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# VCTGA Christmas Tree Contest

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The 2010 Virginia Christmas Tree Contest will be held at the Best Western Inn, Waynesboro, VA. Trees will be set up and judged on Thursday, August 26, 2010. Setup will begin at 8 a.m. and must be completed by 11:30 a.m.

Eligible participants should complete the following form and submit it with their entry(s). Delivery, setup and responsibility for the tree's condition will remain with the entrant until the tree is set up in the judging area.

Questions? Contact: Robert O'Keefe, 540-580-3528, Email: [rifton@swva.net](mailto:rifton@swva.net)

## PURPOSE OF CONTEST:

- To establish an opportunity for VCTGA to encourage and promote the use of Real Christmas Trees.
- Select a grand champion winner to receive the honor of presenting a Real Christmas Tree to the Governor of Virginia.

## RULES AND JUDGING GUIDELINES

These rules and guidelines establish the procedure to be followed in selecting the grand champion. To ensure the greatest possible media coverage of the presentations, cooperation between the winner and VCTGA is extremely important. All media coverage is to be coordinated with the VCTGA office.

### General

- The tree contest will be held at a site selected by the host association and will be convenient to the convention site.
- The four contest classes will be: (A) all firs (B) all pines (C) all spruce and (D) all other species.
- Trees entered must be commercially cultivated and be 6-8 feet in height from bottom of the handle to top of leader. The length of the handle shall be at least 6 inches but no longer than 12 inches. The tree shall not have been artificially colored. No wiring, tying or inserting of limbs or branches or other artificial means will be permitted. Any tree failing to meet these qualifications will be disqualified by the tree contest committee.

### Contest Procedures

- Eligibility will be crosschecked with VCTGA membership records before judging begins.

- Trees shall be ready for judging by noon the first day of the convention. Under no circumstances will trees arriving after this time be allowed into the contest. The judging area will be clearly described by a map showing location of site and will indicate times and person(s) to contact and phone number(s) for those bringing trees early.

- Securely tied to each tree will be a blank sealed envelope, containing a card with grower's name, address, telephone number and location of tree farm. The species of the tree must be clearly printed on the outside of the envelope.

- No contestant shall have entry to the judging area to view competitive trees prior to submitting their entry to the tree contest chairperson.

## Eligibility of Entrants

- Each Virginia Christmas Tree Association 2010 member in good standing and a prior member in 2009, is eligible to enter four trees in the VCTGA Christmas Tree Contest. In no case shall one person, family or farm enter more than one tree per class.

Entrants must be United States residents and the tree(s) must be Virginia grown.

**Previous winners and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the contest at the Convention immediately following the one in which they won, but are eligible to participate after that.**

## Judging

- The grand champion winner from the preceding convention will be asked to serve as a judge of contest trees. In addition, a third qualified judge will be selected from the association. If a grand champion winner declines, another qualified judge from the association will be selected.

- Each judge will prepare a score sheet on each contest tree. See current guidelines for judging for scoring criteria. Score sheets will not be provided to an entrant.

- Winners will be selected by judges in each class for the four classes based on the total number of points awarded for each entry.

- The grand champion will be selected from among the first place winner of the four categories. The tree that scored the highest overall will be the Grand Champion winner.

## **Awards and Recognition**

- The top three places in each class will receive ribbons: First place – blue ribbon; second place – red ribbon; and third place – white ribbon.
- Award ribbons will be placed on trees the day of the judging. All contest trees will be identified with the name of the entrant.
- The Grand Champion will receive a purple ribbon, plaque and the honor of furnishing a tree for the Governor’s Mansion as a representative of VCTGA for the current year. Presentation of a Christmas Tree to the Governor’s Mansion is subject to approval and permission granted by the Governor’s Mansion.

\$25.00 vouchers to spend with exhibiting Vendors will be given to the winner in each of the four tree categories. An extra \$15 voucher will be given to the Grand Champion winner.

- After the judging, an “Avenue of Virginia Christmas Trees” will be maintained throughout the convention at a convenient location in the Convention Center. Non-winning trees may be used for other functions at the convention, such as decorating. The name of the entrant and chartered association will be prominently displayed on each tree after the winners are announced.

## **Interpretation of Rules and Guidelines**

Interpretation of rules and guidelines for the Virginia Christmas Tree Contest will be the responsibility of the Virginia Christmas Tree Contest Chairperson and the Convention Chairperson.