

# 2018 Taos Wool Festival Yarn Show

October 6, 2018

Kit Carson Park - Taos, New Mexico  
Karen Greer, Show Manager

## General Rules and Information for Handspun and Millspun Yarn Competition

### I. Submission of Entries – Mail In or Walk In:

#### A. Mail in entries in advance of the Festival

- Skein, entry form, and fee may be mailed to the Yarn Show Coordinator, postmarked no later than September 19, 2018.

Yarn Show Coordinator: Karen Greer  
12 Norte Trail Ct.  
Placitas NM 80743

For questions, e-mail: [greer\\_karens@hotmail.com](mailto:greer_karens@hotmail.com)

- Please include a pre-paid USPS Priority mailing label including tracking and insurance for returning the entry.
- The Yarn Show Coordinator will not be responsible for any skeins lost in transit.

#### B. Walk in entries at the Festival

- Entries will be accepted at the Yarn Show in the Big Top tent between **8:00 and 9:00 am** on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Prior to submitting the entry, all entrants must visit the Information Booth, pay for their entry(s), & receive a payment ticket for the Yarn Show. The Information Booth will open at 7:45 AM.
- Bring the payment ticket and completed 2018 Yarn Show Entry Form, along with the yarn skeins to the Big Top tent.
- At 9:00 am the Big Top tent will be closed for Judging. **No late entries will be accepted.**
- Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. When judging is completed, the Show will open for People's Choice voting on Millspun entries and viewing of Handspun entries.

### II. Fees:

- A. No charge for MAVWA members and their family up to 5 entries total between the competitions. For 6 or more entries the fee will be \$5 per entry.
- B. \$10 per entry/item per show for non-MAVWA members
- C. No charge for Wool Festival Booth vendors for the first 5 entries. For 6 or more entries, \$5 per entry.
- D. There is no limit on the number or type of skeins that each spinner may enter.

### III. Sales: There will be no sales during the Yarn Show.

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## IV. Pick Up

- A. Entries may be picked up in person by the spinner or a designated representative (as indicated on the entry form) after 5:00 pm Saturday at the festival.
- B. Entries indicated to be returned via mail will be mailed to the spinner within thirty days after the event.
- C. Entries that are not picked up by 6:30 pm or by the conclusion of the Membership meeting on Saturday or that did not indicate for return via mail will be considered a donation to the Silent Auction on Sunday. You may choose to donate your skein to the Silent Auction which will be held on Sunday - in which case please indicate "Silent Auction" as the pick up authorization.

## V. Entry requirements:

- An entry shall consist of one skein.
- All yarn entered must have been spun since the last Taos Wool Festival in October 2017.
- The skeins must be at least 25 yds. in length, wound in 2 yd skeins, clean and finished.
- Skeins must be tied in four places with figure-eight ties using the same yarn being shown or yarn that is a similar color. Ties should not contrast with the skein.
- **Very Important! Include the end use. What could be made using the finished yarn? How would you make the end product -- knit, crochet, weave, etc.**

**NOTE: Sections VI., VII., and VIII. apply to Handspun entries only.**

**Tip for Handspun entries:** Provide as much information about your yarn as possible. The more the judges know, the better your chances at receiving a higher score/. (i.e. raw fleece, commercial roving, hand-dyed, method of plying etc.).

## VI. Handspun Divisions, Categories and Classes

### Divisions:

**Youth:** Age 12 and under

**Beginner:** Novices of any age, new to spinning, or just getting back to the wheel or spindle (spinning 1 year or less)

**Experienced:** Spinning more than 1 year

**Categories:** The Wool Festival at Taos proudly showcases Colorado/New Mexico/Texas (CO/NM/TX) fibers. Only yarns spun from fiber in the CO/NM/TX region are eligible to receive Reserve Champion, Champion, and Best in Show awards.

**CO/NM/TX animal fibers:** Fiber from animals raised in Colorado, New Mexico, or Texas.

**Other:** Fiber from animals that are not raised in Colorado, New Mexico or Texas

### Classes

#1: 100% wool; #2: Wool blends (at least 60% wool); #3: Other animal fibers; #4: Art Yarn/Novelty/Designer; #5: Spindle Spun (must submit a photograph of yarn on the spindle)

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## **VII. Handspun Judging Criteria**

Members of the Southwest Spinners Handspun Judges (SSHJ) have developed a Yarn Judge Certification Program, based on a similar program of the Northwest Regional Spinners, in order to standardize the way hand-spun yarn is judged across the country. Judge(s) who are SSHJ certified will be evaluating hand-spun yarn on Saturday morning at the Taos Wool Festival. The judge will issue prize ribbons, and entrants will receive valuable feedback to help improve their spinning. SSHJ judges use the Danish system for scoring: 90 points and above receives a blue ribbon, 80-89 is red, 70-79 is white. Skeins are graded on presentation, technique, quality of spinning, fiber choice for type of yarn spun, and suitability of yarn for finished project.

During judging, the judge has the right to combine classes that have very few entries, to divide overly full classes, and to move skeins that would fare better in a more appropriate class. The judge's decisions are final.

## **VIII. Handspun Awards:**

1. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons will be awarded by the Judges.
2. The Silver Medallion is awarded for overall Best of Show for Handspun Yarn. To be eligible for the Silver Medallion, the source fibers must originate from the MAVWA region, consisting of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.
3. Reserve Champion, Champion, and Silver Medallion entries will be presented at the awards ceremony at approximately 4:45 pm on Saturday.

## **IX. Mill Spun Entries**

Eligible entries are those from fiber mills that have spun yarn in-house on their equipment. Refer to Sections I. through V. for Entry Submission, Fees, Pick Up, and Requirements.

### **NEW THIS YEAR -- People's Choice Award**

Millspun entries will be voted on by Wool Festival participants. Festival participants will be allowed to handle and closely examine the entries, then will indicate their favorite entry by casting a paper ballot. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons will be awarded according the number of votes cast by participants. 1<sup>st</sup> place will be awarded to the entry receiving the highest number of votes; 2<sup>nd</sup> place to the next highest number, and so on.