

# National Powwow XVIII

## Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Judging Saturday, July 8, 2023

The purpose of the National Powwow Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Judging is to highlight and showcase Native American style arts and craftwork and to celebrate those artists who excel in this realm. One exceptional artist will be presented with the 16<sup>th</sup> Les Bircher Memorial Award for Craftsmanship, first instituted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Powwow in 1975.

### Arts and Crafts Exhibition

All artists are invited to exhibit as many items as they would like in their display area. Please place an "Exhibition Only" card next to each item you are exhibiting. These items will not be considered by the judging panel.

### Arts and Crafts Judging

Craft judging is provided for those artists who wish to ask a panel of expert craftsmen their opinion on specific craft items. The goal of the craft judging is to encourage all who enter to continue their research and understanding of Native American crafts.

- ✓ Craft judging will be limited to 5 items per person.
  - If several items comprise a set, such as beaded hair ties, a necklace and a barrette, they may be considered 1 item. The National Powwow Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Judging Chairman will have the final determination on whether items comprise a set.
  - Only items that have never been judged at NPW should be entered.
- ✓ Items to be judged should be placed together in your display area.
- ✓ The artist must identify each item to be judged by filling out an identification card indicating the artist's competition number, his/her category and giving a description of that item.
  - Categories:
    - *Novice*: less than 5 years of craftwork experience
    - *Intermediate*: 5 to 15 years of craftwork experience
    - *Advanced*: 15+ years of craftwork experience
  - Description of item: include details such as tribal origin, if applicable, what item is and any other detail you wish the judges to know.
  - A set requires only 1 identification card.
  - Please do not place your name on the identification card.
  - Only items with an identification card will be judged.
  - If more than 5 items are identified for judging, none will be judged.

Craft items will be judged by a panel of judges chosen by the National Powwow Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Judging Chairman for their demonstrated expertise. Items will be judged based on choice of materials, construction method, designs, colors and style and awarded a premium ribbon using the criteria shown below. Items are NOT being judged against each other. The judges will have a facilitator who will aid them in referencing the premium criteria to determine the appropriate ribbon. It is important that each artist understands that they are asking the opinion of the judges and subjectivity may be involved.

- ❖ **FOURTH PREMIUM:** The item shows recognizable promise. A few of the details concerning choice of materials, colors, designs, workmanship and style are correct while many details need refinements through experience and research.
- ❖ **THIRD PREMIUM:** The item shows fair craftsmanship being made from acceptable materials. Some of the details concerning choice of colors, designs, workmanship and style are correct, while other aspects need refinement through experience and research.
- ❖ **SECOND PREMIUM:** The item represents good craftsmanship and is will made from original or standard substitute materials. The majority of the details: such as construction methods, workmanship, choice of colors and designs are correct, yet a few details need improvement.
- ❖ **FIRST PREMIUM:** The item represents excellence in craftsmanship. Standard construction techniques are used and the workmanship is excellent. The style and designs used are correct. Choice of colors is correct and pleasing to the eye. It is made of original or standard substitute materials.

#### JUDGES AWARD OF MERIT

Items that receive a First Premium ribbon will also be considered for this additional award.

To win a Judges Award of Merit means the judges have determined that this item is a near duplicate of an item made by the best past or present craftsperson.

#### BEST IN CATEGORY

Three awards will be given, one in each category, to the artist whose 5 items earn the highest premium ribbons. Judges Award of Merit ribbons will be used as tie breakers. In the event there is still a tie, the National Powwow Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Judging Chairman will determine the awardee.

#### LES BIRCHER AWARD

This award will be given to the Best in Category Awardee whose 5 items earn the highest premium ribbons. Judges Award of Merit ribbons will be used as tie breakers. In the event there is still a tie, the National Powwow Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Judging Chairman will determine the awardee.

#### **General Information:**

- Artists wishing to participate in either the Craft Exhibition or the Craft Judging must be

registered participants of National Powwow XVIII and obtain an information packet from the registration area prior to it's closing on Friday evening. NO packets will be available Saturday.

- Craft Exhibition & Judging set up will take place from 8:00 to 8:30 am on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Artists are solely responsible for the safety and security of their exhibited items. NATIONAL POWWOW XVIII ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE AND/OR LOSS THAT MAY OCCUR.
- Judging will begin promptly at 8:30 am. At this time the exterior doors to the room will be locked.
- The room will be open for public viewing from 10:00 am to noon. Judges will be available from 10:00 to 11:00 to answer any questions regarding the premiums awarded.
- Items that contain components from illegal species may not be displayed. Please know both state and federal laws regarding this topic.