



National POW WOW XVII
Arts and Craft Competition
8 July 2017

Greetings, on behalf of your National Committee staff, I want to welcome each of you to National Powwow XVII and encourage your participation in the upcoming National Arts and Crafts Competition to be held during NPW at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, IN during 6-9 July 2017. The purpose of the Arts and Crafts Competition is to help preserve the skills and talents necessary to make high quality, historically accurate Native American style material. Across the broad spectrum of Native American crafts, the competition seeks to encourage contemporary craftspersons to do the research and attain the expertise necessary to ensure that these cultural arts are not forgotten. The competition also provides our community an opportunity to formally recognize those artists and craftspersons who have excelled in this realm by awarding Ribbons of Excellence to the best craftspersons in a number of competitive categories. Most importantly, the National Committee will formally recognize one exceptional artist with the award of the prestigious 15th Les Bircher Memorial Award for Craftsmanship, first instituted at National POW WOW III held in 1975.

The national competition will be divided into the following categories, and competitors will self-determine the category they wish to compete in based on a personal assessment of their experience and expertise in the making of Native American material:

Adult (18 years and older) Guidelines

1. Professional - Artists and Craftspersons who make and sell Native American style material for profit as a business
2. Advanced/Master Craftspersons – 10 or more years of crafts experience
3. Intermediate Craftspersons – 5 to 10 years of crafts experience
4. Novice – Less than 5 years of crafts experience

Youth (17 years and younger) Guidelines - One competition category covering all levels of youth experience and expertise

At the end of the Competition on Saturday, the Arts and Crafts Judges will present each competitor with a commemorative Arts and Crafts Participation Ribbon, and will

award the best craftspersons in each category with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place NPW XVII Arts and Craft Excellence Ribbons.

In addition to the Adult and Youth Categories shown above, participants in every category except for the Professional Category, will be eligible to be considered for the Les Bircher Award. The historic Les Bircher Award for Craft Excellence was first established in 1975 at NPW III by the American Indianist Society in honor of a great leader and craftsman in their community named Les Bircher, and has been awarded at every NPW since that time. This Award recognizes the best, non-professional craftsperson exhibiting during the national craft competition and will be formally presented by the National Committee during the Saturday evening dance.

Registration and Display Details

Please note, that there will be no “advanced or pre-NPW XVII” registration for the Arts and Crafts Competition. All registrations for the competition will take place at NPW XVII in Danville, Indiana. Registration information will be available at check in and on-site beginning Thursday July 6. Packets for registration will be available until the Grand Entry on Friday evening the 7th of July. All completed registration forms must be submitted to the NPW Registration table before 10 pm on Friday night. The Arts and Crafts Competition will be located in the same Hendricks County Exhibition Hall as last national, and will be held from 08:00 to 10:00 am on Saturday, morning, the 8th of July, with a follow-on exhibition of the competition entries open to the public from 10:00 to 12:00 pm. Craft Participants will have access the display venue beginning at 08:00, with competition displays to be in place for judging no later than 09:00. Judging will occur between 09:00 and 10:00, and ribbons will be awarded before the 10:00 opening of the venue for the public exhibition. Participants are expected to keep their competition display in tact until the exhibition closes at noon, and are encouraged to discuss their craft work with interested spectators.

General Guidelines

All persons participating in the 2017 National POW WOW Arts and Crafts Competition will need to be registered as a participant in NPW XVII. The NPW Register will be consulted should it be necessary to confirm registration status. No day visitors will be permitted to compete without NPW registration. All participants will obtain the Arts and Crafts Competition forms upon arrival and check-in and completed forms will need be returned to the NPW registrar prior to 10:00 pm on Friday night.

Competition entries will be limited to a display of no more than five items. If several items are considered to be part of a set, the set would then be considered as one item. If there is any question in this regards to the appropriateness of a set, the Arts and Crafts Competition Chairman will have final determination authority. Past winners of the Les Bircher Award are welcome to compete again this year, but judges and those craftspersons competing in the Professional Category will not be considered for the Les Bircher Award.

Display space is typically 96' X 36" but accommodations for larger items will be considered case by case. Table or Floor Displays are acceptable, but participants should provide their own table cloths or blankets as necessary to best showcase their craft work. Participants are responsible for the safety and security of their displayed material. Please ensure that there will be someone present with your display at all times. While the NPW National Committee will do its best to help you protect your material, it can assume no liability for any damage or loss that may occur to any of your items on display. Items that may contain components from nationally protected species are prohibited in the competition and may not be displayed. If there are questions in regards to this matter, please consult applicable federal and state regulations to ensure that none of your craft items contain parts of protected species. Art or craft entries that have been competed in previous NPW are welcome to be displayed, but are ineligible and will not be considered for this competition.

As the Arts and Crafts Chairman, and a former winner of the Les Bircher Award, I appreciate this opportunity to personally encourage you to participate in the Arts and Crafts Competition this year and wish each of you the very best of luck as you display your latest craft projects and share the fruits of your labors with NPW attendees! There are a great many categories of arts and crafts associated with Native American Cultures, and with your participation in this year's event, you will not only have the opportunity to showcase your own particular talents, but also to collectively help promote craftwork as an important and essential element of Native American traditional ways. Again, thank you for participating in the National Powwow Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition. I look forward to seeing you and your handiwork at this year's event!

Sincerely,

Mike Kostelnik
NPW Arts and Crafts Competition Chairman



NATIONAL POWWOW XVII
HENDRICKS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
DANVILLE, INDIANA
JULY 6-9, 2017

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Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition July 8, 2017 Rules and Guidelines

The purpose of the National Powwow Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition is to highlight and showcase Native American style art and craftwork and to celebrate those artists who excel in this realm by recognizing the best craftsman in each category and to award one exceptional artist with the 15th Les Bircher Memorial Award for Craftsmanship, first instituted at the 3rd National Powwow in 1975.

The crafts competition at National Powwow XVII will be divided into the following categories:

Adult (18 years and older) Guidelines

5. Professional - Artists and Craftspersons who make and sell Native American style material for profit as a business
6. Advanced/Master Craftspersons – 10 or more years of crafts experience
7. Intermediate Craftspersons – 5 to 10 years of crafts experience
8. Novice – Less than 5 years of crafts experience

Youth (17 years and younger) Guidelines - One competition category covering all levels of youth experience and expertise

Every participant – except those in the professional category – is eligible to win the **Les Bircher Memorial Award for Craftsmanship**. The Bircher Award is to be given to the best non-professional craftsman exhibiting the best work at National Powwow XVII.

Please note, there is no “advanced or pre-National Powwow XVII” registration for the Arts and Crafts Exhibition/Competition. All registration will take place at National Powwow XVI in Danville, Indiana. Registration information will be available on-site

beginning Thursday, July 6. Packets will be available until Grand Entry on Friday evening, July 7.

Guidelines

1. All persons participating in the 2017 National Powwow Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition must be registered participants of National Powwow XVI. The NPW XVII Registrar will be consulted should it be necessary to verify participant registration status. No day visitors will be permitted to participate.
2. All participants will obtain the Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition packet and complete all of the forms contained therein. Some forms will need to be turned into the registrar prior to the competition. Registration numbers inside the packet must be placed on display with the items. Several of the forms will be collected and used in the tabulation process to assist in determining Competition winners.
3. The exhibitors will be limited to displaying five (5) items. If several items comprise a "set," the "set" will be considered as one item. The Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition chairman will have the final determination on whether items make up a "set".
4. Past Bircher Award winners may compete for the Bircher Award, however, those persons exhibiting in the "Professional" category will not be considered.
5. Display space is limited to 96" x 36". Participants should come prepared to provide their own display material.
6. Exhibitors are responsible for the safety and security of their displayed items. Please have someone with your exhibit at all times. While National Powwow XVII will do its best to protect the displayed items, it assumes no liability for any damage and/or loss that may occur.
7. Items that may contain components from prescribed (illegal) species may not be displayed. Exhibitors showing items containing prescribed components will be asked to remove them from their display. Please check both federal and state regulations to determine if your craft items contain parts of illegal species.
8. Please limit your items to those that have not been displayed at previous National Powwows.

Location: Hendricks County Fairground Exposition Hall

Setup Date and Time: Saturday, July 8, 2017, 8:00-09:00 am

Judging Time: 9:00-10:00 am (closed to public)

Open Public Viewing: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon



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**Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition
July 8, 2017
Registration**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (home, cell): _____

Email: _____

Category (please circle one): Professional Advanced Intermediate Novice
Youth

Brief List of Items: A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

D) _____

E) _____

Please have this form with you, completed and ready to submit at your exhibit space by 09:00 am, Saturday July 8th, 2017.



**Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition
July 8, 2017
Items List**

Name: _____

Category (please circle one): **Professional** **Advanced** **Intermediate** **Novice**
Youth

Please provide a written description of displayed items. If several items make up a “set,” the set can be described and displayed as one item. If there are several similar items displayed, please provide descriptions that differentiate these similar items. For example, if the exhibitor has three fans, do not identify them as “Fan 1,” “Fan 2” and “Fan 3.” Describe significant features of each fan, such as type of feathers, background color of beadwork, etc.

List of Items: A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

D) _____

E) _____

Please have this form with you, completed and ready to submit at your exhibit space by 09:00 am, Saturday July 8th, 2017. Please place identifying cards to correspond with appropriate items in your display.