



# PENNSYLVANIA GOURD SOCIETY'S GOURD ART COMPETITION 2023

at the PAGS' Annual "It's Always a Gourd Day in PA" Festival  
 June 15-17, 2023 at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds,  
 Lebanon, PA

**Judging is held Thursday morning, June 15, 2023**

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Pennsylvania Gourd Society's 2023 Gourd Art Competition held during the PAGS Gourd Festival. We appreciate the work you have completed and your willingness to share your art. Your work will give pleasure and inspiration to the public and fellow gourd artists.

### CONTACTS:

Competition and Registration Chair:  
 Terry Noxel, [noxelts@aol.com](mailto:noxelts@aol.com), 610-304-4419

### ENTRY FEES:

To qualify as a Pennsylvania Gourd Society member, you must be a member as of June 1, 2023.

- Verify your membership status by emailing Claudia Hill at [pagsgourds@gmail.com](mailto:pagsgourds@gmail.com)
- Visit [www.pagoursociety.org](http://www.pagoursociety.org) to join online or download a membership form to mail.

There is no entry fee for those by current PAGS members that have been pre-registered. No entry fees are due for entries in the Youth or Collaborative divisions, but an entry form is still required. Pre-Registration is strongly recommended.

- REGISTER & PAY\* ONLINE: at <https://pagoursociety.org>  
 > *\*We will send an invoice to you upon receipt of your pre-registration form to pay online*
- MAIL: Download the registration form from the website and mail with your check to address on the form
- ONSITE PAYMENT: We can only accept cash or checks

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	Fee Per Entry	
	PAGS Member	Non-Member
<b>Pre-Registration – Received by June 11, 2023</b>	\$none	\$5 each
<u>Pre-registration is strongly recommended</u>		
<b>Late Registration – June 12 to on-site June 15, 2023</b>	\$10	\$10 each

NOTE: If paying late registration, you may pay via the PAGS website before you arrive or pay on-site when you arrive at the competition. Cash or checks only onsite.

## DELIVERY / PICKUP OF ENTRIES

### ON SITE DELIVERY - Wednesday, June 14 or Thursday June 15, 2023

We must receive your gourd entries at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center and Fairgrounds' West Hall on Wednesday 6/15/2023 between noon and 6:00 p.m. or Thursday morning between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m.

There will be volunteers to sign in the gourd art entries and place them in the proper area for judging. If the artist did not take advantage of pre-registration, there will be a separate line for registering the gourd art entry.

The artist will receive a claim ticket for each piece entered and will be required to have the ticket(s) in order to pick up the art at the end of the festival on Saturday.

### SHIPPING

If you are unable to deliver your gourd art by 9 a.m. Thursday, you may ship your piece(s). It is strongly recommended that you pre-register so that we know a shipment is on its way. If you cannot use the website to register and submit your entry fees, print out the registration form and include it with your piece(s). Please email [noxelts@aol.com](mailto:noxelts@aol.com) to let us know you are shipping a package and its expected delivery date.

**Your entry must be received no later than Saturday, June 10th, 2023.**

**Ship to: Terry Noxel, 100 Barton Rd., Windsor, NY 13865**

PAGS and its representatives are not responsible for any damage caused during shipping. Insurance coverage is recommended. Please ensure that the gourds are packed carefully with ample protection.

- Take the box to the post office or shipping office that is preferred.
- After determining postal cost for one-way shipping, purchase two (2) shipping labels.
- Enclose the second postage label for return shipping inside the package with the gourds.
- Affix postage for shipping to the competition on the outside of the package.

### ON SITE PICK-UP

You may pick up your entries after 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, to allow the public to enjoy the show the entire duration of the Festival. Anyone removing an entry before this time will not be allowed to enter the competition the following year.

All gourds may be retrieved Saturday, between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Access to the Competition area is controlled, and we require claim tickets in exchange for the artwork. **If you are having someone else pick up an entry(s), make sure that person has the necessary claim ticket(s).** Any gourds not picked up by 4:00 p.m. will be donated to the Pennsylvania Gourd Society.

### ON SITE SECURITY

Pennsylvania Gourd Society and Lebanon County Expo Center and Fairgrounds will provide reasonable security measures, but will assume no responsibility for damage or theft of entries.

## GENERAL RULES of the PENNSYLVANIA GOURD SOCIETY'S (PAGS) GOURD ART COMPETITION

1. PAGS will accept **one entry per person per category**.
2. Any gourd entered in a previous PAGS Gourd Art Competition may not be reentered in the current or any future PAGS competition.
3. Once an artist wins Best of Division in the PAGS competition, the artist moves up to the next division in the next competition.
4. If an artist won first place in a specific category last year, and the artist wishes to enter into the same category this year, the artist will be required to move up to the next division to enter a piece into that same category, with the exception of the Masters Division and Collaboration, which are limited in mobility to their specific division.
5. If an artist won first place in a category last year but does not wish to enter the same category this year, that artist will not be required to move up to the next division. Moving up only applies to the categories the artist won first place.
6. An artist cannot have two entries in separate divisions for the same category, i.e., an entry in the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions both for the Carving category. A violation of this rule in this competition will result in PAGS disqualifying the duplicate entry and/or reclaiming any awards the artist may have received.
7. In fairness to each artist, every entry must reflect the skill level expected for that specific division of this competition. *Please be sure to read the criteria.* If the receiving person at the competition and registration table observes that your entry does not reflect the skills expected in your requested division or does not reflect the technique specified for the division or category, that piece of art will be assigned to the appropriate division or category. If you disagree, you may withdraw the entry or agree to abide by the decision made by the Placement Review Committee.
8. If you sign or put your initials on the bottom of an entry, it must be hidden with tape.
9. No copyright infringement is allowed. We do not permit the depiction or uses of slogans, pictures, lyrics, songs etc. that can be attributed to a given product, and are not permitted as part of the presentation of gourd art. If any reference to a given product is inferred or depicted in any way, we will not judge the gourd piece.
10. We will not accept laser work and fractal burning on gourds into the gourd competition. No feathers/parts from protected species are allowed.
11. All work on an entry must be the artist's original design. Unless otherwise stated for your division/category, you may not copy someone else's work, use a gourd from a class or workshop you attended, or use products such as pre-printed Stick N Burn or other patterns.
12. In addition to the original design, judges will base their scores on quality of craftsmanship, creativity and design, color, finish, accessories, decoration and the overall appeal/appropriateness to the category. **Entries must be comprised of at least 55% gourd, multiple gourds, or gourd pieces.** You are allowed, but not required, to include a brief note to explain or describe your entry. If you wish the information to be displayed to the public, the artist may provide the information on a card no larger than 5x7 inches and printed in a large font that is legible from 3-4 feet away. You may include a small stand to make the information easier to read.
13. Accessory materials/embellishments are allowed unless specifically denied in the class description; bases, stands or hangers to display or support crafted gourds are allowed. Entrant must provide the stand or hanger needed by their entry. Entrant must supply an extension cord for entries that require electricity, such as lamps or turntables.
14. This is a family event, therefore any entry that is deemed offensive or inappropriate for children to view will be removed from the competition
15. PAGS and its judges strive to reward the efforts of the artists with ribbons available for first, second, and third place in each category. However, the judges may decide that the entry does not meet the requirements for a first-place ribbon, consideration will be given for a second, or third.

## EXPLANATION OF SCORING VALUES

We strive to provide you with a fair, unbiased, and honest competition by using American Gourd Society Certified Judges. In the judge training and preparations, emphasis had been given to objectivity, impartiality, and fairness to everyone. Often judges must distinguish among several fine pieces, and the choices made by one group of certified judges might differ from those made by another. If you receive a ribbon, congratulations! If you do not, please take pride that you produced a beautiful piece of art.

Scores represent an attempt to quantify the level of artistry demonstrated in the entered work. Scores of 3, 4 or 5 represent good or better work in the characteristic being evaluated. Awarding ribbons may require selection based on very small differences. Just because a score of 5 was not awarded, does not mean the judges did not find the work on the piece admirable. Scores of 2 or 1 simply indicated that there is a good potential for improvement in that particular characteristic.

### Definition of numerical scores:

5 = Excellent – Best of category or equal to best in category

4 = Very good – Noteworthy effort, but not quite to the level of best in category

3 = Good – Work typical of category or division

2 = Adequate – Some shortcomings, but no major issues

1 = Detracts from appeal of work. Improvement in this characteristic would enhance the attractiveness

### SCORING CRITERIA

The Pennsylvania Gourd Society competition will use the American Gourd Society competition scoring criteria. The scoring addresses the overall artistic impression of the piece, the quality of craftsmanship, and the difficulty/level of effort required to execute the work. If a special or featured technique applies to a category, such as carving or wood burning, an evaluation of that technique will be included in the scoring.

Scores will be awarded relative to other entries in that category and skill level. If there are no other competing entries in that category, comparison will be with overall work at that skill level.

### Overall Appearance:

- Overall appeal
- Artistic design
- Stands out from competition (wow factor)
- Originality and artistic creativity

### Craftsmanship:

- Attention to detail
- Inside of gourd is cleaned and neat
- Overall impact not marred by obvious flaws
- Finished look

### Difficulty/Level of Effort:

- Difficulty of techniques as applied
- Design complex or intricate
- Skill in multiple areas
- Amount of effort required

### Featured Technique or Theme:

- Featured technique dominates
- Skill level demonstrated by execution of technique
- Meets technique criteria

### Additional tips to artists:

- Clean and finish the inside of opened gourds.
- Smooth the edges of holes and paint the inside of the holes if they are visible.
- Keep weaving or stitching even and uniform.
- Make the color and finish smooth and uniform without runs, fingerprints, or glue showing.
- Keep burn lines sharp and uniform and avoid getting paint in the burn lines.

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## GROWERS DIVISION JUDGING

1 – 5 Judging points for growers:

- Cultural perfection: Quality and maturity, free of imperfections, such as bug scars. Stems optional
- Trueness to Type: represents the ideal shape and size of its type name (not cross-pollinated)
- Cleanliness: All visible exterior skin & dirt have been removed, including stem (if present) & blossom end
- Size, shape, color/hue, variety (if class is specific): eg., Longest; Conformation: three of a kind matching in size/shape

**JIM STORY AWARD:** A “Hand-Trained” gourd grown by the entrant since 2009 when the Jim Story Award (JSA) was established is eligible for entry, provided it has not won a previous JSA competition. These categories will be judged according to the JSA criteria which include evaluating the above as well as manipulation and degree of difficulty. Winners of this class may be eligible to compete for the Jim Story Award in the AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY (AGS) competition. Please refer to the AGS website and read the requirements for this award.

## DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

### YOUTH DIVISION

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. Any person in the youth age group may enter in the Novice Division instead if they wish to.

- Y-1 .. Ages 1-5 Functional or decorative gourd using any technique
- Y-2 .. Ages 6-12 Functional or decorative gourd using any technique
- Y-3 .. Ages 13-18 Functional or decorative gourd using any technique

### NOVICE DIVISION

The Novice Division is for the gourd artist who is new to the art form. This division provides the new gourd artist with an opportunity to demonstrate basic skills learned. The entrant may have no extensive experience or expertise in any art form that has been used on an entry gourd, such as painting, carving, pyrography, basketry etc. An entrant who has won a major award in a juried art show must move into a higher Division. Participation in this Division is limited to two years' experience of gourd art.

- N-10.....Woodburning/Pyrography
- N-11.....Carving
- N-12.....Coloring Techniques
- N-13.....Clay
- N-14.....Weaving/Coiling/Teneriffe
- N-15.....Musical Instrument
- N-16.....Wearable
- N-17.....Christmas Theme
- N-18.....Halloween Theme
- N-19.....Lamps and Luminaries
- N-20.....Gourds Crafted in a Class or Tutorial

### INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

The Intermediate Division is for an artist who may be new to gourds but has extensive experience or expertise in other art techniques, i.e. painting, woodcarving. This Division includes the artist who has two or more years of gourd art experience or the technique being used to enhance the gourd or has won a first-place ribbon in the Novice Division or artist has won Best of Novice Division.

- I-10.....Woodburning/Pyrography
- I-11.....Carving
- I-12.....Coloring Techniques
- I-13.....Clay
- I-14.....Weaving/Coiling/Teneriffe
- I-15.....Musical Instrument
- I-16.....Wearable
- I-17.....Christmas Theme
- I-18.....Halloween Theme
- I-19.....Lamps and Luminaries
- I-20.....Gourds Crafted in a Class or Tutorial

### GROWERS DIVISION

The Growers' Division is for entry of gourds in their natural state. Gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor. The outer skin of the gourd must be clean, unfinished, and uncut. Gourds must not have any stain, oil, or wax applied to them.

- 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 Manipulated, i.e., hand-trained Gourd (dry & clean)
- G-7 Multiple Manipulated – inseparable, hand trained Gourds (dry & clean)

### ADVANCED DIVISION

This Division is for gourd artists who have won Best of Intermediate Division. It is also for artists who have won first place in any category in the Intermediate Division and wish to enter another gourd in the same category. Generally, gourd artists in this division have a good grasp of multiple techniques and are creating distinctive, original work.

- A-10.....Woodburning/Pyrography
- A-11.....Carving
- A-12.....Coloring Techniques
- A-13.....Clay
- A-14.....Weaving/Coiling/Teneriffe
- A-15.....Musical Instrument
- A-16.....Wearable
- A-17.....Christmas Theme
- A-18.....Halloween Theme
- A-19.....Lamps and Luminaries

### MASTER DIVISION

Gourd artists in this division have an excellent grasp of multiple techniques and are creating distinctive, original work. Master Division is for gourd artists who have won Best of Advanced Division. It is also for artists who have won first place in any category in the Advanced Division and wish to enter another gourd in the same category.

- M-10.....Woodburning/Pyrography
- M-11.....Carving
- M-12.....Coloring Techniques
- M-13.....Clay
- M-14.....Weaving/Coiling/Teneriffe
- M-15.....Musical Instrument
- M-16.....Wearable
- M-17.....Christmas Theme
- M-18.....Halloween Theme
- M-19.....Lamps and Luminaries

### Special & Collaborative Categories

All competitors of any skill level may enter these categories – including those who have entered in different divisions. Regardless of the Other/Special category, individual or group entries, the Gourd Must Predominate

## CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

**WOODBURNING/PYROGRAPHY** – The Gourd must be PREDOMINATELY wood burned, and may include the use of stains, inks, dyes or clear finish to add to the overall creativity. Rim treatments are permitted

**CARVING** – The gourd must be carved, chiseled, gouged or have a cut design that penetrates the gourd surface, including filigree and fretwork. This category does not include fiber clay, epoxy sculpt, or any form of clay. Color and rim treatment are permitted.

**COLORING TECHNIQUES** – Any coloring technique is acceptable if it is the predominate feature on the gourd.

**CLAY** – The gourd design can be fantasy or realistic. 55% of the armature is required to be made from one or multiple gourds. The artist is to provide a photo of the original, unaltered gourd used as the armature. Air-dry, epoxy, oven-baked clays allowed. Hand-formed, cookie cutters and/or molds are permitted.

**WEAVING/COILING/TENERIFFE** – This category includes baskets, bowls, containers (lids/handles optional); wall hangings and other items. Coloring or embellishment may be added to enhance the weaving/coiling pattern. Gourd must predominate (51% or more)..

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT** – This category includes any functional Gourd musical instrument. Includes drums, rattles, shekeres, flutes, whistles, etc. The musical instrument gourd must be playable.

**WEARABLE** – This category includes Jewelry, Purses, or any wearable art. The gourd exhibits any technique or combination of techniques. Whole gourds or gourd shards may be used as well as accessories such as beads, leather, string, cord and clasps. Jewelry items may include pins, earrings, bracelets, and hair pieces, but must be wearable. Gourd purses are also included in this category but must be functional. Gourd must predominate.

**CHRISTMAS THEME** – Any technique is allowed. Christmas theme only. Whole or cut gourds are permitted.

**HALLOWEEN THEME** – Any technique is allowed. Halloween theme only. Whole or cut gourds are permitted.

**LAMPS and LUMINARIES** – Gourd candleholders, lanterns, lamps, and lampshades permitted. Must be functional. Gourd must predominate. Electricity will be provided; you must bring an extension cord in order for your entry to reach the power strip. *\*Please label* your extension cord so it doesn't get mixed up with someone else's.

**GOURDS CRAFTED IN A CLASS OR TUTORIAL** (*Novice & Intermediate Divisions Only*) – The gourd entered in this category will be judged solely on its quality of craftsmanship and will receive one overall score.

### GROWERS DIVISION - (Including JIM STORY)

The Growers Division is for entry of gourds in their natural state. Gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor. The outer skin of the gourd must be clean, unfinished, and uncut. Gourds must not have any stain, oil, or wax applied to them.

- Conformation (3 identical in size & shape)
- Greatest Circumference
- Longest Gourd
- Smallest Gourd
- Most Unusual Gourd by natural growth
- Jim Story Award: Single Manipulated, i.e., any form of hand-training a single gourd (dry & clean)
- Jim Story Award: Multiple Manipulated – any form of creating inseparable, hand trained gourds (dry & clean)



**PENNSYLVANIA GOURD SOCIETY  
2023 GOURD ART COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM**

Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY FEES**

To qualify for Member rates, you must be a member of PAGS at the time of competition registration. You can join on this form, or from the PAGS website: [Pagoursociety.org](http://Pagoursociety.org). To verify membership status email [PAGSgourds@gmail.com](mailto:PAGSgourds@gmail.com)

No entry fee required for preregistered PAGS members and entries in the Youth and Collaborative divisions, but a completed Registration Form is required.

**FEE PER ENTRY**

PAGS Member	Non-Member
\$ free	\$5 each
\$5 each	\$10 each

**Pre-Registration – Received by June 11, 2023**

**Late Registration – June 12 to onsite June 14, 2023**

*Note: if shipping, entry must be received by June 10th*

**If Shipping Entry: Date Shipped \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Delivery \_\_\_\_\_**

Category Code	Short Physical Description of Entry (not its title) Note if piece requires hanging. Include size of piece if exceptionally large.	Entry Fee	PAGS Use
Membership to the PA Gourd Society - add \$20			
<b>Total Due*</b>			
<b>*Amount to be invoiced by PAGS</b>			

**INITIAL:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I certify that this is my original design and not a direct copy from a class, publication, or tutorial.

\_\_\_\_\_ I grant the Pennsylvania Gourd Society (PAGS) the non-exclusive royalty-free right to photograph my entry(s) for possible inclusion on PAGS publicity materials, including products to be sold for PAGS fundraising activities. I understand that funds raised from the sale of products will be used to support PAGS and its programs. PAGS agrees to recognize the artist on any image used, and to provide contact information (as desired) for the entrant. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein the photograph of my entry(s) appears. I waive any rights to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the photograph.

**BY MAIL:**

Registration Form and Fee to: Terry Noxel, 100 Barton Rd., Windsor, NY 13865  
 Make Checks Payable to Pennsylvania Gourd Society  
 Questions: Terry Noxel, [noxelts@aol.com](mailto:noxelts@aol.com) or 610-304-4419 (cell)