

How Judging for Prizes Works

When you apply, you are asked to choose a category.

If there is a question about what you have chosen or you don't choose, a category is chosen for you, based on the pictures you provide, and often some communication.

We give a list to the judges of all of the participants in their category.

It is up to them whether they are open about judging or pose as shoppers.

It's not up to us to decide their style...

They can judge together or separately.

We have guidelines, but allow them to judge freely.

You may or may not be aware of their presence. Some ask lots of questions, some just browse.

We just ask that they visit everyone on their list. Some wear name tags, some act like secret shoppers.

There are two judges per category and they compare notes to decide the top four in their categories.

Then all of the judges meet together and the pairs of judges present their top candidate to the group.

They tell all the other judges why their best of category should be best in show.

The judges then go out again, and view the work of the top six choices to choose the Best of Show.

One by one, the top six are voted for by individual judges this time, and a Best of Show is chosen.

Some years, there is more than one vote, with eliminations to choose a winner.

In the winning category, every one moves up to the next higher prize, and there is no honorable mention.