

2026 SCULPTED ART CONTEST

*Sponsored by The American Welding Society
Section 179, Southwest Virginia*

The purpose of the contest is to highlight the talents of local
home schooled and high school students

*A secondary open contest to feature the talents of anyone that wants to
participate.*

Student First Prize:

Student Second Prize:

Student Third Prize:

Open First Prize:

Open Second Prize:

Open Third Prize:

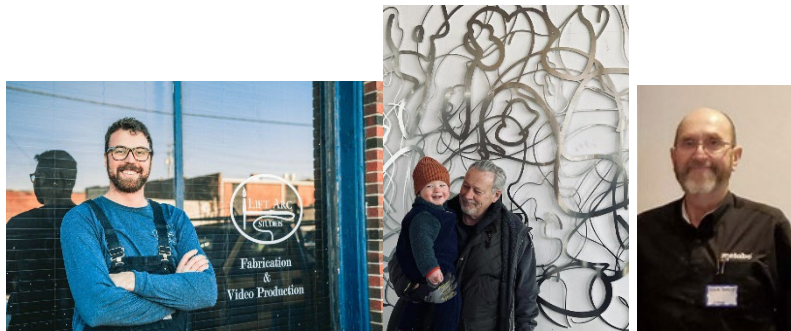
Prizes subject to change without notice due to availability.

Judges:

Tay Whiteside, Lift Arc Studios Roanoke. YouTube Celebrity

Steve Bickley, Artist, Professor Emeritus - Virginia Tech

Dave Beasley, Sandusky Sales –(retired), Bachelor of Fine Arts



Contest invitation to be presented to all HS and within the Section 179 coverage area.

Location: **Lift Arc Studios** 1915 Power St SE, Roanoke, VA 24013.

Public display and Judging Lift Arc Studios

Reception April 25th time TBA Catering by **David Shinault**.

SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

The contest consists of three parts:

1. Evaluation of the sculpture
2. Notebook
3. Interview (All contestants will be asked the same questions, determined by the judges, before the start of the contest.)

Skill Performance

The contest is designed to assess the ability of the competitor(s) to design and produce a sculpture of that design, as well as answer questions in a brief interview related to all aspects of his or her creation of the design.

Contest Guidelines

Sculpture Design and Workmanship

1. Materials used must be ferrous or nonferrous metals. The sculpture must be an original and creative work of the student.
2. Sculptures shall be welded, brazed, or soldered, depending on the material used. No mechanical fasteners or adhesives are permitted.
3. Projects are to be left unpainted, including primers and other coatings. (Exception: sculptures may be clear coated.) Naturally achieved patinas shall be limited to air, water or heat, or any combination thereof. (No chemically enhanced finishes are permitted.)
4. All copyright laws must be followed in the creation of the design.
5. The sculpture must be one continual piece, not multiple pieces unconnected. Movement is allowed but not required. Moving parts are permitted provided they do not affect the size parameters or integrity of the piece or create a safety hazard.
6. The sculpture cannot exceed a weight of 100 lbs. Sculptures will be weighed. (Penalty for overweight sculptures.)

7. No additional appurtenances can be used (mirrors, stands, etc.). The sculpture shall stand alone. No presentation pieces are permitted.

8. Contestants may be individuals or teams. Teams are limited to 2 members. One prize per team

Notebook

1. A three-ring binder must be placed with the sculpture prior to judging. It must contain pictures and supporting evidence (i.e., receipts). It must include a brief description of the project and processes used to develop the sculpture.

2. The first page of the notebook must be a tabbed table of contents. The notebook must include a letter certifying that the sculpture was designed and constructed by the student. The letter must contain an itemized list of all expenses. The letter must identify the school, city, state and local advisor. The letter must identify the student to be interviewed, division (high school or college/postsecondary), and the letter must be signed by the school administrator.

3. Any welds that are hidden or ground must be documented through photographs with captions in the notebook.

4. An electronic copy of the notebook must be provided at orientation on a USB drive; USB drives will be returned to students during the contest.

Interview

The student(s) will participate in a three to five-minute interview. Questions from the judges will be related (but not limited) to sculpture, creation, inspiration, materials, processes, and workmanship.

CATEGORY	MAX POINTS	SCORE
METAL CRAFT		
weld quality	10	
weld fit up	10	
CUTTING		
quality	10	
DESIGN/CREATIVITY		
level of difficulty	10	
creativity	10	
originality	10	
NOTEBOOK		
verification of student construction	10	
ID of school, city, state and advisor	10	
photos of build process	10	
INTERVIEW		
professionalism	10	
TOTAL	100	