

California Gourd Society
Northern California Gourd Competition 2026
Hosted by the Folsom and Amador Gourd Artists

How to Enter

The competition is open to **ALL**.

The entry fee per entry is \$6.00 for CGS members and \$10.00 for all others. One entry per entry form.

Make checks payable to CGS.

Mailed entries will be accepted. See **DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES**.

Mailed entries must be received by **September 21, 2026**.

Entries may be submitted in person on **Friday, September 25, 2026 from 10am to 4 pm. Judging will take place at American Legion #108, 11401 American Legion, Sutter Creek, California 95642**

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

Judging will take place on Saturday, September 26th between 10am-12pm.

Release and pick up of entries will be from 4-5pm on Sunday September 27. Mailed entries will be sent back the week of September 25-29th.

While every effort is made to provide security of items, the Folsom Gourd Artists and the California Gourd Society, and **are not** responsible for damaged or lost items.

The artist is responsible for placing his or her piece in the correct **category**.

Note: Please read category and division descriptions carefully. Design your art work for the category.

General Rules

Gourds must **predominate**. Entries must have a predominate focus on the medium or technique for the entry category.

Gourds previously entered in a CGS competition are not permitted.

Craft/artwork for each entry must be the **original** work of person who is the entrant.

Only one entry per category is permitted

Judges reserve the right to disqualify or reassign entries that do not meet category criteria.

Copyright designs such as Disney characters or copies of other artist's work may not be used on entries unless written permission is granted by the artist or copyright holder Copyright free designs may be used.

All participants agree to allow photographs to be taken of displayed items.

Not all categories are included in each division.

Note cards may be submitted to explain or document your process used to create the artwork.

Judging

The California Gourd Society will coordinate all judging. Judging will follow the American Gourd Society judging guidelines and use AGS trained judges. AGS's Detailed Scoring option will be used. Points will be given for overall appearance, craftsmanship, difficulty/level of effort and featured technique or theme.

Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category at the judge's discretion. A category with only one entry does not necessarily guarantee a 1st place ribbon. Best of Division and Best of Show will be determined by all the judges. Judge's Choice will be determined by the judges.

Any questions, please contact either of the Competition Co-chairs:

Colleen Ballard, ballardkb3@gmail.com 916-817-0341 OR Mary Hufft, hufftmary@comcast.net 916-770-6236

Divisions:

Novice Division – The Novice Division is for those who are relatively new to the art form and have been working with gourds for three years or less. The entrant should have no extensive experience or expertise in any art form that has been used on an entry gourd, such as painting, carving, pyrography, etc. Thus, an entrant who has won a major award in any juried art show should move into the Intermediate Division. Once you win a blue ribbon in this Division you should move up to the next Division.

Intermediate Division – The Intermediate Division is for those artists who understand and use basic techniques. Entrants should not have won a major award in a gourd show or a juried art show. They may have sold gourds but have not taught a gourd class for a fee. Once you win a Best of Division or Best of Show in this Division you should move up to the next Division.

Advanced Division The Advanced Division is for artists who have progressed to a more complicated level of work and have a good grasp of multiple techniques and finishing skills. They are creating more distinctive, original work and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. They may have taught a gourd class for a fee.

Masters Division The Master Division is for the artist whose work shows excellent use of all techniques and finishing skills. The work is of original design and not from a class (unless they have taught the class). Their work may have shown in galleries, won top awards in art/gourd competitions and have reached the level of fine art.

Grand Masters Division Grand Masters are for those artists who consistently create quality artwork that is solely the artist's own concept. The gourd artist skills and techniques are considered superior and their creativity inspirational. The artist's work will not be judged, but will have a dedicated space to display several pieces of their best or more recent work.

To Qualify for the Grand Masters Division:

Entries are exceptional works of gourd art.

An artist must have won either Best of Show or Best of Master's Division, or both at some time in the past.

Artists who qualify need to contact either competition co- chairs and notify of their intent to participate **one month** prior to the show. Artist in the Grand Master Division should include a biography with their entry form which will be on display with their entry.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Categories for Novice and Intermediate Division are “Technique Based”

The Categories for the Advanced and Masters Division are “Theme Based”

CATEGORIES FOR NOVICE AND INTERMEDIATE GOURD ARTIST

1. **Pyrography** - Burning a design (line or shading) on a gourd with the use of an electric wood-burning tool. Gourds that display fracking will not be accepted for this show because of safety reasons.
2. **Carving/ Fretwork/Filigree** - The removal of a portion of the outer surface of the gourd, exposing the undersurface to create a design or texture in relief and/or a decorative design (of holes and other shapes) cut through the shell of the gourd.
3. **Painted Coloring Techniques** - Any coloring technique, using stains, dyes, inks, oil pastel pencils, crayons, colored pencils, felt tip pens, acrylic paints, oil paints, watercolors, etc.
4. **Weaving/Coiled** – A gourd woven or coiled using any natural, man-made or artificial fiber. Any technique allowed. You must be able to see part of the gourd. Any finish allowed. The fiber art technique must predominate.
5. **Multimedia** – For Novice and Intermediate Division this category must include 2 techniques. Any type of finish or embellishments are allowed.

CATEGORIES FOR ADVANCED AND MASTER GOURD ARTIST

These categories are theme based. Using any technique and/or medium, WOW the judges with gourds featuring the stated theme. All medium(s) and any technique(s) are allowed for any category. Also, any combination of mediums or techniques may be used.

1. **Gourds in Motion**-These gourds will have movable and workable parts; such as mobiles, pinwheels, cars, etc.

Wine and Vines-Involves anything to do with the Wine Country.

Creative Creatures-Create innovative animals or creatures (real or not).

Gold Country History-Anything displaying the history of the Gold Country.

Multimedia- Use 3 or more techniques. 80% of the entry must be a gourd

****2026 Special Category—Happy 250th Birthday USA****

Each division may participate in this special category to celebrate our country's 250th birthday. Any medium may be used. The winner of each division will be judged on this theme's creativity and will receive a ribbon.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAILED ENTRIES

NORCAL Gourd Competition

Must be received by

Monday, September 21st 2026

Please mail to either one:

Mary Hufft

10048 Elgin River Ct.

Rancho Cordova 95670

Phone: 916 770-6236

Email: hufftmary@comcast.net

Colleen Ballard

5427 Plantain Circle

Orangevale 95662

Phone: 916 817-0341

Email: Ballardkb3@gmail.com

VERY IMPORTANT:

**MAILED ENTRIES THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING
GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE JUDGED**

ENTERED IN THE COMPETITION.

HOW TO PACKAGE YOUR MAILED ENTRY

For NorCal Gourd Art Competition 2026

Mailed entries must be placed inside a box self-addressed to yourself with return postage affixed to the returning box (not cash, not loose stamps, not money order for stamps). Please package your gourd with enough packing protection to insure safe return. Place the box to be returned to you inside the box addressed to the address above. Only one entry per box. You must complete an entry form with all areas of the entry form filled in, along with a check for the dollar amount to cover each entry. If you have more than one entry you may submit a check for all entries in Box 1 (please label it Box 1). Entry forms should go in the box with their art.

ENTRY FORM
CALIFORNIA GOURD SOCIETY
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GOURD ART COMPETITION 2026

One form per entry, please print

TAG # _____ If mailing early Tag # will be supplied when application is received

Name _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____

State: ____ Zip code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

C.G.S. Primary Patch Affiliation: _____

Division:

Novice _____ 2026 Special _____

Intermediate _____

Advanced _____

Master _____

Grand Master _____

Category: (See List) Number _____ Title _____

Describe materials and techniques used _____

I affirm this is my own original work.

- ☐ I have read the competition rules and agree to abide by them
☐ CGS has my permission to photograph my entry to use on website/CD of entries.

Is this gourd for sale? YES _____ NO _____

Signature: _____

☐ FEE enclosed: Member \$6.00 per entry

☐ FEE enclosed: **Non-Member \$10.00 per entry**

Cash or check payable to CGS

You can send in your entry forms early to either:

Mary Hufft
10048 Elgin River Ct.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
hufftmary@comcast.net

Collen Ballard
5427 Plantain Circle
Orangevale, CA 95662
ballardkb3@gmail.com