



Official 2019
Competition Rules and
Entry Form
January 26 to 30, 2019
St. Louis, Missouri

General Rules for Competitions:

1. All competitors and their crew must be registered as full delegates for the 2019 FLOAT Convention and be registered guests at the St. Louis Airport Marriott for four (4) nights from January 27 through 30, 2019. The only exception to this rule are those 2019 FLOAT delegates who live within thirty (30) miles of the St. Louis Airport Marriott.
2. All registered delegates at FLOAT are eligible to compete in any of the six (6) official FLOAT competitions as well as the FLOATEE photo submission contests. However, FLOAT producers, staff, official faculty and official sponsors are ineligible from competing. Bonus class instructors and/or panelists are not considered official faculty and may therefore compete. Those deemed trade sponsors are also eligible to compete.
3. All competitors are responsible for assembling his or her own competition teams. While the FLOAT producers are willing to assist with locating able volunteers to help with competition entries, FLOAT's producers, staff, instructors or crew members are not permitted to compete or assist as crew in any of the sanctioned FLOAT competitions.
4. Competitors should announce their intention to compete in any of FLOAT's designer competitions by completing the official competition form and submitting it on or before December 31, 2018. After that date, any requests to compete are subject to approval by the competition director. If a particular competition does not have enough entrants, the competition director has the right to extend the deadline to allow other competitors, eliminate prize categories based on the number of entries and eliminate an entire competition altogether due to lack of entrants.
5. Each competitor is limited to only one (1) entry per designer competition category and is required to work within the specified guidelines, timelines and deadlines provided with each individual competition's rules. Unless otherwise specified, all competitors will be responsible for supplying their own equipment, tools, supplies, balloons, etc, in order to complete their entry. In the event of competition delay due to unforeseen circumstances, such as power outages, media interviews, etc, the competition director reserves the right to extend competition deadlines for individual entrants or all competitors as a whole.
6. Competitors who request balloons or supplies from FLOAT sponsors, including balloon providers, are subject to the same rules and expectations as other competitors who are providing their own materials. FLOAT cannot be responsible for lost, delayed or incomplete



Official 2019 Competition Rules Continued

product requests intended for competition that are promised or provided by sponsors. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the competitor to insure that his or her materials are on hand and ready to go before each competition begins.

7. All entries remain the property of the competitor once the competitions are over. All entries must remain on display until their specified pick-up or tear down times. Failure to remove your entry by each competition's specified pick-up or tear down times will result in the forfeiture of such entry and can result in a disqualification and nullification of any prizes if applicable.

8. All competitors at FLOAT understand that they are doing so at their own risk to their person as well as possessions. FLOAT, its producers, instructors, crew and sponsors cannot be held responsible for any loss or theft of personal items, equipment, supplies or any other items found in the competition areas during both the competition or display portions of the event. In addition, FLOAT, its producers, instructors, crew and sponsors cannot be held responsible for any harm that may come to a competitor or crew member during the competition, display or tear down process, including but not limited to injury, illness or death. Competitors may also be asked to provide proof of business insurance before competing. Please use smart practices and be responsible for your own equipment and possessions.

9. No licensed, trademarked or copyrighted characters, themes or designs may be created in a competition entry without expressed written permission from the owner of said character, theme or design. Those wishing to create any such item must provide documented written permission on or before December 31, 2018, so that the FLOAT Convention can validate said permission.

10. Competitors are expected to represent themselves in a professional manner and celebrate good sportsmanship during each event. A competitor determined to be cheating to better their own entry or one who attempts to or successfully sabotage another competition entry in any way, shape or form will be immediately disqualified from the event in question and may face permanent disqualification from any and all future FLOAT competitions.

11. Failure to follow these and any of the event specific rules may result in disqualification. The competition director reserves the right to make any rulings based on issues that may arise that are not covered by the rules of a particular event. Any unforeseen issues will be addressed by the competition director as or if they occur. Further questions should be directed to FLOAT producer and competition director Steven Jones at steve@balloondesigners.com or by calling (206) 450-5088.

12. Due to the format of the design competitions at the 2019 convention, priority will be given



Official 2019 Competition Rules Continued

to those competitors who are eligible for the Designer of the Year competition. Due to limited space at the venue, FLOAT's competition director reserves the right to remove a competitor from a given competition should there not be enough room for everyone entered to compete. Should the need arise to remove someone from a competition, that person will be notified on or before December 31, 2018.

13. In competitions where your team has a designated space marked on the floor with tape, you are not permitted to remove any spacial designations until you are instructed to do so by the competition director. You cannot remove said markings until sizing of your entry can be confirmed by the competition team. Removal of the markings before being instructed to do so will result in a minimum penalty of ten (10) points off your overall score for that competition and may result in the disqualification of your entry.

14. Please understand that as the lead designer, you are responsible for the actions of your crew members during all competitions. Any violation of the rules that occurs as a result of one of your crew members will be assessed towards your entry in that given competition.

15. In conjunction with Rule #5, no entry in a design competition may be submitted in more than one category. In addition, designers may not replicate a design already submitted in one competition as their entry in another competition. However, a designer may utilize the same theme or similar elements throughout multiple entries without concern of penalty.

16. While FLOAT stresses the practice of safe and responsible balloon policies, entries in FLOAT's designer competitions are not required to follow the California laws pertaining to foil balloon use. Because the balloons at FLOAT for competitions are being used in a professional and responsible manner as well as indoors at all times, competitors are not restricted in this manner in conjunction with design competitions.

17. Fog or misting machines may not be used in any competition due to the building's smoke detection systems.

18. At the end of regulation time for competitions, the designs are either finished or they are not. Entries declared not finished by the designer will be disqualified from entry and they will receive a score of zero (0). Late penalties are no longer in effect.

19. The use of signage or vinyl appliques are permitted in designer competitions. Because of the nature of their creation, signs may be pre-produced and vinyl may be pre-cut prior to competitions. However, no applique may be placed on decor elements prior to competing. Signs may only be used if they fit within the given design space and cannot be hung from above.



Competition Rules - Entrance Decor

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM / Breakdown until 1:00 PM

Location - Convention Center Atrium

Theme - "Bridal Bliss"

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of four (4) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval will result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. In this competition, there are two important sizing standards. The first is what is considered the footprint of the piece. The footprint of an entry may not exceed an overall size of 13' wide by 3' deep. However, once the piece reaches a height of 5', the design may extend beyond the 13' by 3' size restriction. The finished piece, however, cannot exceed 8.5' high, due to physical restrictions of the venue. Final presentation spaces will be marked on the floor with tape. Electrical cords, if necessary, extending beyond the official competition space are permitted and do not penalize the entry, but must be safely secured and not distracting to either the entry in use or other entries around it.
4. Teams may consist of no more than four (4) balloon crew members, including the designer. It should be noted that this is a restriction of four crew members total, not four at any one given time. In other words, you may not sub out crew members during the competition. Lead designers must submit a team roster prior to the start of the competition.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 90% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. Helium and Hi-Float will be provided for all competitors with the understanding that it is to be used moderately and shared between all competitors. If a design requires a large amount of either element, then the competitor is required to provide their own helium, Hi-Float and appropriate inflation equipment. Please note that helium tanks and Hi-Float dispensers will be in limited quantities, so competitors are expected to share access to resources in a professional manner. If the security panel determines that a competitor is not properly sharing common equipment and supplies, the competitor will receive a verbal warning, followed by a deduction of five (5) points from their overall score for every additional infraction thereafter.



Entrance Decor Continued

7. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead rigging is permitted.
8. The concept of “entrance decor” is open to the interpretation of the designer and is not limited to an archway. Entrance decor is simply that; balloon decor that is used to decorate an entrance to a space. It may consist of any type of balloon design or element that the artist deems pertinent to their design. However, it is important to note that the artist is expected to create a design that is appropriate for the space at hand. Special allowances will not be given to designs that do not take dimensional elements such as ceiling height into account.
9. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Saturday, January 26, 2019, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Teams will be permitted a staging and set up period from 7:45 AM until 8:15 AM where they may set up their work stations and organize product. No construction of any kind may take place during this period. All entries should be completed by 12:30 PM on Saturday, January 26, 2019. In addition, all teams must have their work space cleaned and cleared from debris and equipment by 1:00 PM that same day.
10. Only designated crew members are allowed to be involved in the clean up process of the competition. No additional people are permitted to assist with this portion.
11. Entries must remain on display until 8:00 AM on Thursday, February 1, 2019. Competitors are responsible for the removal of their entries between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM that same day.
12. All entries must create a design that is appropriate to the theme of “Bridal Bliss”. Failure to adhere to the theme will result in a twenty five (25) point penalty off his or her final score.



Competition Rules - Live Centerpiece

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM / Breakdown until 4:30 PM

Location - Salons 2 & 3

Theme - "The Beauty of Spring"

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of ninety (90) minutes. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. With regard to sizing in this competition, there are two primary concerns. First, the base of the centerpiece may not exceed an overall size of a 22" CIRCLE for any element of the design up to and including 36" from the table surface. Once the design passes the 36" point from the surface of the table, the design may then expand beyond the 22" restriction. Secondly, total height of the completed centerpiece may not exceed 84 inches. Failure to conform to size restrictions may result in a disqualification.
4. Teams may consist of no more than one (1) primary designer and one (1) assistant. It should be noted that this is a restriction of two crew members total, not two at any one given time. In other words, you may not sub out crew members during the competition. Lead designers must officially name their assistant prior to the start of the competition.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 75% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. Helium and Hi-Float will be provided for all competitors with the understanding that it is to be used moderately and shared between all competitors. If a design requires a large amount of either element, then the competitor is required to provide their own helium, Hi-Float and appropriate inflation equipment. Please note that helium tanks and Hi-Float dispensers will be in limited quantities, so competitors are expected to share access to resources in a professional manner. If the security panel determines that a competitor is not properly sharing common equipment and supplies, the competitor will receive a verbal warning, followed by a deduction of five (5) points from their overall score for every additional infraction thereafter.



Live Centerpiece Continued

7. Once the competition has begun, only the individual competitor and one (1) assistant is permitted to work on his or her design. No other persons than the competitor and assistant are allowed to be involved in any way, shape or form with the completion of the entry once the competition has begun. Any competitor who receives assistance from anyone not officially sanctioned by the FLOAT Competition Director during the competition will result in the immediate disqualification of their design. This includes non-participants locating or delivering items to competitors during the active competition.
8. The concept of “table centerpiece”, while open to the interpretation of the designer, is different from that of a buffet style centerpiece. As such, it should absolutely adhere to the “14 Inch Rule” in conjunction to centerpiece design.
9. All entries must create a design that is appropriate to the theme of “The Beauty of Spring”. Failure to adhere to the theme will result in a twenty five (25) point penalty off his or her final score.
10. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Saturday, January 26, 2019, from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Teams will be permitted a staging and set up period from 1:45 PM until 2:15 PM where they may set up their work stations and organize product. No construction of any kind may take place during this period. In addition, all teams must have their work space cleaned and cleared from debris and equipment by 4:30 PM that same day. Only the two (2) designated crew members are allowed to be involved in the clean up process of the competition. No additional people are permitted to assist with this portion. Any designer not following this timeline will be disqualified from competition in this category.
11. When a competitor has determined they have completed their entry, they must announce to the competition director that they have completed work on the piece. Once that has been officially confirmed, the entry is considered finished and ready for submission. The competitor will then be instructed by the competition director where to place their entry. At that time, the competitor will be responsible for relocating the piece as directed. While minor tweaking will be permitted due to the movement of the piece, no additional work may be completed on a design at that point. Once a competitor announces they are finished, that is where the work ends on the design.
12. Once a designer has announced that their piece is completed, they cannot undo the action. In other words, they do not have the ability to change their mind and ask to continue work on the piece.
13. When the ninety (90) minute period has ended, all work on all designs must be completed.



Live Centerpiece Continued

There are no allowances, penalties and the like permitted for overtime in this category. Designs not completed at the end of ninety minutes will be disqualified at that point and the entry will receive an official score of zero (0).

14. Once the official deadline has been reached, competitors may no longer handle their entries in any way that is not approved by the Competition Director. Any contact made to an entry by a competitor after the official ninety minute deadline has passed not approved by the Competition Director will be considered in violation of the timeline and will declared over time.

15. Entries must remain on display until 12:00 PM on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. Competitors are responsible for the removal of their entries at that time.

16. Anything used in the centerpiece design that requires electricity must be battery powered. No wires or extension cords may extend outside of the designated space of the entry. Competitors will be allowed to change out batteries or replace single-use products should the need arise after the competition has ended for the sake of judging; however, any and all contact with the entry for such purposes much be coordinated with the competition director prior to such contact.



Competition Rules - Sculpture

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - 6:00 PM to 2:00 AM

Location - External Event Space

Theme - None - Open to Artist Choice

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of eight (8) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. Entries are limited to 7' wide by 7' high by 7' deep, and spaces will be marked as such. If electrical cords are needed to provide power to effects elements within a design, those may extend beyond the official competition space and will not penalize the entry, but must be safely secured and not distracting to either the entry in use or other entries around it.
4. There is no limit to the number of crew members a designer is allowed to have in this competition. However, we do ask that designers only have people in the competition area that are actively involved in the assistance of their design and not there for socialization.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 90% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead rigging is permitted.
7. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Saturday, January 26, 2019, from 6:00 PM to 11:59 PM, and Sunday, January 27, 2019, from 12:00 AM until 2:00 AM. Teams will be allowed to set up their work station from 5:15 PM until 5:45 PM prior to the start of the competition. All entries should be completed by 2:00 AM on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Please note that there are no allowances made in this competition for clean up; the 2:00 AM deadline is final. This means that competitors must be completed with their work and have their workspace cleaned and cleared by 2:00 AM on Sunday, January 27th.
8. Lighting, video and audio effects may be used in a sculpture entry. However, any effects used as part of an entry cannot distract or detract from other entries. The competition director will



Sculpture Continued

determine whether or not an effect distracts or detracts from another entry.

9. Pre-created audio, video or lighting programming are not subject to the preconstruction rules of this competition.

10. Competitors will be allowed to complete a refresh on their designs prior to Opening Night from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM only. Only minor repairs and switching on effects will be permitted at this time. No significant repair work or construction can be completed at this time. Failure to follow this rule may result in the disqualification of the entry.

11. Entries must remain on display until 8:00 AM on Thursday, January 31, 2019. Competitors are responsible for the removal of their entries between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM that same day. Failure to remove an entry may result in a possible ban from future FLOAT competitions.

12. Competitors will be permitted to spread out and work throughout the event space. However, it should be understood that all competitors must share the space equally and no one team should dominate or take on space at the expense of another competitor. Penalties of five (5) points may be assessed by the competition director for each infraction of this rule during the competition.

13. Because there is no theme to this competition, the designer is open to create whatever concept he or she wishes. However, copyright policies apply as are stated in the general rules. In addition, the concept of a sculpture is open to the interpretation of the designer. There is no established definition of what qualifies as a sculpture, but designers should be aware that if they choose to go a non-traditional route, their vision in their design needs to be conveyed to the judges without verbal explanation. Competitors are not allowed to be present during the judging process nor will be given the opportunity to address the judges about their logic, vision or message.



Competition Rules - Foil Design

Sunday, January 27, 2019 - 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM / Clean up 11:30 AM

Location - External Event Space

Theme - None - Open to Artist Choice

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of four (4) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. Entries are limited to a size of 5' wide by 5' deep by 7' tall, and spaces will be marked as such.
4. Teams are limited in this competition to one (1) designer and two (2) crew members. Lead designers will be required to submit an official team roster of all crew members. In addition, this competition involves a total of the same three (3) crew members throughout the duration. Teams may not swap out crew members once the competition has begun.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. Given the nature of this competition, at least 75% of the design must consist of foil balloons in one form or another. Latex balloons can be used in this competition, but should only be used as support product for the primary design, not be the primary element accented by foil balloons.
6. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead rigging is permitted.
7. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Sunday, January 27, 2019, from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Teams will be allowed to set up their work station from 6:15 AM until 6:45 AM prior to the start of the competition. In addition, a clean up period of 30 minutes will be allotted until 11:30 AM. However, no construction of any design can take place during that period.
8. Due to the sometimes unpredictable nature of temperature control in the External Event Space, please note that the judging panel will be alerted to these issues and as such, small "softening" issues will not be held against you during the judging period should this arise.



Foil Design Continued

9. The concept of “foil design” is entirely open to the artist’s interpretation. It is not limited to a helium bouquet, but rather can be any decor element constructed from foils as long as it fits within the designated space.

10. Helium will be provided for all competitors with the understanding that it is to be used moderately and shared between all competitors. If a design requires a large amount of either element, then the competitor is required to provide their own helium and appropriate inflation equipment. Please note that helium tanks will be in limited quantities, so competitors are expected to share access to resources in a professional manner. If the security panel determines that a competitor is not properly sharing common equipment and supplies, the competitor will receive a verbal warning, followed by a deduction of five (5) points from their overall score for every additional infraction thereafter.



Competition Rules - Organic Decor

Sunday, January 27, 2019 - 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM / Clean up 5:30 PM

Location - External Event Space

Theme - None - Open to Artist Choice

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of four (4) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. Entries are limited to a size of 12' wide by 6' deep by 7' tall, and spaces will be marked as such.
4. Teams are limited in this competition to one (1) designer and three (3) crew members. Lead designers will be required to submit an official team roster of all crew members. In addition, this competition involves a total of the same four (4) crew members throughout the duration. Teams may not swap out crew members once the competition has begun.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. Given the nature of this competition, at least 90% of the design must consist of balloons in one form or another.
6. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead rigging is permitted.
7. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Sunday, January 27, 2019, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Teams will be allowed to set up their work station from 12:15 PM until 12:45 PM prior to the start of the competition. In addition, a clean up period of 30 minutes will be allotted until 5:30 PM. However, no construction of any design can take place during that period.
8. Due to the sometimes unpredictable nature of temperature control in the External Event Space, please note that the judging panel will be alerted to these issues and as such, small "softening" issues will not be held against you during the judging period should this arise.
9. Entries must remain on display until 8:00 AM on Thursday, January 31, 2019. Competitors are responsible for the removal of their entries between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM that same day.



Organic Decor Continued

Failure to remove an entry will result in a possible ban from future FLOAT competitions.

10. While there is no official definition of exactly what “organic decor” is, for the purposes of this competition, balloon elements involved should create the appearance of randomness with regard to placement and sizing as opposed to techniques used in what is considered classic or standard balloon decor styles. Randomness in this case, however, does not apply to color placement of balloons, in the case of using organic style to create an ombre effect within your piece.

11. Any framing of any kind used for this competition must be fully created on location during the competition. This includes any foam-based letter templates or metal frames that balloons may be placed inside. Foam-based letter templates are not allowed to be pre-traced, cut or prepared in any way. Metal frames cannot be pre-prepared in any way prior to competition. Anything else that a designer may wish to place balloons inside of or use in their design that is not considered standard balloon decor must be pre-approved by the competition director prior to the event.

12. Neither FLOAT nor the host hotel can assume liability for the care or containment of live floral elements prior to the competition. The use of live floral elements in this and any competition is not advised and designers do so at their own risk.



Competition Rules - Deadline Centerpiece

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 - 12:00 PM deadline

Location - FLOAT Registration Desk

Theme - "The Magical Garden" ("Le jardin magique")

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a deadline based competition where designers must submit a finished table centerpiece by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. As such any and all construction must be completed on the design by that time and must be submitted by the deadline in order to qualify.
3. With regard to sizing in this competition, there are two primary concerns. First, the base of the centerpiece may not exceed an overall size of a 22" CIRCLE for any element of the design up to and including 36" from the table surface. Once the design passes the 36" point from the surface of the table, the design may then expand beyond the 22" restriction. Secondly, total height of the completed centerpiece may not exceed 84 inches. Failure to conform to size restrictions may also result in a disqualification.
4. There is no limit to the number of people who may be involved in the design. However, only one person will be credited as the designer.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 75% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. Please note that helium will not be supplied for this competition. All competitors are on their own should they need helium.
7. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead rigging is permitted.
8. Competitors may enter multiple designs in this category.
9. The concept of "table centerpiece", while open to the interpretation of the designer, is different from that of a buffet style centerpiece. As such, it should absolutely adhere to the "14 Inch Rule" in conjunction to centerpiece design.
10. All entries must create a design that is appropriate to the theme of "The Magical Garden".



Competition Rules - Deadline Centerpiece

Failure to adhere to the theme will result in a twenty five (25) point penalty off his or her final score.

11. When a competitor has presented their design to the registration desk, the entry is to be considered complete at that point. The competitor will then be instructed by the competition director where to place their entry. At that time, the competitor will be responsible for relocating the piece as directed. While minor tweaking will be permitted due to the movement of the piece, no additional work may be completed on a design at that point. Once a competitor announces they are finished, that is where the work ends on the design.

12. Once a designer has announced that their piece is completed, they cannot undo the action. In other words, they do not have the ability to change their mind and ask to continue work on the piece after it has been turned in.

13. Anything used in the centerpiece design that requires electricity must be battery powered. No wires or extension cords may extend outside of the designated space of the entry. Given the short nature of the display period for this competition, competitors will not be allowed to change out batteries or replace single-use products should the need arise.

14. This design competition is not part of the Designer of the Year designation at FLOAT.



Official Judging Criteria

It is important for you as a competitor to know how you are being evaluated when preparing for a competition. Please review the following information to better prepare yourself for competing at the 2019 FLOAT Convention.

Entries in each of the design competitions will be scored based on the following criteria:

A. Structural Elements: Does your design appear to be solidly constructed? Are your mechanics showing, or have you hidden them all? If they are showing, are they done so in a manner that is conducive to the overall design?

B. Originality and Creativity: Is your entry significant in its own right, or does it draw too much from existing designs already common to the market? If it does borrow from established sculpture designs, what have you done to make it new and refreshing? Have you incorporated a new technique in the design, or possibly found a new way to use an older technique?

C. Visual Elements: Does your entry abide by the various elements of design? Is it balanced? Is your use of color appropriate for the message and tone you wish to send to the viewer? Is your eye lead throughout the piece, or are you focused on a central point? In either case, does that benefit or hinder the design?

D. Range of Skill: Does the design incorporate complex techniques or is it based on simpler applications? Does the piece show a range of talent or are there multiple applications involved?

E. Overall Impact: When all is said and done, how does the entry make you feel? Is there an emotional connection made between the viewer and the piece? If so, is that intended? Do you feel that the design tells a story or sends a message? Is this something you're going to want to remember or feel encouraged to duplicate later?

Scoring: Each entry in each competition will be scored by five (5) different judges. Judges will award between 0 and 10 points for each of the five categories listed above, giving a final score between 0 and 50 points by each judge for each entry. This means initially each entry can score as much as 250 total points.

However, to prevent the possibilities of favoritism, the highest and lowest scores are thrown out, leaving the three middle scores and the highest possibility of 150 points in a competition.



Judging Criteria Continued

Disqualifications: The Competition Director may disqualify a competition piece for the following reasons:

- A. Violating any of FLOAT's General Rules for competing
- B. Violating size or time restrictions
- C. Removal of marking tape for competition spaces without approval
- D. Violating maximum staffing rules for a competition where applicable
- E. Cheating, being dishonest or anything deemed unsportsmanlike or professional in a competition atmosphere

Judges: Judges are selected along the following criteria:

- A. Must be deemed an authority in the particular field they are judging by the Competition Director
- B. Cannot be a salaried full-time employee for a balloon manufacturer.
- C. Be familiar with the process of competing in a timed design competition, been a former competitor or award winner.

Judges only score based on the five criteria listed at the top of the sheet. They are not to share scores or opinions with each other while they are judging, and they are not allowed to issue deductions deemed the responsibility of the Competition Director.

In the event that a judge is discovered to have violated any of these rules, his or her scores will be removed and a replacement judge will be chosen to replace them.

Awards: In all of FLOAT's designer competitions, prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Places. These awards will be presented based upon the judging panel's final scores. An additional prize of "Delegates' Choice" will be presented to the design entry in each category that wins the popular vote amongst the FLOAT delegates in attendance.



FLOAT's Designer of the Year

If a designer enters at least three (3) of FLOAT's five live designer competitions, that person is then eligible for the title of Designer of the Year.

Designer of the Year will be determined through the following process:

A. Competitor is deemed eligible by completing one (1) entry in at least three (3) of the following competitions: Entrance Decor, Live Table Centerpiece, Sculpture, Foil Design and Organic Decor. Please note that the Deadline Table Centerpiece is not part of the Designer of the Year eligibility in that it is not considered a live competition.

B. Should a competitor enter four (4) or five (5) of the eligible competitions, then their highest three (3) event scores will be used to determine their official final score.

C. The total sum of all points from each of the three designated event scores will be tallied to give each artist a final score.

D. The competitor with the highest final score will be declared Designer of the Year.

E. No competitor shall receive special consideration or "bonus points" for competing in more than three (3) categories. The benefit to competing in more than three categories is that you have more options to achieve higher scores than another competitor who chooses not to enter more than three categories.

F. In the unlikely event of a tie between two or more artists in total points for Designer of the Year, the tie will be broken by reviewing the following steps:

1. Head to head points - If the artists in question were involved in the same design competition(s), then their points for that (or those) competition(s) will be tallied and the winner declared by whoever has the highest points strictly from those competitions.

2. Penalty points - If a tie remains, then any penalty points assessed to the artists in question will be tallied and the artist with the fewest penalties against them will be declared the winner.

3. Delegates' Choice - If a tie still remains, then the artists' overall "Delegates' Choice" points will be tallied and the winner declared based on those figures.

4. Executive Decision - In the extremely remote possibility that a tie still remains after these other steps have been taken, then the Competition Director will choose the winner.



Official Competition Registration Form

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Business Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

**Please scan this form and email it to Steve@FLOATConvention.com
on or before December 31, 2018**

Yes, I wish to compete at the 2019 FLOAT Convention in the following categories:

- _____ Entrance Decor Competition
- _____ Table Centerpiece Competition (Live)
- _____ Sculpture Competition
- _____ Foil Design Competition
- _____ Organic Decor Competition
- _____ Table Centerpiece Competition (Deadline)

I also clearly state that by signing this form, I have accepted the following terms:

1. That I have read all the rules, both general and competition specific, understand them fully and will be subjected to them during the competitions at FLOAT 2019.

2. I will not in any way attempt to or allow someone else to attempt to intentionally violate these rules in order to better my own results in the competitions.

3. As a competitor, myself and my crew must be registered guests at the St. Louis Airport Marriott in order to be eligible to work on the competitions. The only exception to this clause are those delegates who live within thirty (30) miles of the host hotel and I have made prior arrangements with the Competition Director before said competition begins.

I, the undersigned, understand that by entering into this competition, I am doing so on my own free will and I agree that any injuries, illness or death that should occur to myself or my crew members as a result of entering this competition are solely my responsibility and agree to practice safe construction methods. Finally, I understand that both video and regular cameras will be in use at the convention and my image and likeness as well as that of my crew and creations may be used to promote the FLOAT convention in any way the producers choose to use it.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____



The FLOATEE Awards

FLOAT offers a photo submission contest prior to the convention, affectionately known as the “FLOATEES”. FLOATEES (which stands for FLOAT Event Excellence) are awarded based on the following criteria:

1. You must be a registered delegate at FLOAT 2019 in order to be eligible for a FLOATEE Award.

2. You must have completed the work shown in the photograph(s) within the time frame of February 2017 until December 2018. No photos from outside of that timeline are eligible for submission.

3. A fee of \$5 is required for every entry you submit in a given category. Proceeds from the money raised from the FLOATEE entry fees will go into the FLOAT Scholarship Fund.

4. Photos may be submitted in the following categories:

Arch Design - One Photo
Column Design - One Photo
Helium Arrangement (Bouquet) - One Photo
Table Centerpiece - One Photo
Buffet Centerpiece - One Photo
Delivery Piece - One Photo
Backdrop, Wall or Mural - One Photo
Ceiling Decor - One Photo
Dance Floor Decor - One Photo
Entrance Decor - One Photo
Linking Balloon Decor - One Photo
Deco-Twisting Decor - One Photo
Sculpture (Round Balloon) - One Photo
Sculpture (Non-Round) - One Photo
Sculpture (Linking) - One Photo
Organic Decor - One Photo
Foil Decor - One Photo
Fantasy Flower - One Photo
Mixed Media - One Photo
Lighting Effects - One Photo
Photo Op - One Photo

Baby Shower / Gender Reveal - Five Photos
Wedding / Bridal - Five Photos
Milestone Celebration - Five Photos
Teen Event - Five Photos
Corporate Event - Five Photos
Non-Profit Event - Five Photos
Parade or Festival - Five Photos
Themed Decor - Holiday - Five Photos
Themed Decor - Other - Five Photos
Best Overall under \$10K - Five Photos
Best Overall over \$10K - Five Photos



FLOATEE Awards Continued

“Arch Design” is defined as a photo of a balloon arch. There is no stipulation as to whether or not the arch must be on a frame or is classic, linking or organic in nature.

“Column Design” is defined as a free-standing decor piece that involves a singular foundational element. There is no stipulation as to whether or not the column must be on a frame or is classic, linking or organic in nature.

“Helium Arrangement / Bouquet” is defined as an easily portable helium-based balloon decor element where individual helium-filled balloons are tied to ribbons or other connectivity products and attached to a weight. Please note that if foil balloons are used in your entry (entries), you must follow the California law in regard to treatment of such balloons. Table centerpieces, buffet centerpieces and delivery piece entries are not eligible for this category.

“Table Centerpiece” is defined as a table top decor element that is specifically used to decorate a dining table and follows the “14 Inch Rule”. Table centerpieces are not eligible for the Mixed Media category.

“Buffet Centerpiece” is defined as a table top decor element that is specifically used to decorate a table or counter yet does not have to follow the “14 Inch Rule”. Buffet centerpieces are not eligible for the Mixed Media category.

“Delivery Piece” is defined as a balloon decor item that is intended to be given to someone as a gift. Delivery Pieces are not eligible for the Mixed Media category.

“Backdrop, Wall or Mural” is defined as a primarily two-dimensional balloon decor element that is intended to be used behind an area or stage within an event in which people or other decor elements are placed in front of them.

“Ceiling Decor” is defined by any balloon decoration element that is specifically intended to decorate a ceiling. This can be rigged in nature or helium filled, depending on how it was constructed. Ceiling decor entries are not eligible for the Dance Floor Decor category.

“Dance Floor Decor” is defined by any set of balloon decorations that is specifically used to decorate a designated dance floor area at an event. Dance Floor Decor entries are not eligible for the Ceiling Decor category.

“Entrance Decor” is defined as any set of balloon decorations used to decorate the entrance to a particular event space. This can be one decor element or multiple pieces used to create an entrance effect.



FLOATEE Awards Continued

“Linking Balloon Decor” is defined as any balloon decor element where the majority of balloons used are of linking style balloons. Photos submitted in this category are not eligible for the Sculpture (Linking Balloons) category.

“Deco-Twisting Decor” is defined as any decor element that incorporates both round and non-round latex balloons. Please note that linking balloons are not considered non-round for the sake of this competition. Photos submitted in this category are not eligible for the Sculpture (Non-Round) category.

“Sculpture (Round Balloon)” is defined as any sculpturally focused balloon decor element that primarily uses round balloons in it’s creation. Linking balloons are not consider round balloons in this category.

“Sculpture (Non-Round)” is defined as any sculpturally focused balloon decor element that used mostly non-round latex balloons in it’s creation. Linking balloons are not considered non-round balloons in this category.

“Sculpture (Linking)” is defined as any sculpturally focused balloon decor element that used mostly linking balloons in it’s creation.

“Organic Decor” is defined as any decor element that disregards the standard classic style of uniformity in size, style and placement of the balloons.

“Foil Decor” is defined as any decor element that is predominantly made from foil balloons.

“Fantasy Flowers” is defined as any balloon decor element where uninflated balloons are used to create the illusion of floral design. No inflation of any kind is permitted in this category.

“Mixed Media” is defined as any balloon decor that incorporates added elements such as feathers, foil sheets, confetti, tassels, foam core, etc into the design work. Visual effects such as lighting are not eligible for this category.

“Lighting Effects” is defined as any balloon decor element where either external or internal lighting effects are used to enhance the look of the balloon decor. Lighting effects involved in this competition must be provided by the designer and not simply an off-shoot of a lighting company also hired for the event the photo was taken at.

“Photo Op” is defined as any balloon decor element specifically created to be a location where people take photos. This can be a backdrop, photo frame or created scene with sculptures.



FLOATEE Awards Continued

“Baby Shower / Gender Reveal” is defined as any balloon decor elements that are used to celebrate either the birth of or impending birth of a child.

“Wedding / Bridal” is defined as any balloon decor elements that are used in conjunction with a wedding, wedding reception, rehearsal dinner or couples shower pertaining to an upcoming wedding event.

“Milestone Celebration” is defined as any balloon decor used to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, funeral and celebration of life.

“Teen Event” is defined as any balloon decor used to decorate a Sweet 16 party, Quinceanera, Mitzvah celebration or Prom proposal.

“Corporate Event” is defined as any balloon decor used to decorate for a function hosted by a for-profit company. This can include but is not limited to meetings, sale promotions, conventions, marketing efforts and employee related events. All photos in this category must be from events that your company was hired to provide for another company; you cannot submit photos of work you did to promote yourself or for your own company.

“Non-Profit Event” is defined as any balloon decor used to decorate an event pertaining to a school, church or charitable organization.

“Parade or Festival” is defined as any balloon decor used to decorate any element of an outdoor parade or festival event. Unlike in the “Corporate Decor” category, you may submit photos of work you did to promote your own company.

“Themed Decor - Holiday” pertains to balloon decorations created for any celebration involving a holiday that would appear on any standard calendar, such as Halloween, Christmas, etc.

“Themed Decor - Other” pertains to balloon decorations created for an event where a central theme is incorporated such as pirates, luau, Wild West, etc. Bachelor and bachelorette parties also fall into this category.

“Overall Decor - Under \$10K” is defined as any balloon decor job in where the client paid you less than \$10,000 to provide balloon decorations. If you provided other elements of event decor for an event, those figures should not be included in this entry. If you provide balloon entertainment, those figures or factors are not to be included in the entry.



FLOATEE Awards Continued

“Overall Decor - Over \$10K” is defined as any balloon decor job where the client paid your company more than \$10,000 for balloon decorations at a single event. If you provide other elements of decor or services for an event, including balloon entertainment, those figures are not to be included in the total amount. Only aspects of balloon decorations are included in this entry.

5. You may submit the same photo or photos in multiple categories unless specified in the description of said category. In addition, you must pay a \$5 fee for each entry you submit in each category. For example, if you submit the same photo in three different categories, you will need to pay \$15.

6. Because these are technically photos of supposedly professional jobs that took place outside of a convention environment, all entries submitted must abide by the California Balloon Law with regard to helium filled foil balloons.

7. All submissions must include photos of balloon decor. Please do not submit photos of other work you have completed that do not include balloon decorations in them. In addition, balloon decorations featured in photos must correspond with the category in which it is entered in.

8. All photos to be entered for FLOATEE consideration must be submitted by January 10th, 2019. Submit photos to Steve@FLOATConvention.com for entry.

9. Photos submitted in categories that allow multiple photos should all be of the same event.

10. Do not send more photos than appears in the category or else your entry will be disqualified.

11. Winners will be announced at the Opening Night event at FLOAT 2019 on Sunday, January 27, 2019.

12. One (1) photo is defined as one (1) image of a particular decor item or configuration. A collage of images does not and will not count as one (1) photo. Entries submitting a collage of multiple images as one (1) photo will not be accepted.

13. In categories that involve the submission of up to five (5) photos, please note that each photo should be entered as a separate image file and not as a collage of multiple images. Collages of multiple images will not be accepted.



FLOATEE Awards Continued

14. In no way, shape or form should there be any way in the photograph to identify the artist or company responsible for the submission. This is intended to be as anonymous as possible with our judging committee, and entries that brand themselves in any way in the images will not be accepted.

15. Photos from other design competitions are not allowed to be entered in the FLOATEEs. All photos submitted should be from real life events and jobs.