

National Taxidermists Association Competition Awards

Competitors must attend the Convention Banquet in order to win awards and be photographed and recognized.

1. **TAXIDERMIST OF THE YEAR**-Limited to NTA members who have earned the NTA Award of Excellence and are present at the convention. Selected by the judges collectively from all mounts entered in the Division of Excellence. In making the selection judges are not bound by any numerical score an individual mount may have received, but will make the selection based upon the mounts overall merit.
2. **THE BREAKTHROUGH BEST OF SHOW** – Selected by the judges collectively from all Open Division and Division of Excellence entries. In making the selection judges are not bound by any numerical score, but will make the selection based upon the mounts overall merit. Winner receives a plaque and cash award.
3. **WASCO AWARD** – Limited to entries in the Division of Excellence and the Open Division. To be selected by the judges as the most artistic entry.
4. **BEST ALL AROUND TAXIDERMIST** – Competitors must be present at the convention. Competitors entering this must enter in four of the following: Birds, Fish or Reptiles, Life-size Mammals (large or small), and Game heads (half life-size are included in the Gamehead category.) Competitors must identify their four Best All Around entries where indicated on the competition entry forms. There is a additional \$50.00 entry fee for this category. The person with the highest total numerical score with four entries will win this award. Entries may be composed of mounts entered in both the Open Division and the Division of Excellence.
5. **DISTINGUISHED TAXIDERMIST AWARD**-Limited to competitors whose entry has previously won a “Judges Best of Show” at a state, regional or WTC event where only one “Judges Best of Show” is awarded. It will be the responsibility of the competitor to obtain forms from NTAHQ in order for eligibility. Entries are limited to the same entry that won the Best of Show. The judges will select the winner of this award collectively and numerical score does not bind them. Selection will be based on the mounts overall merit. **There’s an additional \$50.00 entry fee for this category.**
6. **CHALLENGE OF THE ART DIVISION AWARDS** – Limited to entries competing in the Challenge of the Art Division. A first, second, third, place will be selected by the judges. This is judged on artistic interpretation. Entries may be entered by a single, multiple, or taxidermy studio entry. **There’s an additional \$50.00 entry fee for this category.**
7. **JUDGE’S BEST OF SHOW, COLLECTIVE ARTISTS** – Limited to entries competing in the Collective Artists Division where more than one taxidermist has worked on the

entry. The winning entry is selected by the Judges from the first place ribbon winners in each Collective Artists category.

8. **MASTERS CHOICE AWARDS** – A first, second, third, place ribbon will be awarded. Selected by the voting of the registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room.
9. **HENRY WICHERS INCHUMUK AWARD** – Limited to entries in the Open Division and Division of Excellence, the size of a squirrel or smaller that are not involved in the freeze-dry process. Based on the Highest Numerical Score
10. **JOSEPH BRUCHAC MEMORIAL AWARD** – Selected by the whitetail judge from the National Champion and North American Champion. In making the selection, judges are not bound by score but will consider the mounts overall merit.
11. **CHRIS BARNHARDT MEMORIAL AWARD** – Selected by the Gamehead judge from the National Champion and North American Champion. In making the selection, judges are not bound by score but will consider the mounts overall merit.
12. **BRIAN HARNES MEMORIAL AWARD** -- Selected by the Life Size judge from the National Champion and North American Champion Small Life Size Mammals. In making the selection, judges are not bound by score but will consider the mounts overall merit.
13. **NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION AWARD**-- Selected by the Bird judge from the National Champion and North American Champion Turkeys. In making the selection, judges are not bound by score but will consider the mounts overall merit.
14. **FRANK NEWMYER AWARD** Selected by the Bird judge from the National Champion and North American Champion Upland birds or Waterfowl. In making the selection, judges are not bound by score but will consider the mounts overall merit
15. **NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS** – Limited to NTA members who have earned the NTA Award of Excellence. A maximum of fifteen North American Champions will be named from the categories in the Division of Excellence based on the Highest Numerical Score in each category. In the case of Re-creations, one North American Champion will be selected based on the Highest Numerical Score in the three Re-creation subcategories. Freeze-Dry entries are not eligible for North American Champion. To be eligible for North American Champion, the highest scoring entry must be a first place ribbon. In the case of a tie the judges will make the determination based upon the mounts overall merit.
16. **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**-Limited to NTA members competing in the Open Division. A maximum of fifteen National Champions will be named from the categories based on the Highest Numerical Score. In the case of Re-creations, one National

Champion will be selected based on the Highest Numerical Score in the three Recreation subcategories. Freeze-Dry entries are not eligible for National Champion. To be eligible for National Champion, the highest scoring entry must be a first place ribbon. If no mount scores a first place, no award will be given in that category. In the case of a tie the judges will make the determination based upon the mounts overall merit.

17. **BEST OF SHOW NOVICE** - Limited to NTA members competing in the Novice Division. There will be five categories to compete in and a best of show picked from five best of categories based on the Highest Numerical Score.
18. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE-CHARLEY HAYNES MEMORIAL AWARD** – Selected by convention members as the best entry in the competition.
19. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST WHITETAIL AWARD**– Limited to whitetail entries competing in the Division of Excellence and the Open Division. Selected by the registered competitors.
20. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST LIFE-SIZE MAMMAL AWARD**– Limited to life-size mammal entries competing in the Division of Excellence and the Open Division. Selected by registered competitors.
21. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST FISH AWARD**– Limited to fish entries competing in the Division of Excellence and the Open Division. Selected by the registered competitors.
22. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST BIRD AWARD**– Limited to bird, turkey, or waterfowl entries competing in the Division of Excellence and the Open Division. Selected by registered competitors.
23. **JUDGES BEST OF SHOW, TAXIDERMY SCULPTURES** – Selected by judges collectively from all first place winners in the seven taxidermy sculpting categories. There are no score sheets, judges will consider overall merit.
24. **JUDGES BEST OF SHOW, ORIGINAL ART** – Selected by the judges collectively from all first place winners in the five original art categories. There are no score sheets, judges will consider overall merit.
25. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE, TAXIDERMY SCULPTURES** – Selected by registered convention members from the seven taxidermy sculpting categories.
26. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE, ORIGINAL ART** – Selected by registered convention members from the five original art categories.
27. **SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL AWARD** – Selected by competition judges as the best large life size mount.. Limited to entries in the Open Division and the Division of

Excellence. In making the selection, designee are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the mounts overall merit.

28. **DELIA AKELEY AWARD** – Limited to females competing in the Division of Excellence and Open Division. Selected by registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets. **There's an additional \$50.00 entry fee for this category.**
29. **VAN DYKE'S AWARD** – Selected by the judges as the mount that displays the most originality and creativity in the mammal, game head or whitetail category in the Open Division or the Division of Excellence. In making the selection judges are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the overall merits of each entry with judges focusing on the impact of presentation.
30. **NEW WAVE AWARD** – Selected by the fish judge as the Best Reproduction Fish in the Open Division of the Division of Excellence. In making the selection the Judge is not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the overall difficulty, originality and creativity in presentation.
31. **AL & EVELYN HOLMES BEST HABITAT AWARD** – Selected by the judges. Judges will pick a habitat that combines difficulty with a realistic presentation that should complement and not overpower the overall artistic expression of the mount. Chosen from all area of the competition.
32. **JUDGE'S BEST OF SHOW, YOUTH HORIZON AWARD** – Selected by the judges collectively as the best mount in the Youth Division. In making the selection judges are not bound by the highest numerical score, but will consider the mounts overall merit.
33. **JUDGE'S BEST OF SHOW, CHILDREN'S HORIZON AWARD** – Selected by the judges collectively as the best mount in the Children's Division. In making the selection judges are not bound by the Highest Numerical Score, but will consider the mounts overall merit.