



GUIDEBOOK

Updated Sept. 2024

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Section 1: National Craft Championships

1.1 Overview

Presented by Associated Builders and Contractors, the National Craft Championships is planned and conducted annually by the NCC Committee, comprised of member contractor representatives and ABC chapter and national staff. Serving as project managers, members of the NCC Committee work with experts from contractor organizations to design, manage and conduct individual competitions. Each competition consists of a written exam and a practical performance test modeled on the curriculums developed by NCCER.

The NCC Committee's mission is to provide all competitors with a fair and equal opportunity to succeed and win and promote a rewarding learning experience throughout the competitions. As you review the information in this guidebook, contact Jarrell Jackson at (202) 595-1789 or the project manager listed below for more details.

1.2 2025 National Craft Championships Committee Roster

National Technical Team:

Billy Lastinger	Chair Commercial Team Project Manager	(717) 278-1346	wlastinger@benchmarkqc.com
Steve Sjolander	Vice Chair Insulation Project Manager	(608) 780-7955	steves@icinsulation.com
Stacy Gunderson	Strategic Chair Drywall Project Manager	(210) 387-4519	stacygunderson@marekbros.com
Shon Smith	Past Chair Sheet Metal Project Manager	(515) 509-8443	ssmith@acimech.com
Jarrell Jackson	National Craft Championships Director	(202) 595-1789	jackson@abc.org
Greg Spenner	Chapter President Liaison	(515) 681-6100	greg.spenner@abciowa.org
Laurie Kendall	Chapter President Liaison	(503) 726-5434	lkendall@abcpnw.org
Jim Ellis	Executive Committee Liaison	(319) 393-6406	jellis@priceelectric.us

Project Managers:

Derek Herr	Carpentry	(610) 322-7753	dherr@wohlsen.com
Dave Dekelaita	Electrical	(727) 235-9091	ddekelaite@powerdesigninc.com
Evan Banda	Electrical Assistant Project Manager	(909) 721-3682	ebanda@championelec.com
John Lupacchino	Electrical Assistant Project Manager	(317) 716-7051	jlupacchino@gaylor.com
Tim Behling	Electrical Assistant Project Manager	(407) 203-7064	tbehling@compedgellc.com
David Victor	Fire Sprinkler	(443) 974-1861	dbvictor@vsfcs.com
Sam Burnett	HVAC	(503) 298 7997	burnett@pljimech.com
Jason White	Instrumentation	(207) 679-7119	jwhite@cianbro.com
Michael Leyva	Millwright	(515) 357-8343	mleyva@keenprojectsolutions.com
Ronnie Balentine	Pipefitting	(281) 960-0037	balentrd@sbec.com
Johnnie Sanchez	Plumbing	(505) 550-5476	jnks1229@icloud.com
Doug Patterson	Plumbing Assistant Project Manager	(407) 796-5320	dpatterson@modernpi.com
Daron Hanson	Power Line	(207) 708-0614	dhanson@cianbro.com
Joel Pickering	Safety Manager	(917) 440-4613	joel.pickering@ramtechglobal.com
Joel Dutton	Welding—Pipe	(281) 460-2670	joel.dutton@tdindustries.com
Chris Weber	Welding—Structural	(504) 458-2306	chrisweber@abcbayou.com
Chris Henning	Welding—Tig (GTAW)	(985) 212-4153	chenning@wearescpss.org
Matt Mason	Event Coordinator	(239) 872-9383	mmason@bandiflorida.com

1.3 Tentative Schedule of Events*

*Competitor attendance is required for all events listed on this schedule.

<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>
Tuesday, Feb. 25	7:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	Registration
	8 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	Commercial Teams Collaboration (Journey-Level)
	9:45 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	Orientation
	11:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	Lunch
	12:30 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	Written Test
	1:45 p.m.	2 p.m.	Break
	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	Conduit Bending and Site Orientation
	4 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Reception
	5:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	Opening General Session*
	7:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	Opening Night Party
Wednesday, Feb. 26	6:45 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	Practical Performance Test*
	11 a.m.	12 p.m.	Lunch
	3 p.m.	4 p.m.	Competitor Break
	4 p.m.	6:45 p.m.	Practical Performance Tests Disassembly and Cleanup
Thursday, Feb. 27	3 p.m.	5 p.m.	Roundup
	5 p.m.	7 p.m.	Careers in Construction Ceremony*
	7:15 p.m.	10 p.m.	Closing Night Party

*Complimentary With a Day Pass

Section 2: Competitors

2.1 Overall Eligibility

NCC competitors must be trainees or students. They must be enrolled in and soon to be completing a training program. Training programs should include formal craft training and registered apprenticeship programs as well as written exams and practical performance tests. To be eligible to compete in the NCC, a trainee must meet the following requirements as well as the specific competition eligibility requirements described in the competition fact sheets.

- A. Be actively enrolled and sponsored by an ABC chapter, ABC member firm (in-house) or ABC chapter-approved training program within nine months prior to the NCC.
- B. Must not be certified as a journey-level worker more than six months prior to the date of the NCC. A journey-level worker is defined as 1) holding a journey-level worker license

from any state, city, county or municipality; or 2) holding a U.S. Department of Labor journeyman's credentials; or 3) being compensated as a journey-level worker.

- C. Possess no more than six years of total experience in the competition (not including secondary school programs).
- D. Did not compete within the same craft competition in any previous ABC National Craft Championships. **In addition, a competitor who competes in one of the NCC electrical competitions is not eligible to compete in the other NCC electrical competition.**
- E. The following policy ensures all competitors are equally prepared to compete in a competition setting and possess sufficient hands-on experience for the necessary regard for their own safety and those of others in the competition: **Any craft training student who has not previously been employed or is not currently employed by a construction-related firm must be approved to compete by the NCC Committee.**
- F. There is no limit to the number of eligible competitors an ABC chapter, chapter-approved training program or member firm may send to the competition. To ensure adequate materials are available at the time of the competition, all competitor space reservations must be submitted no later than Jan. 10, 2025. Some competitions have size limitations and space reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with every effort to accommodate the maximum number of competitors possible.
- G. A competitor's training sponsor must complete and submit an intent-to-compete form no later than Nov. 30, 2024. Intent-to-compete forms will not be accepted after this date. In addition, a competitor registration form for each competitor must be submitted by Jan. 10, 2025.
- H. Meet all specific competition eligibility requirements as described in the competition fact sheets.

2.2 Selection Recommendations

- A. Each chapter, company or chapter-approved training sponsor program is responsible for selecting its competitors.
- B. A chapter, company or chapter-approved training program may hold its own local craft competition or select competitor(s), according to recommendations outlined in this section. While it is not necessary to hold a preliminary local craft competition, it is encouraged in order to create the spirit and sense of competition that will be advantageous when competing in the NCC.
- C. Regardless of the selection method, all competitors must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the policies and procedures outlined in this guidebook.
- D. It is strongly recommended that all trainees/students complete no less than 250 hours of training before being selected to compete in the NCC.

E. Other recommended methods for selecting competitors are:

- Instructor recommendation;
- Highest grade point average and attendance record;
- Contest using a written exam—highest scores determine competitor(s);
- Contest with both a written exam and a practical performance test—highest scores determine competitor(s);
- Contest with a written exam and a practical performance test—judges use criteria to determine competitor(s).

2.3 Expenses

Chapter, Member, Sponsor and Employer Contributions

Chapter, member, sponsor and employer contributions fund the registration fee (\$1,000 per competitor), airfare, ground transportation, hotel, certain meals and other miscellaneous expenses.

2.4 Guests

Please remember to assist in making arrangements for spouses and other guests. Because many competitors have not traveled before, you may want to provide them with information on airfare, additional airline fees, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, meals and registration fees for their guests.

Guests can register on the [ABC Convention 2025 website](#). **When registering a guest of a competitor, please use a separate email address from the competitor.**

Full Convention Ticket

\$1,200 Early Bird/\$1,300 Regular

Access to all events taking place at the convention, including keynote speakers, social events and more.

Opening Night Celebration \$275 Convention Kickoff Reception Opening General Session Opening Night Celebration	Celebration Combo Ticket \$500 Convention Kickoff Reception Opening General Session Opening Night Celebration Careers in Construction Awards Ceremony Closing Night Celebration
Closing Night Celebration \$225 Careers in Construction Awards Ceremony Closing Night Celebration	Full Social Ticket \$600 Celebration Combo Ticket+ NCC Viewing and Lunch Closing Keynote and Breakfast
Day Pass: Complimentary Opening General Session NCC Viewing Careers in Construction Awards Ceremony	

For assistance, contact Jarrell Jackson at ncc@abc.org

Section 3: National Craft Championships Competitions

3.1 Procedures

Competitor Orientation

A competitor orientation session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 25. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY** for all competitors. The orientation will include the following components:

- Project managers will provide an overview of the practical performance tests, the judging process and attendance at the awards ceremony.
- A safety overview will discuss expectations, safety practices, first-aid procedures and review the safety portion of the practical performance test.
- Equipment representatives will provide an overview of equipment operations and special features.

Written Exam

- A. The written exam will be held on the first day of the competition.
- B. All competitors must sit for the exam or face disqualification from the NCC.
- C. All questions will be based on the NCCER Curriculum and may include all training levels.
- D. The written exam will be administered in English. If a competitor cannot read or follow instructions in English, contact the NCC director in advance to determine if any reasonable accommodations can be made.
- E. ABC will provide pencils, a calculator and blank scratch paper for mathematical problems if necessary. Loose notes will not be permitted.
- F. Scientific/graphing calculators are prohibited.
- G. No reference materials are permitted except for those listed below. All reference materials are subject to inspection.
 - a. The 2020 National Electrical Code book will be allowed for the **electrical commercial industrial and electrical residential commercial** knowledge tests.
 - b. The Pipe Fitter's Blue Book will be allowed for the **pipefitting** knowledge test.
- H. Competitors will have one (1) hour to complete the 50-question exam.
- I. No cellphones, pagers, tablets, laptops, smartwatches and other electronic devices will be allowed in the testing room. Competitors will be asked to surrender all electronic devices prior to the start of the written exam.

J. ~~Test scores are only available to ABC National/NCC Committee.~~

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K. The use of tobacco, including smokeless and electronic products, is prohibited.

Practical Performance Test

- A. All verbal communication will be conducted in English. If a competitor cannot read or follow instructions in English, contact the NCC director in advance of arriving on site to determine if any reasonable accommodations can be made.
- B. Project managers will have the option to perform a tool and equipment check for each competitor.
- C. The use of nonprogrammable calculators, code manuals and other reference materials will be at the project manager's discretion. (If a calculator is permitted, it will be provided.) All reference materials are subject to inspection.
- D. Before the scheduled start time, competitors will have the opportunity to review the inventory of provided materials.
- E. The NCC director or a designated representative will sound a horn to announce the start and end of the practical performance test. Competitors will have six (6) hours to complete the test.
- F. No cellphones, pagers, tablets, laptops, smartwatches or other electronic devices will be allowed in the testing room. Competitors will be asked to surrender all electronic devices prior to the start of the practical performance test.
- G. All competitors are required to participate in all NCC activities. Note: After the practical performance test disassembly, competitors will be dismissed no later than 6:45 p.m.
- H. The use of tobacco, including smokeless and electronic products, is prohibited.

3.2 Disqualification/Points Deduction

A competitor may be disqualified from the NCC or have points deducted from his or her score for any of the following reasons:

- A. Misrepresenting experience level or any falsified information on the competitor registration form.
- B. Violating eligibility requirements.
- C. Being absent or tardy for the competitor orientation; opening session; on-site, written exam; practical performance test; or disassembly and cleanup.
- D. Cheating, as determined by the respective judges, project manager or other NCC Committee members.

- E. Failing to prominently display the assigned competitor identification number on outer clothing during the practical performance test.
- F. Failing to return all components of the written exam or practical performance test.
- G. Leaving the practical performance test area without permission from a judge or project manager.
- H. Failing to participate in the disassembly or cleanup phase following the practical performance test.
- I. Failing to comply with clothing and PPE requirements as stated in Section 4 of this guidebook.
- J. Removing documents, tools, materials or equipment from the exam/test areas without proper authorization.
- K. Violating safety procedures as determined by the judges or project manager. Refer to the safety portion of this guidebook for further explanation.
- L. Being under, or giving the appearance of being under, the influence of any psychoactive substances or acting in an unprofessional/impaired manner.

Any disqualified competitor will automatically forfeit their competition rank as well as any accompanying recognition, awards, medal, prizes and cash.

3.3 Changes During the Exam or Test

During both the written exam and the practical performance test, competitors may bring to the attention of their project manager or proctor any discrepancies with the competition materials or equipment. The project manager and judges will determine the most appropriate action(s) to resolve the discrepancy and make a final ruling.

3.4 Spectator Guidelines

During the practical performance test, spectators are allowed to watch the competitors perform but should observe the following guidelines:

- A. Spectators are to remain within designated spectator areas and are not permitted to enter the practical performance test areas for any reason.
- B. Spectators are not permitted to speak with competitors or judges during the test nor pass any objects (including food or drink) to the competitors.
- C. Coaching is not allowed by anyone during the practical performance test. Competitors also may not be coached during breaks and the lunch period.

- D. Guests are not allowed to have lunch with the competitors during the practical performance test.
- E. Spectators are not permitted in the test site during setup or disassembly.
- F. When taking photographs, caution should be taken when using a flash attachment. An unexpected flash is distracting and could result in a competitor making a severe mistake.
- G. Spectators should direct any questions to the project manager. Spectators may not talk to the judges.
- H. All spectators (including competitor guests, chapter or company representatives and other visitors) must exit the exhibit hall immediately after the conclusion of the practical performance test.

3.5 Disassembly and Cleanup

When a competitor has completed the practical performance test, the following procedures must be met:

- A. Upon expiration of the six-hour time limit, the NCC director or designated representative will announce the conclusion of the practical performance test. At that time, all work must stop.
- B. Competitors must return all test materials and related documents to their project manager or his designated representative.
- C. Judges will convene at the test site to finalize the scores.
- D. Once the project managers have collected all scores and test materials, they will excuse the judges.
- E. All competitors are required to participate in the disassembly or cleanup of the entire test site. **Note: Competitors will be dismissed no later than 6:45 p.m.**
- F. All tools and materials must be collected and properly stored.
- G. The area must be broom-swept of all debris.
- H. Project managers will ensure that competitors clean each test area properly and prepare all materials for shipping. After inspecting each test area, the NCC director or designated representative will instruct competitors to move to a central location to be dismissed from the test area as one group.

Note: Competitors are still judged during disassembly OR cleanup activities and are subject to disqualification or deduction of points for safety violations.

3.6 Scoring

Each competition is composed of two parts: a written exam and a practical performance test. The scores from these two components will be combined as follows:

1. The written exam is based on the NCCER Curriculum and will account for 25% of the total score. See the scoring criteria chart on the following page.
2. The practical performance test will account for 75% of the total score. See the scoring criteria chart on the following page.
3. There will be 40 possible safety-related points and 160 competition-related points within the practical performance test, for a total of 200 points. The written exam will represent a possible 100 points, comprised of both safety and competition-related questions.
4. The ranking of each competitor is determined by combining the weighted written exam score and the weighted practical performance test score.
5. All competitor scores are **confidential** and **will not be made public**. Following the competition, upon request only, training sponsors will receive competitor performance summaries without identifying information for those competitors who participated in competitions having 10 or more participants. (If a competition was conducted with less than 10 participants, performance summaries for that competition will not be distributed to protect the anonymity of competitors.) Summaries will provide rankings for each competitor in comparison to the other competitors in the competition. Numerical scores or rankings will not be provided.

SCORING CRITERIA CHART

Competition Component	Total Possible Points	Percent of Total Score
Written Exam	100 points	25%
Practical Performance Test	200 points (40 safety/160 competition)	75%

Tiebreakers

In the event that competitors in a single competition have tie scores and those scores place one or more of the competitors in contention to receive a medal, the following four methods will be implemented in succession until the tie is broken, determining final medal placement:

- Tiebreaker No. 1:** Highest overall practical performance test raw (unweighted) scores.
Tie Breaker No. 2: Highest practical performance test raw (unweighted) safety scores.
Tiebreaker No. 3: Results of tiebreaker practical exercise as specified by project managers on each competitor's score sheet.
Tiebreaker No. 4: Line-by-line analysis of competitors' score sheets until a difference occurs.

3.7 Awards and Recognition

All competitors must participate in the opening general session and the Careers in Construction Awards ceremony (see the schedule of events). Competitors will be honored at the awards ceremony and winners for each competition will be announced. (To the extent possible, the chapters, companies, chapter-approved training programs and employers of the winners will be recognized during the ceremony.) The scoring criteria chart determines the final placement of each winner. Medals, tools and cash awards will be presented for each competition as follows:

Competition Rank	Cash Prize Amount	Award
First Place	\$750	Gold Medal
Second Place	\$500	Silver Medal
Third Place	\$350	Bronze Medal

Note: It is the NCC Committee's intention to award three medals for competitions with five or more competitors. If the number drops to four competitors, only two awards will be given. Lastly, if the competition has three competitors, only one award will be given.

3.8 Issues, Conflicts and Concerns

Occasionally, during a competitive event of this magnitude, the chapter, company, chapter-approved training program or a competitor may have questions about competition results, competitive processes used or judging procedures. If issues, conflicts or concerns arise, the following procedure will be used to resolve the situation:

- A. Competitors should direct all questions to their competition project manager during the practical performance test.
- B. Competitors, the chapter, company or chapter-approved training program should notify the appropriate project manager when a concern is raised. The nature of the concern should be clearly explained. In turn, the project manager will use this guidebook as a reference in responding promptly. Depending on the issue's complexity, the project manager may request the concern be submitted in writing to the NCC director.
- C. Suppose the project manager cannot immediately resolve a concern. In that case, it will be referred to the NCC Executive Committee, comprised of the chair, chair-elect, past chair, safety manager, director, chapter president liaison and the respective competition project manager, provided there is no conflict of interest. Should a conflict of interest arise, the NCC Executive Committee member will remove or recuse themselves from the proceedings. Depending on the nature and extent of the concern, it may be necessary to submit the concern in writing to the director for referral to the NCC Executive Committee, which has the final authority in resolving all issues and will consider fairness to all competitors and adherence to established procedures.

Section 4: Safety

4.1 Safety Orientation

A safety program containing a general safety overview and safe work practices will be conducted during the competitor orientation. Attendance is mandatory for all competitors.

4.2 Personal Protective Equipment

All PPE must be appropriate for the task and meet current American National Standards Institute standards, which have been incorporated into the Occupational Safety and Health Administration PPE regulations as follows: Eye and Face Protection ANSI Z87.1; Head Protection ANSI Z89.1; and Foot Protection ANSI Z41.1. There are no ANSI standards for gloves; however, selection must be based on the performance characteristics of the glove in relation to the tasks to be performed or as selected and provided by the competition project manager or defined on the competition “tools required” list.

During the practical performance test, ABC will provide and require the proper use of the following PPE for all competitors:

- Ear protection;
- Safety glasses;
- Hard hat (except for welders); and
- General work gloves (may not apply to all competitions—see task-specific gloves below).

Exceptions to the provided PPE, with prior approval from the project manager, are:

- Prescriptive safety glasses with side shields;
- Prescriptive goggles; and
- Task-specific gloves per industry standards, designed to protect against sharp edges or high heat.

Competitors must provide and use the following during both days of competition:

- Standard work shoes or boots (tennis shoes or sandals are not permitted);
- Blue jeans or work pants; and
- Shirts with sleeves, minimum four inches in length (baggie or excessively loose-fitting clothing is not permitted).

4.3 Setup and Disassembly

All safety standards must be followed by competitors during competition setup and disassembly. Competitors must use:

- Hard hat;

- Safety glasses;
- Standard work shoes or boots;
- General work gloves; and
- Hearing protection as needed and determined by the project manager.

4.4 Jewelry

Exposed jewelry is not permitted. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Earrings (stud or dangling);
- Wristwatches;
- Rings;
- Studs exposed through the nose, jaw, lip, eyebrow or any visible part of the body; and
- Gauges (if gauges cannot be removed, they must be covered with tape).

4.5 Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during any part of the competition except for those used by NCC Committee members and judges.

4.6 Safety Judging

Prior to the practical performance test, the competition project manager or judges may inspect each competitor's personal hand tools, which must meet all OSHA regulations and standards. For example, "mushroomed" heads on chisels are not permitted. Judges will be present during the practical performance test to score competitors in such safety areas as the use of PPE, hand and power tool safety, etc. Depending on the severity and frequency of a violation or violations, the judges, in consultation with the respective project manager, have the authority to disqualify competitors.

Note: Competitors are still judged during disassembly and cleanup activities and are subject to disqualification or deduction of points for safety violations.

4.7 First Aid

All injuries, regardless of severity, must be reported to the project manager immediately. The project manager will contact the NCC chair or director to determine the appropriate action, including assistance by on-site EMT personnel.

Section 5: Forms

5.1 Deadlines

To participate in the NCC, a chapter, company or chapter-approved training program must complete and submit two forms: an **intent-to-compete form** and a **competitor registration form**. Timely completion of these forms confirms the number of competitors for each competition, allows sufficient time to obtain the necessary equipment, tools and materials to accommodate the number of competitors, and provides competitor information published in advance of the event. Please be sure to complete and submit these forms promptly on or before the due dates. **Your competitor(s) will be ineligible to compete if you fail to meet these deadlines. The intent-to-compete must be submitted by Nov. 15, 2024.** The deadline dates for these forms are:

- **Intent-to-compete form due no later than Nov. 15, 2024.**
- **Competitor registration form due no later than Jan. 10, 2025.**

5.2 Intent-to-Compete: Due Nov. 15, 2024

The intent-to-compete form determines the amount of space required for the competition and the necessary equipment, tools and materials. When completing this form, it is not necessary to provide specific competitor information, but you must indicate the competition(s) in which your competitor(s) intends to participate. Due to setup and material costs for each competition, the NCC Committee expects that a reservation for a particular competition will not be changed to another competition. Competition changes after Jan. 10, 2025, are strictly prohibited.

Please note: Completion of the intent-to-compete form reserves space for your competitor(s). However, a competitor registration form also must be completed and submitted for each competitor.

5.3 Competitor Registration: Due Jan. 10, 2025

The competitor registration form provides specific information about the competitor, its chapter/company/chapter-approved training program and its employer. It also verifies that the competitor understands certain information about their competition responsibilities and must be submitted on time.

5.4 Competition Cancellation Policy

Although the NCC Committee intends to conduct all advertised competitions, a craft skills competition may be canceled if two or fewer spaces are reserved at the first deadline. In the event of a competition cancellation, the chapter/company/chapter-approved training sponsor program will be notified no later than Jan. 27, 2025, and the \$1,000 fee will be refunded.

In addition, a craft skills competition may be canceled if a competition's participation significantly falls after the competitor registration deadline. In this case, the NCC director would immediately notify the chapter/company/chapter-approved training sponsor program to reach a mutually agreed-on resolution, considering several factors, including the financial investment up to that point.

Cancellations received on or before **Jan. 27, 2025**, will be assessed a \$100 administrative fee per registrant. No refunds will be granted after this date. Substitutions are welcome if transferring to another competitor of the same training sponsor. Written notification must be sent to Jarrell Jackson at jackson@abc.org.

Craft Fact Sheets and Safety Scopes

The NCC Committee is providing information for individual download at abc.org/ncc.

Fact Sheets and Safety Scope:

- Carpentry
- Drywall
- Electrical: Residential-Commercial
- Electrical: Commercial-Industrial
- Fire Sprinkler
- HVAC
- Instrumentation Fitting
- Millwright
- Pipefitting
- Plumbing
- Power Line
- Sheet Metal
- Pipe Welding
- Structural Welding
- Tig Welding
- Team Competition: Commercial

Forms:

- Intent-to-Compete Registration
- Competitor Registration