



2026 Estes Park Handspun Skein and Project Contest

**Superintendent: Heather McChesney,
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Wool Market Staff: Becky Gruhl bgruhl@estes.org

Entry Fee: \$3 per skein

Entry Time/Drop Off:

Skeins and Finished Items/Projects will be accepted on Thursday, June 11th, from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm at the school where classes are held, and Friday, June 12th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Estes Park Events Complex and the school where classes are held 12-1. Skeins will not be accepted after 8:30 am on Saturday, June 13th. Judging is open to the public and takes place Saturday, June 13 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We will accept mail-in yarns as long as it arrives no later than June 11th, 2026.

Mail to:

Events Complex
Attention: Becky Gruhl
Re: Handspun Skein
1125 Rooftop Way
Estes Park, CO 80517

The other drop-off location is at The Longmont Yarn Shoppe (LYS) from June 1-June 11th, 2026.

Pick Up:

Pick-up is at Estes Park Events Complex, Sunday, June 14th from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. All items (skeins and/or projects) will not be returned by mail unless a self-addressed postage-paid envelope is provided. Any items not picked up will become the property of the Estes Park Wool Market.

Judge:

TBD

Ribbons:

First through third place, all classes. (See the page on class descriptions)

Judging:

Judging will be open to the public and takes place Saturday, June 7th from 10 am to 1 pm in the Events Complex.

Judging will be based on the preparation of fiber (if applicable), consistency, size, feel, and twist appropriate to the purpose of yarn use, and correct skeining. See the link on "Proper Skeining and Labeling".

The Judge and Superintendent have the right to shift entries to more appropriate classes, or to combine or divide classes that are under/over-represented. The Judge's decisions are final. All entries will be displayed and supervised during Wool Market hours. The Wool Market will make every effort to display and care for the entered pieces but assumes no responsibility for damage or loss.

Requirements:

- Each skein must be a continuous skein spun by the contestant since the 2025 Wool Market.
- Each project must have been finished since the 2025 Wool Market and be done using your own handspun yarn. The handspun yarn can be finished any year. We just ask that the project be have been finished since the Wool Market 2025.
- Only one entry will be accepted per class per person.
- All entries must include:
 - A completed registration/entry form. If you are entering more than one category only one entry form is required.
 - A card no larger than 3x5 for each entry. Must be tied to the skein, on one side, for display with the skein, with nothing to identify the individual exhibitor to the judge, neatly written or typed, and with the following information;

- A. Fiber content (%) and breed(s) of fiber, if known.
- B. Condition of fiber to start with (raw fleece, locks, commercial roving..)
- C. How was fleece prepared for spinning (washed, flicked, carded, combed, commercially prepared...)
- D. Spinning method used.
- E. Intended use (knit, crochet, woven... be specific on final item that will be made with this skein)

• **Check or cash- \$3 per item entered. Please make checks payable to the Town of Estes Park.**

Instructions for Handspun Skeins:

1. Each handspun skein entry must be prepared and spun by the entrant alone.
2. "Fine" yarn is 20 or more wraps per inch and each skein of fine yarn must weigh at least 1 ounce
3. "Medium" yarn is 10-19 wraps per inch and each skein must weigh at least 2 ounces.
4. "Thick" yarn is less than 10 wraps per inch and each skein must weigh at least 2 ounces.
5. Classes S13, S14, S22, S23, and S24 must weigh at least 1 ounce.
6. Each skein must be 1.5-2 yards in circumference and wound neatly. See the link on "Proper Skeining and Labeling".
7. Remember to include the technique description and intended use on a 3x5 card.
8. Professional Class: If you have previously won three or more Champion awards in this contest, if you teach, or sell your handspun yarn, PLEASE enter this category. You will receive an in-depth critique of your skein. Two entries will be allowed in this class. Entries in this category will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion but will be awarded first through third-place ribbons.

Instructions for Projects Made From Handspun

1. Handspun yarn spun by the entrant can be from commercially processed fiber or fiber processed by the entrant.
2. Projects need to be made with handspun Yarn. Yarn can be finished any time, but the project needs to have been finished since the 2025 Wool Market.

Prizes

- Each class will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons.
- Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded to handspun skeins and finished projects.
- Junior divisions will be awarded ribbons in each class as well as Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion ribbons.
- Cash prizes will be awarded in each class for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, Grand Champion, and Reserve Grand Champion.
- Three special ribbons will be awarded:
 1. Judges Choice
 2. People's Choice.
 3. Super Intendant Choice. Voting for people's choice will happen throughout the weekend and announced on Sunday at noon.

Special Prizes

- People's Choice Award for Handspun Skein- Donated by Northern Colorado Weavers Guild (\$25)
- People's Choice Award for Weaving- Donated by Northern Colorado Weavers Guild (\$25)
- Flock Award – Given to the highest combined placement for 5 handspun skein entries across any 5 different classes
- Best Spindle-Spun Skein- Donated by Warp and Woolen (\$25)
- Best Junior Spinner- Donated by the Community Spin and Weave Donations
- Best Novelty Skein- Prize to be determined
- Best Use of Color Junior- Donated by GoKiri Designs (\$25)
- Best Use of Color- Donated by GoKiri Designs (\$25)

Other Prizes to be awarded and determined

Classes:

Skeins- 100% Wool

- S01 100% Sheep's Wool: fine single
- S02 100% Sheep's Wool: medium single-ply
- S03 100% Sheep's Wool: thick single
- S04 100% Sheep's Wool: fine 2 or more plies
- S05 100% Sheep's Wool: medium 2 or more plies
- S06 100% Sheep's Wool: thick 2 or more plies,
- S07 100% Angora (mohair) and Pygora Goat
- S08 Other Goat (cashmere, cashgora)
- S09 Paco-vicunas
- S10 Llama

S11 Alpaca-Huacaya

S12 Alpaca-Suri

S13 Angora Rabbit (1 ounce)

S14 100% other animal down fiber: includes bison, dog hair, qiviut, yak, etc.

(1 ounce)

Skeins- at least 50% wool

S15 Fine single

S16 Medium single

S17 Thick single

S18 Fine 2 or more plies

S19 Medium 2 or more plies

S20 Thick 2 or more plies

S21 Novelty yarn

Skeins- Other

S22 Cellulose single-ply (1 ounce)

S23 Cellulose multiple-ply (1 ounce)

S24 Silk single or multiple-ply (1 ounce)

Skeins- Spun on the drop or support spindle

S25 Handspun on a drop or support spindle: single ply, any of the above fibers.

S26 Handspun on a spindle: 2 or more plies, any of the above fibers.

Professional Class

S27 Professional class

Projects- Be creative, using your own handspun to create an item

P01 Project Sample: yarn of animal fiber different from anything else entered, plus a 4x4" sample of what that yarn was spun for (i.e. knitted, woven or crocheted, etc.) a paragraph explaining the sample must be included.

P02 Wearable Knit

P03 Miscellaneous Knit

P04 Wearable Crochet

P05 Miscellaneous Crochet

P06 Wearable Handwoven

P07 Miscellaneous Handwoven

P08 Wearable Felted- fulled from handspun yarn

P09 Miscellaneous Felted- fulled from handspun yarn

P10 Any finished project with at least 50% handspun yarn with no more than 50% commercially produced yarn. (Must provide a sample of yarns used, with the project)

P11 Friend Project: Any finished project where a handspun and finished project are created by two people. Both names to be awarded.

Junior Division:

Participants must be 18 years old or younger. The Junior Division is composed of all classes using the same criteria as the Adult Division, above. Ribbons are the same as the adult division