
Indiana Gourd Society, Inc. - Judges Guidelines - 2012

1. Judges must be impartial. If they recognize any exhibit or specific artist's techniques, when they are judging, they may step back and ask the head judge to assign another judge for that class only. Judges NEVER judge their own work. Experienced judges should know how to be impartial.
2. Judges MAY NOT move an exhibit to another class if the entrant entered the wrong class.
3. Judging in classes listed by size (as in smallest gourd) are done strictly by measurement.
4. In classes listing a single technique, only that technique is judged. However, other techniques present may detract from an award. Example: In wood burning on a whole or cut gourd, only the pyrography is judged. However, if the cutting or finish is poor, judges may subtract points for that.
5. In classes listing multiple techniques, the judges will judge all techniques observed. Example: In wood burning on a whole or cut gourd, with other techniques or embellishments, the wood burning is the primary criteria, but in place of a tie, the other techniques will be used to decide a winner. This may include adding or subtracting scoring points as judged.
6. Judging is based on the originality, design and execution of the work.
7. If the judges feel none of the exhibits in a class warrant it, they may choose NOT to award all ribbons.
8. General Horticulture judging guidelines (dried gourds): Judging is based on cleanliness (including stem), trueness to variety in shape, color, and size. When more than one gourd is presented (as three of the same), then color variation is also considered.
9. Botanicals and Floral Design judging guidelines: Creations made from gourds must predominate. If a gourd container is required, the quality of the container is considered. Fresh material, if used, must not be wilted. Painted dried material, if used, must show thorough coverage. Good floral design principles will be given preference.
10. General Arts & Crafts judging guidelines: Uniformity of line or stroke, color, width, depth, finish (if present), and trueness to pattern are expected. If a burn line should end on another burn line, a neat even junction should be evident.
11. Pencil lines should never show. Cutting must be uniform. The finished product should show care in the work.
12. When "additional embellishments" are allowed, they must compliment the work and not overpower it.