

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR NCECA CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST

1. Any current North Carolina ECA member is eligible to enter an article in any or all of the categories of the contest; however, only one article per person may be entered in any one category. **The article must have been made by an individual member and completed since the Cultural Arts Contest the year before.**
2. Articles are allowed entry in the Cultural Arts Contest one (1) time only. You must describe in writing the process or steps in creating this item.
3. Each item entered must be accompanied by a signed copy of the **NCECA Cultural Arts Release Form**, which is completely filled out, enclosed in an unsealed envelope showing only the item # on the outside, with a description attached to the article. The exhibitor's name will not be visible prior to judging. (It will be on the release form.) If the name appears on the entry, it should be covered with tape so that it is not visible to the judges.
4. The NCECA will not be responsible for lost or damaged articles.

PLANNING IS THE KEY TO HAVING A SMOOTH CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST

1. Secure the date and facility for contest.
2. The contest is usually held in conjunction with a county, district, or state meeting, so coordinate with President, agent, and previous coordinator.
3. Arrange for several helpers on the day of the contest.
4. A 7½-inch award ribbon works well, with first place being blue, second place red, and third place white.

RIBBONS: Ribbons may be purchased from Hodges Badge Company, Inc. The setup costs have already been paid to Hodge Badge and therefore, they are the most cost effective vendor. You must, on contact, let them know which logo to use: **NCECA**

HODGES BADGE COMPANY, INC.

Post Office Box 1290

Portsmouth, RI 02871

Order Department: 1-800-556-2440

Fax Number: 1-800-292-7377

www.hodgesbadge.com

info@hodgesbadge.com

Winter discounts are offered between December 15 and February 15.

The Cultural Arts Coordinator is responsible for purchasing ribbons and submitting the bill to the treasurer.

SETTING UP THE ROOM AND CHECK-IN SYSTEM IS IMPORTANT IN CONTROLLING THE EXCITED AND INTERESTED MEMBERS

1. Close and block all entrances to the room, except the one at which you will be receiving the entries. It may be helpful to place a table across this doorway. Members browsing beforehand are difficult to remove from the room and may delay the start of judging. No one except the workers should be allowed in the display room until the judging is complete and the room is opened to the public.
2. Sit at the check-in with the proper forms where you will record the names of persons submitting entries, a description of the item, and the assigned category. Depending on the contest level, recording should include club, county, or district. You can speed up the check-in time by dividing the categories between several helpers. The NCECA Cultural Arts Check In/Out Form is designed to log in entries. Example: Divide applications by counties or district. Have lists divided before the day of the contest.
3. You will need several people to place the registered items on the proper tables. This is the time at which you should review the placement of items in their categories. If the contest is at the county level, you may question the category if you suspect it to be incorrect. You may **NOT** change the category but **the person submitting the entry may make the change to the proper category at this time.** At the district and state levels, **NO ONE** may change an item to another category. If it has been previously entered incorrectly, it will only be displayed but NOT JUDGED.
4. At **NO** time will any judge have the authority to reclassify an entry or to question if it should be moved to another category. The responsibility is yours as outlined above.
5. Articles entered must be packaged securely for handling while traveling. No crated items will be allowed. Packaging must be labeled with person's name, county, district, and category.
6. **JUDGES:** When selecting judges for the creative writing items, care should be given to select qualified persons, giving them ample time to do fair judging. Retired librarians and English teachers may make good judges for these categories. Creative writing categories must reach coordinator three weeks prior to the contest.

7. The potential of lost entries is real; therefore, please **DO NOT mail the original or only copy of the entry** – poem, short story, or music. Please check with the author that she or he has kept a copy of their entry. Make a photocopy of the original. Send with Release Form to the coordinator.
8. You should select judges that are knowledgeable of the listed categories. Do not use ECA members or agents. Retired agents, the arts councils, quilt guilds, sewing clubs, and craft stores are good sources for the judges.
9. It is a common courtesy to show your gratitude by awarding each judge a small gift of appreciation. Never lose sight of the budget. The host district for the state meeting will be responsible for gifts for judges, with the assistance of the Cultural Arts Coordinator.

Each judge should be given a copy of the **Criteria for Judging Form** and a pad and pen for writing. Caution the judges to award a ribbon only where it is warranted. Do not award a ribbon just because only one or two items are entered in the category. However, remember we are encouraging creativity.

DURING THE JUDGING

1. Remain in the room to answer questions.
2. You will need two people to help. As the judging progresses, write the winner's name, category, and date on the ribbon. This action will assure the winning ribbon stays with the correct item.
3. At this time, open **ALL** envelopes and place them with the entry so members can see who made the items.
4. **Fill out the proper forms.**
 - (a) **County Level – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners** – Read to the members; give a copy to county secretary, agent, and keep a copy for your file.
Blue Ribbon Winners – Send a copy to district person ASAP and keep a copy for your file.
 - (b) **District Level – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners** – Read to the members; give a copy to district secretary, agent, and keep a copy for your file.
Blue Ribbon Winners – Send a copy to state person ASAP (at least three weeks prior to the state contest) and keep a copy for your file.
 - (c) **State Level – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners** – Read to the members; give copy to state secretary and keep a copy for your file.
5. Work fast and be ready to announce the results when called upon.
6. Secure the area and ask that everyone **PLEASE** leave items on display until the members have viewed them.
7. Caution people not to handle the exhibits. **NO FOOD or DRINK should be allowed in the exhibit area.**

REQUIRED PRINTED MATERIALS

NCECA Cultural Arts Contest Categories
 Rules and Guidelines for Cultural Arts Contest
 Cultural Arts Release Form
 NCECA Cultural Arts Check In/Out Form
 Criteria for Judging
 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Winners Form
 Blue Ribbon Winners Form

NOTE: If there is a problem, it should be resolved on the county or district level, and not brought to the state level.
Only one item can be entered from the district in a category on state level.

NCECA CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST

Criteria For Judging

I	General Appearance of Completed Article		25 Points
	Design	(5)	_____
	Individuality	(5)	_____
	Colors/Texture Combinations	(5)	_____
	Cleanliness	(5)	_____
	Design Appropriate For Use	(5)	_____
II	Workmanship of Completed Article		60 Points
	Uniformity	(30)	_____
	Technique	(30)	_____
III	Presentation of Completed Article		15 Points
	Appropriateness	(5)	_____
	Durability	(5)	_____
	Economic Aspect	(5)	_____

Placing: _____ First
_____ Second
_____ Third
_____ Honorable Mention
_____ Best of Show

Comments: _____

Notes to Judges:

1. Judge the item only – not the way it is framed. Framing is to be considered only if all other things are equal.
2. Handwork should not take precedent over machine work. Judge the item for its design, workmanship, and creativity (particularly when selecting Best of Show).
3. Ribbons should be awarded only where it is warranted, not just because only one or two items are entered in the category. However, please remember we are encouraging creativity.

NCECA CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST CATEGORIES

1. **Sewing:** Clothing, costumes, aprons, doll clothes, etc.
2. **Sewing:** Home furnishings, draperies, banners, pillow cover, lap robes, placemats, wall hanging with sleeve or method for hanging, etc.
3. **Handwork:** Smocking, tatting, lace, etc.
4. **Handwork:** Cross stitch, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, etc.
5. **Knitting:** Clothing, afghans, spread, etc.
6. **Crocheting:** Clothing, afghans, spreads, etc.
7. **Felting:** Needle, wet, etc.
8. **Embroidery:** Hardanger, redwork, silk ribbon, candle wicking, crewel, etc.
9. **Crafts:** Handcrafted toys, pecan resin figures, etc.
10. **Heritage Skills:** Braided or hooked rugs, corn shuck dolls or mats, gourd art, calligraphy, pressed flower art, etc.
11. **Weaving:** Hand or loom weaving, Swedish weaving, etc.
12. **Chair Bottoming or Baskets:** Reed, cane, rag, pineneedles, etc.
13. **Wood Craft:** Carving, woodworking, etc.
14. **Christmas Decorations**
15. **Jewelry**
16. **Quilts:** Appliqued, pieced, machine quilted – all sizes
17. **Quilts:** Appliqued, pieced, hand quilted – all sizes
18. **Quilts:** Stamped pattern (cheater's quilt) or machine embroidery, hand quilted – all sizes
19. **Quilts:** Stamped pattern (cheater's quilt) or machine embroidery, machine quilted – all sizes
20. **Quilts:** Other techniques such as cathedral windows, yo yo, crazy quilt, tacked – all sizes
21. **Flower Arrangement or Wreath:** Artificial or dried
22. **Photography:** Black and white, color (should not be framed or matted)
23. **Porcelain:** Commercial molds (firing may be done by others), figurines, vases, etc.
24. **Ceramics:** Commercial molds (firing may be done by others), figurines, vases, etc.
25. **Dolls:** Porcelain, ceramic, etc. (firing may be done by others)
26. **Dolls:** Fabric
27. **Pottery:** Wheel or hand thrown (firing may be done by others)
28. **Scrapbooking:** Only two pages may be submitted
29. **Fine Arts:** Watercolors
30. **Fine Arts:** Oils
31. **Fine Arts:** Acrylics
32. **Fine Arts/Miscellaneous:** Tole painting style, wood painting, stenciling, etching, glass painting, etc.
33. **Metal Arts:** Copper, aluminum, silver, gold, enameling, hammering, embossing, engraving, etc.
34. **Miscellaneous:** Any item that cannot be entered in the above categories; it must **not** be entered here if eligible for one of the above categories.

Poetry, Short Story, and Music – GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Only original work and unpublished writers are eligible**
 - Entry must be **typed, not handwritten**, on 8 ½ x 11 paper
 - Entry must be double-spaced with one-inch margins on each submitted page
 - Each page must be numbered with the title included on each page with no identifiable markings (such as name, address, phone number, or pictures) on pages or folder
 - Entry must be placed in a plain manila folder
 - Place the completed Cultural Arts Release Form (including title, number of pages) in an unsealed envelope
 - Put envelope in the manila folder
 - Entries will be judged on:
 1. **Creativity**
 2. **Appearance**
 3. **Spelling and punctuation**
 4. **Following guidelines described herein**
 - A critique of your work will NOT be available
 - **Entries MUST be in the hands of the coordinator on the level of competition (county/district/state) THREE (3) weeks prior to the contest**
35. **Creative Writing: Poetry** – Entry must not exceed three (3) pages
 36. **Creative Writing: Short Story** – Entry must not exceed twenty (20) pages
 37. **Creative Writing: Music** – Entry must not exceed three (3) pages (may or may not include lyrics)

CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST RELEASE FORM

I, _____, agree to allow my entry in category # _____ to be in the possession of county, district, and/or state members responsible for helping with the North Carolina ECA Cultural Arts Contest. I agree to pick up my entry or appoint a named person to do so after the county, district, or state level of the contest and exhibit. In signing this form, I am also stating that this article is entirely my work and that I have packaged my article for safe handling. Any damages occurring due to improper packing are my responsibility. NCECA, or any member helping with the contest, will not be responsible for any damage or loss. I understand if my item wins first place, it must progress to the next level of the contest.

Signed

Date

County

District

Club

Home Address

City

Zip Code

Phone (Home)

Phone (Work)

Item description and description of process or steps in creating this item:
Example: Did you begin with a kit, create your pattern, select colors? What part of this item did you create? List steps used.

CREATIVE WRITING TRANSMITTAL FORM

DATE: _____

TO: _____

FROM: _____

Dear Coordinator:

As a safeguard, to make sure we do not lose the original copies of our Creative Writing, we no longer put the originals in the mail.

This copy (copies) of the Creative Writing is being furnished to you for judging at your District _____ or State _____ Cultural Arts Contest.

POETRY

SHORT STORY

MUSIC
