

# NCECA CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST CATEGORIES

## General

1. **Sewing- Clothing:** including smocked items
2. **Sewing – Home Furnishings:** draperies, pillow covers, placemats, table runner, wall hanging (with sleeve for rod and longest side no more than 36”), etc.
3. **Needlework:** tatting, lace,
4. **Knitting:** any knitted item, including made on a loom
5. **Crocheting:** any crocheted item
6. **Embroidery:** including Swedish embroidery and crewel
7. **Stitchery:** cross stitch, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, red work, hardanger, candle wicking, wool applique
8. **Craft Re-cycling:** using recycled items to create a craft
9. **Heritage Skills:** Braided or hooked rugs, calligraphy, wood craft, caning/weaving, etc.
10. **Nature Craft:** gourd art, pressed flower art, baskets (reed, pine needle, fabric/cloth, etc.), dried material wreath, etc.
11. **Pottery:** wheel thrown, hand built, etc.
12. **Flower arrangement or Wreath:** using artificial materials
13. **Christmas Decoration:**
14. **Jewelry:** made using purchased components
15. **Jewelry:** made using handmade beads (glass, potato, clay, paper, etc.)
16. **Scrapbooking:** Submit only 2 pages
17. **Paper craft:** notecards (submit 2), origami, quilling, etc.
18. **Doll:** fabric, porcelain
19. **Metal Arts:** use any metal for enameling, hammering, embossing, engraving, etc.
20. **Miscellaneous:** only items which cannot be entered into any other specific category can be entered here.

## Fine Arts

21. **Watercolor:** painting
22. **Oil:** painting
23. **Acrylic:** painting
24. **Other Fine Art:** tole painting, stenciling, etching, painting on wood or glass, stained glass, etc.
25. **Photography:** black and white (may be matted)
26. **Photography:** color (may be matted)

### **Quilting**

27. **Quilt:** appliqued, machine quilted
28. **Quilt:** appliqued, hand quilted
29. **Quilt:** pieced, machine quilted
30. **Quilt:** pieced, hand quilted
31. **Quilt:** hand pieced, hand quilted
32. **Quilt:** stamped pattern (cheater's fabric), machine quilted
33. **Quilt:** stamped pattern (cheater's fabric), hand quilted
34. **Quilt:** machine embroidery, machine quilted
35. **Quilt:** machine embroidery, hand quilted
36. **Other Quilt Technique:** cathedral window, yoyo, crazy quilt, tacked etc.

### **Creative Writing**

37. **Poetry:** entry cannot exceed three pages
38. **Short Story:** entry cannot exceed ten pages

# CONTESTANT'S RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR NCECA CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST

## All Categories

1. Any active North Carolina ECA member is eligible to enter an article in any or all the categories of the contest; however, only one item per person may be entered in any one category. The item must have been made by an individual member and completed since the last county Cultural Arts Contest.
2. An item may be entered only one (1) time in the Cultural Arts Contest.
3. Describe in writing the process or steps used in creating/making this item.
4. Each item entered must be accompanied by a signed copy of the NCECA Cultural Arts Contest Release Form, which is filled out, enclosed in an unsealed envelope showing only the Category # on the outside of the envelope, 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 entered item, it should be covered with tape so that it is not visible to the judges.
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. The NCECA will not be responsible for lost or damaged articles.

## Creative Writing – General Instructions

1. **Only original work and unpublished writers are eligible.**
2. Entry must be **typed, not handwritten**, using 8 ½ x 11-inch paper.
3. Entry must be double-spaced with one-inch margins on each submitted page.
4. 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.
5. Send a copy of your entry in a plain manila folder.
6. Place the completed Cultural Arts Release Form (including title and number of pages) in an unsealed envelope and include with the copy of your entry in a large envelope.
7. **Entry MUST be in the hands of the contest coordinator on the level of competition (county/district/state) THREE (3) weeks prior to the contest.** Check NCECA Yearbook for address of the District or State coordinator.
8. Entry will be judged on
  - \* **Creativity**
  - \* **Appearance**
  - \* **Spelling and Punctuation**
  - \* **Following the above guidelines.**
9. A critique of your work will NOT be available.

**NCECA CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST  
JUDGING CRITERIA**

I. General Appearance of Completed Article		25 points
Design	(10)	_____
Individuality	(5)	_____
Color/Texture combinations	(5)	_____
Cleanliness	(5)	_____
II. Workmanship of Completed Article		60 points
Uniformity	(20)	_____
Technique	(20)	_____
Creativity	(20)	_____
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:**
1. Only the item is to be judged – not the way it is matted or framed.
  2. Handwork should not take precedent over machine work. Item is to be judged for its design, workmanship, and creativity (particularly when selecting for Best of Show).
  3. Ribbons will be awarded only where it is warranted, not just because only one or two items are entered in the category.
  4. Creativity is highly encouraged.

# 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 NCECA 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 so 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
email address

*Cut off and attach to the article entered in this contest.*



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

**Category #** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
—  
\_\_\_\_\_  
—  
\_\_\_\_\_  
—

# **CONTEST COORDINATOR'S GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS FOR NCECA CULTURAL ARTS**

## **PLANNING IS THE KEY TO HAVING A SMOOTH CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST**

1. Secure the date and place for the contest.
2. The contest is usually held in conjunction with a county, district, or state meeting, so coordinate with the President, liaison agent and previous coordinator.
3. Arrange for several helpers on the day of the contest – 3 or more.
4. Secure ribbons for the event. A 7 ½-inch award ribbon works well, with First place being blue, Second place being red, and Third place being white. Honorable mention MAY be used if quality and quantity are sufficient. If a Best of Show is selected, then a rosette will be needed.
5. The Cultural Arts Coordinator is responsible for purchasing ribbons and submitting the bill to the treasurer (through the proper channels).

**RIBBONS:** Ribbons may be purchased from Hodges Badge Company, Inc. The set-up costs have already been paid to Hodge Badge. You must let them know which logo to use: **NCECA**

**HODGES BADGE COMPANY, INC.**

**PO Box 1290**

**Portsmouth, RI 02871**

**Order department: 1-800-556-2440**

**Fax number: 1-800-292-7377**

[www.hodgesbadge.com](http://www.hodgesbadge.com)

[info@hodgesbadge.com](mailto:info@hodgesbadge.com)

**Winter discounts are offered between December 15 and February 15 (call to validate this)**

**OR**

**THE TROPHY CASE (they have the NCECA logo)**

**125 North Wilson Ave**

**Dunn NC 28334**

**910-892-9337 (Jessie or Robert)**

[nctrophycase.com](http://nctrophycase.com)

**OR contact a local supplier for price comparisons**

## **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 event.

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.

3a. 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.**

3b. At the district or 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.

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING CULTURAL ARTS ITEMS**

1. Any active 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 County Cultural Arts Contest the year before.**

2. Articles are allowed entry in the Cultural Arts Contest one (1) time only.

3. Each item entered must be accompanied by a signed copy of the **NCECA Cultural Arts Release Form**, which is filled out, (the contestant must describe, in writing, the process or steps in creating this item), enclosed in an unsealed envelope showing only the category number on the outside, with a description attached to the article.

4. The exhibitor's name **must not** be visible prior to and during 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.

5. **The NC ECA will not be responsible for lost or damaged articles.**

### **Creative Writing Categories:**

1. Creative Writing category items must reach the coordinator three weeks prior to the contest.

2. The potential for lost entries is real, therefore please **DO NOT mail the original or only copy of the entry.** Check with the author to make sure that she/he has kept a copy of the entry. Make a photocopy of the original. Send with Release Form to the coordinator.

**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 the state level.**

## **SELECTING and THANKING JUDGES**

1. Select judges who are knowledgeable of the listed categories. Do not use ECA members or current agents. Good sources for finding judges are retired Extension agents, arts council members, quilt guilds, sewing clubs/guilds and craft stores.

Revised 2021

2. To speed up the judging process, consider using a one judge for each of the

appropriate categories: for example: one judge for the General categories, one judge for the Fine Arts categories and one judge for the Quilt categories. Then to select the Best of Show have each judge to select their best item and have all three judges to pick the Best of Show from

3. 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.
4. 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.

### **DURING THE JUDGING**

1. Each judge should be given a copy of the **Criteria for Judging Form** and a pad and pen for writing.
2. Caution the judges to award a ribbon only where it is warranted. Do not award a ribbon just because there are only one or two items entered in the category but do remember that we are encouraging creativity.
3. Remain **in the room to answer questions**.
4. There should be at least three (3) people to help. As the judging progresses, write the winner's name, category, and date on the ribbon. This will assure the winning ribbon stays with the correct item. Also, open the envelope and attach it and the ribbon with the item so members can see who made the article.
5. **FILL OUT THE PROPER FORMS:**
  - 5a. **County Level – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners** – Read to the members; give a copy to county secretary, agent and keep a copy for your files.  
**Blue Ribbon Winners** – send a copy to District Chairman/Coordinator ASAP and keep a copy for your file.
  - 5b. **District Level – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners** – Read to the members; give a copy to the district secretary, agent and keep a copy for your files.  
**Blue Ribbon Winners** – Send a copy to the State Chairman/Coordinator ASAP (at least 3 weeks prior to the state contest) and keep a copy for your files.
  - 5c. **State Level – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners** – Read to the members; give copy to state secretary and keep a copy for your files.
6. Work fast and be ready to announce the results when called to do so.
7. Secure the area and ask that everyone **PLEASE** leave items on display until the members have viewed them.
8. Caution members not to handle the exhibits. **NO FOOD OR DRINK should be allowed in the exhibit area.**

Revised 2021

Required/Highly Suggested **PRINTED MATERIALS to have on hand**



Extra Copies of:

NCECA Cultural Arts Contest Categories listing  
Contestant's Rules and Guidelines for Cultural Arts  
Cultural Arts Release Forms

Copies as needed of:

NCECA Cultural Arts Check In/Out Form  
Criteria for Judging/Judging Forms  
Blue Ribbon Winners Form  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners Form  
Ribbons

**Additional Highly Suggested items to have on hand:**

Envelopes  
Pencils  
Pens  
Lots of safety pins  
Tape – clear and masking  
Stapler  
Clipboards (at least 3)  
Markers – Sharpie/magic marker, highlighters  
Rubber bands  
Paper clips  
Scissors  
Hole punch  
Post it notes

**After the Judging and Viewing:**

1. Thank the judges and present thank you gifts.
2. Gather and pack entries by County and /or District for easier release.
- 3. Release items to designated person, ONLY.**
4. Check room for any stray articles before leaving (be sure to double check any packing materials which are still in the room).

# Addendum I NCECA Cultural Arts Check In/Check Out Sheet

## Year \_\_\_\_\_

Contest For:

County ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ District ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ State ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Name

Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

In/By #	Category Name	Item Description	Made By	Out/By
_____	1. Sewing – clothing	_____	_____	_____
_____	2. Sewing – home furnishings	_____	_____	_____
_____	3. Needlework	_____	_____	_____
_____	4. Knitting	_____	_____	_____
_____	5. Crocheting	_____	_____	_____
_____	6. Embroidery	_____	_____	_____
_____	7. Stitchery	_____	_____	_____
_____	8. Craft Recycling	_____	_____	_____
_____	9. Heritage Skill	_____	_____	_____
_____	10. Nature Craft	_____	_____	_____
_____	11. Pottery	_____	_____	_____
_____	12. Flower Arrangement Or Wreath	_____	_____	_____
_____	13. Christmas Decoration	_____	_____	_____
_____	14. Jewelry	_____	_____	_____
_____	15. Jewelry	_____	_____	_____
_____	16. Scrapbooking	_____	_____	_____

<b>In/By</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Category Name</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Made By</b>	<b>Out/By</b>
_____	_____	17. Paper craft	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	18. Doll	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	19. Metal Arts	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	20. Miscellaneous	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	21. Watercolor	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	22. Oil	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	23. Acrylic	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	24. Other Fine Art	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	25. Photography: B&W	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	26. Photography: color	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	27. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	28. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	29. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	30. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	31. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	32. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	33. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	34. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	35. Quilt:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	36. Other Quilt Technique:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	37. Poetry	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	38. Short Story	_____	_____	_____