b. 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.
 - c. Multiple manipulated entries can also be grown in different years, such as a green gourd manipulated around a previously grown & dried manipulated gourd.
6. While any method of gourd manipulation will be eligible to compete, innovation, new ideas and new techniques are appreciated.
7. The Degree of Difficulty is an important factor during the judging, so challenge yourself.
8. Green cleaned (outer skin removed before the gourd has dried) entries may score higher with respect to manipulation.
 - a. 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.
9. No added finish may be applied to the surface of the gourd, not even a clear coat or hardener.
10. All entrants must submit a completed Jim Story Award application.
11. If possible, submit photos of your gourds during the growth and manipulation process; it will help the national judges understand the time and effort you put into your entry and will be a valuable teaching aid for others.
12. Three (3) or four (4) different views of the dried gourd so judges may see the entire gourd.
13. Two (2) photos from the local competition is desired
 - a. One photo of the entrant with the winning gourd, ribbon and/or trophy (if awarded)
 - b. One photo of the winning gourd only; no ribbon or trophy included.
 - c. Note: All pictures should be of sufficient quality for reprinting in *The Gourd Magazine*.
14. What you may win: Both categories (single manipulated and multiple manipulated) are eligible to win. 1st Place – will receive a \$150 cash award and a trophy (Winner of single manipulated gourd may choose to receive a Jim Story gourd in place of the cash award); 2nd Place – a \$50 cash award and a certificate
 - a. Photos of all winners with their winning gourd will be published in *The Gourd Magazine*.

