



OC Tattoo Festival 2026 Tattoo Contest Rules

Entry Fees

- \$20 per contest entry when registering at the show.
- \$15 per contest entry when pre-registering online through the contest webform.

Best Healed Tattoo

- Tattoo must **not** have been completed at the OC Tattoo Festival.
- Tattoo must be fully healed at the time of judging.
- Judges may disqualify entries that are not sufficiently healed.

Tattoos Done at the Show

- Eligible entries must be completed during the OC Tattoo Festival.
- The tattoo must be substantially finished and presented to judges during the designated contest time.
- Client and artist must be present for judging.

Portrait Categories

- All portrait entries must be accompanied by the reference photo used for the tattoo.
- Failure to provide a reference photo may result in disqualification.

Best Up-and-Coming Artist

- Open to artists with two years or less of professional tattooing experience.
- Apprentices are not eligible.
- Artist tenure and eligibility will be verified through the artist's shop owner or manager.
- Festival organizers reserve the right to request additional verification.

General Rules

- One entry fee is required for each tattoo entered in each category.
- Only First Place and Second Place awards will be given in each category.
- No refunds on contest entry fees.
- Judges may move entries to a more appropriate category if necessary.
- Contest decisions are final.
- Festival organizers reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet category requirements.
- Contest rules and categories are subject to change without notice.

Tattoo Contest Categories - updated 6/16/26

Type	Contest	When
Best Healed	Anime	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Asian Art	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Asian Art	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	B&G Full Back Piece	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	B&G Sleeve	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Color Full Front Piece	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Color Portrait	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Color Sleeve	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Lettering	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Traditional	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Tribal	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Chest Piece	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	Chicano	Saturday 18th
Best Healed	B&G Full Front Piece	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	B&G Portrait	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	B&G Realism	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Color Full Back Piece	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Color Realism	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Full Arm Sleeve	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Neo Traditional	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Best Up and Coming Artist	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Leg Sleeve	Sunday 19th
Best Healed	Japanese	Sunday 19th
Done at the Show	Best of Day	Saturday 18th
Done at the Show	Best of Day	Sunday 19th
Done at the Show	Best of Show	Sunday 19th
Done at the Show	A Pound of Flesh Contest	Sunday 19th
Done at the Show	Most Tattoo Flash	Sunday 19th