

The Georgia Gourd Society

GourdFest 2023

2023 Georgia Gourd Society Competition Rules

GOURD GROWERS (NON-CRAFT) RULES

1. All raw gourds must be whole, uncut gourds.
 2. Gourds in growth categories must have been grown by the exhibitor and in good condition.
 3. Non-craft gourds must have stems, be mature, and be clean. No finish of any kind is permitted.
 4. Gourds in the grower's competition must be from this year or last year's crop.
- Previous Georgia competition award winners may not be entered.

GOURD ART & CRAFT RULES

5. All entries must be hand made by the Artist.
6. Artist may enter both the Technique Division under the appropriate skill set classification and the Open Theme Divisions.
7. ALL ENTRIES must remain in competition until the end of the show on Sunday. Failure to do so can result in not being allowed to enter future competitions. Gourds may be sold during the show, but must remain in competition until the end of the show.
8. By signing the entry form, the artist is agreeing to allow photography of their work under the "fair use" doctrine.
9. A pre-registration desk will be available to assign artist numbers, supply blank registration forms and tags, and answer questions prior to entering the registration area.
10. It is strongly recommended that all entry forms and entry tags be completed prior to entering the registration area as there will be a \$2 charge per gourd entry for assistance at registration. Entry tags must be affixed to each gourd entry and are available on the website (www.georgiagourdsociety.com) or at the pre-registration desk at the show. The artist's name, artist number and category number should be printed on the back side of the entry tag and hidden from view by folding the tag in half and attached to the gourd with string and paper clips. After judging the tags will be turned over for public viewing.
11. All completed registration forms and entry tags must be presented at the registration desk **by 5:00 pm, FRIDAY**, of the show (October 27, 2023). Show opens to public on Saturday, October 28, 2023
12. All entry forms must be signed by the artist. If the artist is not present to present the artwork into competition, signature must be notarized.
13. Entrants must be a member of the Georgia Gourd Society. If you are not a member and would like to enter a piece in competition, you must first join the Georgia Gourd Society or pay a \$5.00 entry fee per gourd entry. Youth categories are exempt from this rule.
14. Gourds that have won a first place award in a previous Georgia Gourd Society Show are not eligible for the current year's competition
15. The competition area is closed to all non-competition staff until the show opens on Friday morning. 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.
16. All open (cut) gourds (except birdhouses) must be cleaned to remove surface dirt, seeds, and all white seed membrane, inside and out, for show quality. Gourd birdhouse outside surfaces and stems must be cleaned but minimal interior membrane can be left for nesting material.

17. Stems are not mandatory but must be cleaned and finished to compliment the design if left on.
18. Gourd quality will be a factor in judging ALL categories. A poor quality gourd can result in a lower score in accordance with AGS rules. A 3x5 explanation card may be placed with a gourd where a major blemish or flaw is incorporated in the design or presentation of the gourd. The judges will determine gourd quality.
19. Leveling the bottom of a gourd by sanding is allowed and will not be considered poor quality or a detriment to the surface technique of the competition category Leveling the bottom of a gourd by sanding is allowed and will not be considered poor quality or a detriment to the surface technique of the competition category.
20. The inside surface of cut gourds and covered containers **may** be painted, stained, decoupage, coated, or otherwise finished. The **inside finish does not affect** the entry category which is based on the exterior surface treatment of the gourd entry other than the interior must be clean.
21. Translucent and clear protective finishes are allowed on all entries except non-craft gourds. Translucent finishes may be colored unless specifically denied, but must be sheer enough to see the natural characteristics and markings of the gourd through them. Examples: wax, ink, colored shoe polish, dye.
22. Gourd stands may be used (revolving and stationary) but are not mandatory. The stand should be complementary to the gourd art, of stable construction, and must not interfere with the viewing of other entries. Electrical outlets are not available for revolving stands. If you wish to use a revolving stand it should be battery operated.
23. There is no requirement that the gourd art or craft be presented in an upright position, but the gourd must be stable at rest so that it does not roll or fall from an exhibition table.
24. A 3x5 card and/or photographs may accompany any entry indicating techniques or products used on the entry. The card may be attached to the entry tag string or placed with the entry before the judging. No business cards are allowed on entries until judging is completed, but they may be placed with exhibits after judging is finished. Sales information may be placed by the entries **AFTER** the ribbons are awarded.
*Art and Craft entries will be judged according to the new **AGS Judging** criteria (link to AGS Judging Handbook: <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/judging.html>)*
25. Ribbons may be awarded to the top three (3) entries in each category at the sole discretion of the judges. A sole entrant in a category does not guarantee a first place ribbon. Competition criteria must be met to earn a ribbon of any color. A merit ribbon may also be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Awarded ribbons **MUST** remain in place until the end of the show on Sunday.
26. Decisions of the Judges are final. In the event of an error, no award will be removed but a duplicate award will be given.
27. The Georgia Gourd Society and/or the Show facility are not responsible for damage to or theft of entries.
28. No fractal burning or laser cut entries are allowed.

ENTRY FEES

Membership in the Georgia Gourd Society is not required, but is encouraged.

Completion of the entry form is strongly advised for all entrants prior to entering the registration area as there will be a \$2 charge for each competition gourd entry requiring assistance at registration.

Entry-Fees are:

All Youth divisions are free

Georgia Gourd Society Members - Free if entry form completed prior to entering the registration area; \$2 per gourd entry requiring assistance at the registration desk.

Non-Georgia Gourd Society Members - \$5 per gourd entry plus the \$2 per gourd entry fee will apply if registration form is incomplete.

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARTIST TO ENTER
THEIR PIECE IN THE CORRECT CATEGORY.**

Be certain that you have read the specific criteria outline for the category and make your decision accordingly. If you have questions about the proper category placement, contact Karin Anderson at praisethegourd@windstream.net or see one of the volunteers in the pre-registration desk to explain the art/craft category or division. They can provide advice, but you must make the final determination for placement of your piece. Leave your entry with the volunteer who will place them in the display area for you. Only competition staff will be allowed in the competition area until the show opens to the public at 8 am on Saturday morning. Pieces entered in the wrong categories cannot be judged or moved unless you agree to allow it to be moved on the entry tag. If the Artist has **NOT** marked the box allowing piece to be moved on the tag, the piece **WILL** be disqualified.

**The Georgia Gourd Society
GourdFest 2023
Competition Division Breakdown**

NON-CRAFTED GOURDS (Categories NC 1-5)

YOUTHS CRAFTED GOURDS (Categories Y 6-8)

ADULT CRAFTED GOURDS

TECHNIQUE DIVISION (Categories 9-20)

NOVICE Classification (Categories N 9-20)

INTERMEDIATE Classification (Categories I 9-20)

MASTER Classification (Categories M 9-20)

OPEN THEME DIVISION (Categories O 21-32) (Open to all three classifications together)

COLLABORATIVE DIVISION (Category CP 33)

GRAND MASTER DISPLAY DIVISION (Category GM 34)

Competition Skill Classifications for the Technique Division

In an effort to align our competition more closely with other state chapters and the American Gourd Society, we have made changes to the skill classification nomenclature.

NOVICE Classification

The Novice Classification was instituted to allow new artist and artists who are developing the basic techniques to compete among their peers with similar skills. The Novice entrant should have been crafting gourds for three years or less and should not have taught a class for a fee. The Novice entrant should not have exhibited in more than *four* Gourd Show competitions, won more than *10* first place awards (blue ribbons) or won a major award in this division. Class projects are allowed in this classification only and the entry should give credit to the instructor. Anyone entering this division must place all their

Technique Division entries in this division. The Novice can **also** compete in the Open Theme Division in addition to the Technique Division.

INTERMEDIATE Classification (former Master Classification)

The Intermediate Classification was instituted for those artists who have mastered the basic techniques and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. Entrants in this classification should have more than three years' experience and can have sold gourd art or taught for a fee. Those entrants who have won more than 20 first place awards (blue ribbons) in this classification or won a major award must advance to the Master Classification. No decals are allowed and all designs must be original. Anyone entering this Classification can **also** enter the Open Theme Division.

MASTER Classification (former Grand Master Classification)

The Master Classification was instituted for the accomplished artist whose art and skills have been recognized as superior. Anyone in the Master Classification will remain in this Classification until they volunteer to move to the Grand Master display only Division. Anyone entering this Classification can **also** enter the Open Theme Division.

GRAND MASTER Classification (NEW Volunteer Display Only Classification)

The Grand Master Classification is a voluntary Display Only classification for the professional artist who has reached an artistic skill level beyond the Master level and has won "Best of" awards at previous shows. The artist will not compete in any competition and will have a dedicated space to display several pieces of their best or most recent work.