

Spinning Certificate Program Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore

Basic Instructions and Evaluation Criteria

Apprentice and Journeyman Levels:

- All yarn produced must be handspun by the participant. Any samples or items made by someone else using the participant's yarn must be identified and the person acknowledged.
- Natural or dyed, natural or manmade fibers may be used, as defined by the specific skein requirements. Since the yarns and samples submitted are the only things the judges will review, it is advisable to use good quality fibers.
- Submit only clean, finished yarns. Skeins are to be free of knots, unless otherwise noted in the detailed requirements. All skeins will be opened by the judges and tested for integrity.
- All sample swatches must be properly finished (washed and blocked).
- The participant may spin S or Z, unless otherwise stated. Submit singles yarns, unless otherwise directed.
- Each skein must be accompanied by a sample of the unspun fiber and/or starting material. If the participant started with unwashed fleece, for example, the sample of unspun fiber must be unwashed. A washed sample of the fiber may also be included. Each sample must be clearly labeled; see labeling instructions below.
- Skeins are to be tied with four figure-eight ties of fine white cord to prevent tangling. Ties are to be loose enough to allow spreading for evaluation.
- Each skein must have an appropriate surface structure, consistent diameter, and the same amount of twist throughout the skein unless otherwise stated. Plied yarns should be balanced in the ply.
- Each participant will be given a number that is to be used on all correspondence, application forms, inquiries, and submissions to maintain the participant's anonymity. Each submission folder is to have a label on the back identifying the participant by number only.

Binder Preparation and Submission Directions:

- All Apprentice and Journeyman work must be submitted with the pages, plastic pockets, or folders bound with rings or a soft cover for ease in handling. Labels are to be neatly typed. No names are to appear on the binder.
- Each section submission will include the following:
 - A cover sheet
 - Skein and/or swatch folders labeled to correspond to the number of the requirement.
 - Each skein or swatch folder will have the appropriate blank evaluation sheet to be completed by the Judge. The participant will fill in the information required at the top of the sheet.
 - Each skein must be mounted in a folder with:
 - A skein information sheet
 - A sample of the starting material in a small plastic bag labeled with the fiber content
 - Embroidery floss cards (3, as appropriate) wrapped with the singles and plied yarns (pre and post finishing) marked to indicate WPI of each.
 - Each swatch will measure at least 16 square inches (e.g. 4"x4", 2"x8") and must be mounted in a folder with an swatch information sheet
- Information sheets and evaluation forms are available as Microsoft Word files on the Guild's web site.
- The participant will submit the binders and other work as appropriate to the Registrar by the section submission deadline.

Evaluation Criteria:

Apprentice and Journeyman Criteria:

Criteria for Written Requirements:

- Submission of written work and samples is neat, clear, and presented in labeled folders.
- Statements and terminology are accurate.
- Illustrations are appropriate and correct.
- All requirements are fulfilled.

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Criteria for Skeins and Swatches:

- All required work is submitted.
- The work shows mastery of techniques and technical execution.
- Materials are suitable to techniques and equipment.
- Use of color/fiber is effective.
- Design applications are effective.
- All items are finished appropriately.
- Size requirements are met.
- The presentation of work is neat, uniform and in labeled folders.

Masters Level Criteria:

- The purpose for which the yarn is produced is clear and appropriate.
- The comprehensiveness and depth of the study demonstrate advanced skills.
- The application of spinning techniques achieve the stated purpose.
- The quality of concept and successful application of the study is demonstrated in items produced.
- The completeness of all required work, including documentation, samples of steps toward major pieces, and final products.

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