

# DIVISIONS

**MASTERS:** This is the highest level of competition. This is for the taxidermist who wants to compete at the most technically correct, artistically oriented and creative level.

**PROFESSIONAL:** This division is geared towards the taxidermist who is engaged in the normal professional level of taxidermy.

**NOVICE:** This division is geared towards the beginner taxidermist, with primary emphasis on teaching entrants the standards that are expected for success in today's professional taxidermy field.

**YOUTH:** This division is for kids up to age 15 with an interest in the introduction to taxidermy, and to encourage kids in this field. A Best of Category Award will be given for the best entry in the division, regardless of category. There is no fee for this division if the youth is accompanied by a registered member.

**KIDS ART:** This division is for kids up to age 12. Entries can be any means of taxidermy artistry, including European mounts and panel mounts, or non-taxidermy means such as a habitat scene, clay animals, and other types of wildlife projects. This division is for FUN. Ribbons will be awarded.

# CATEGORIES

**UPLAND BIRD:** Papers and permit must be with bird if it is a protected species. Two or more specimens on a common base may be entered into group. Pieces may also be entered individually.

**WATERFOWL:** Papers and permit must be with bird if it is a protected species. Two or more specimens on a common base may be entered into group. Pieces may also be entered individually.

**FISH:** Any fish with actual skin. Cast head and fins allowed. Two or more specimens on a common base may be entered into group. Pieces may also be entered individually.

**REPTILES:** Any skin mount reptile or amphibian.

**REPRODUCTION:** Professional and Novice may use a commercial form or an original (this must be stated at time of registration). Masters must use their own original form and be 100% reproduction. This category cannot be included for the "Competitors Award."

**GAMEHEADS – ANTLERED / HORNED:** Game heads including half-life size. (Deer, Elk, Antelope, etc)

**GAMEHEADS – NON-ANTLERED / NON-HORNED:** Game heads including half-life size. (Bear, Bobcats, etc)

**SMALL LIFESIZE:** Any mammal Coyote size or smaller, weighing approximately 30 pounds or less will be considered a small mammal. This means babies under 30 pounds would be included in small mammal group.

**LARGE LIFESIZE:** Any mammal larger than a Coyote.

**GROUP:** Two or more of any species. Must be on the same base. Each mount will be judged individually and the scores averaged to determine the final score. Two or more specimens on a common base may be entered into group. Pieces may also be entered individually.

# OTHER

The following awards will not be eligible for any major awards, or best of category awards.

COMPETITORS AWARD: \$10 fee and must enter a minimum of 4 pieces. All mounts will be judged with the regular competition. Each mount must ribbon. The winner will be determined by a collaboration of the judges. A first, second, and third place ribbon will be awarded, in addition, the 1st place piece will be awarded a plaque. 70% of entry fees will go to winner, 30% to the CTA.

COLLECTIVE ARTIST: Any piece completed by a company, or more than one person. All competitors compete at the same level, there are no divisions for this award. A first, second, and third place ribbon will be awarded, in addition, the first-place piece will be awarded a plaque.

ORIGINAL ART: This is for competitors 13 and older. Any medium other than taxidermy. Must be the competitor's own work. Included in this category would be flat art, sculptures, etc. A first, second, and third place ribbon will be awarded.

EUROPEAN: Must be just a cleaned and whitened skull. No dipped or decorated skulls in this category. Anything dipped, carved or decorated will still be entered into original art. The European category will be Judged on sutures, no loose teeth and overall cleanliness and presentation. All Europeans in this category must be mounted on any Skull Bracket Brand only bracket. Skull Bracket is sponsoring this category and there will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. This category cannot be combined for the competitors award or all around categories.

## RULES

1. NEW (3/14/20) – World or National champion pieces are welcome to compete at our show.
2. Membership: Individual including spouse and children up to 18. Competing spouse, must pay separate registration Fee. Free entries for children 18 and younger, entered in the Youth Division or Kids Art.  
  
19 and older must obtain individual membership and compete in at least the Novice level.
3. The Colorado Taxidermy Association Competition Committee (Officers and Show Chairperson) will resolve any questions arising from the competition and their decision will be final.
4. No freeze-dried entries or freeze-dried parts (exceptions include turkey heads and antlers in velvet).
5. No rugs.
6. The Competitor must complete all entries unassisted, including finishing and habitat. This also applies to competitors in the Youth Division. Adult supervision only, no hands on (exception for unsafe procedures, such as running power tools).
7. All assisted entries and company entries can only compete in the Collective Artist. If an individual from a company wants to enter a piece of his/her own, they must register separately and pay an entry fee.
8. Distasteful entries are not allowed. This will be determined by the Competition Committee.
9. Protected species must have all required permits.
10. You cannot enter a piece that has previously been entered in a Colorado state show.
11. Entries in glass cases must have removable sides and tops to allow for ease of judging. These must be removed prior to judging.
12. A blue ribbon must be scored to receive a Best of Category in all divisions.
13. If you have won 2 Best of Categories in a specific category at a Colorado state show, you must move up a division in that category. If you are from out of state competing at a Colorado show, you must enter in the division equal to the level you compete at in your home state, or higher.
14. Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, even though they may have a disagreement with the judge's decision. All such complaints are to be brought to the attention of the Competition Committee, not the Judges.

15. Any infraction of a competition rule will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards won by that entry. Registration and entry fees will not be refunded.

16. Protests: Competitors desiring another opinion after judging, may pay a protest fee of \$35.00. A different Judge will evaluate the entry and a new score given, which could raise or lower the ribbon status. All protests, complaints, or appeals for consideration must be presented in writing to the Show Chairperson (not the Judges). The Competition Committee will then decide if the protest is valid and arrange for a second judging if so determined. All decisions and rulings of the protest Judges and Committee will be final.

17. The CTA's show is not a NTA sanctioned show, and we use our own score sheets.

18. The competition area will be closed during judging to everyone except the Judges and Competition Committee.

19. While the CTA will provide security and be as careful as possible with all mounts, everyone is advised that accidents are possible and that the competitors should purchase insurance on their competition mounts through their local insurance agents. The CTA, its officers, board members, or competition committee, judges, or members shall not be held responsible or liable for any mounts entered in competition under any circumstances

## Hands-On Seminar & Competition

To compete at the Mount it in Ignacio Competition, you will need to bring a pre-prepped piece that will need to be completed in the three-hour time slot. See below for details on how to prep your mount. Bases are optional. At the completion of the workshop, the judges will decide on the best piece by judging from a distance of 5 feet. For those that would rather not compete, this is a great opportunity to walk around during the competition and learn different techniques from all of the competing taxidermists.

- **FISH PREP Skin:** Prep - Carve or purchase body & cast head. Competition – Skinning, fleshing, eye set, artificial fins installed (if using), mounting. Repro: no prep, all procedures done during competition.
- **BIRD PREP Prep** : Prepare the skin and body. Come with a painted head. Competition - all other procedures not listed in the prepping.
- **GAME HEAD PREP:** Prep - Form alterations, form prepped, antlers attached, change out nose (if using one), cape prepped with ear liners in, ear butts (if you want to prep them)

Competition - eye set, clay work, ear butts (if you did not prep them), and all other procedures not listed in the prepping.

- **SMALL LIFESIZE PREP:** Prep - Form alterations, form prepped, change out nose (if using one), cape prepped with ear liners in.

Competition - eye set, clay work, ear butts (if you did not prep them), and all other procedures not listed in the prepping.