AUTHORIZED

By the Director of the State Autonomous Cultural Institution *Arts and Crafts Palace Avantgarde*

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_____V.V.Seryakov
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APPROVED

By Head of the Department of Culture of the Tomsk Region

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REGULATIONS
of the 17th International "Woodworking Craftsmanship" Competition

1. General Provisions

1.1. These Regulations set forth the terms and conditions for organizing and conducting the 17th International "Woodworking Craftsmanship" Competition (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition") as part of the 17th International Festival of Folk Crafts "Axe Festival". The theme of the Competition is "Unity of Nations."

1.2. The Competition shall take place at «Okolitsa» Rural park at the following address: Sadovaya Street 1a, Zorkaltsevo Settlement, Tomsk Region).

1.3. The competition will take place from August 18 to 23, 2026.

2. Founders of the Festival

2.1. The Founders of the Festival are the Tomsk Region Administration and the Department of Culture of the Tomsk Region Administration.

2.2. State Autonomous Cultural Institution *Arts and Crafts Palace Avantgarde* is the Organizer of the Festival.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. The aim of the competition is to preserve and promote the unique national characteristics of woodworking around the world.

3.2. The objectives of the Competition include:

1) preserving traditional craftsmanship;

2) identifying and providing comprehensive support to talented artisans and encouraging their interest in learning and developing traditional crafts;

3) improving professional skills;

4) fostering in the younger generation an appreciation for history, cultural traditions, and the revival of traditional crafts;

5) promoting the intellectual and creative development of participants and showcasing the results of their work;

6) developing promising partnerships and strengthening creative ties among artisans from different regions;

7) fostering patriotism, pride in one's country, and a love for folk traditions;

8) developing eco-friendly forms of event tourism in the Tomsk Region.

4. Eligibility

4.1. Artisans from regions of the Russian Federation, as well as from neighboring and distant foreign countries, are eligible to participate in the Competition. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

4.2. The following artisans are eligible to participate in the Competition:

- artisans who submitted their applications by the deadline and in the format specified in the Regulations;
- artisans who have successfully passed the selection process and received safety training.

4.3. Eligibility criteria for Participation in the Competition (on a 10-point scale):

- relevance of the nomination to the theme of the Competition (0-10 points);

- the relevance and substance of the author's concept (0-10 points);
- the artistic and visual appeal of the design (0-10 points);
- compositional integrity and originality (0-10 points);

Winners will be selected based on the total number of points earned. The maximum score is 40 points.

4.4. Applications shall be accepted until May 29, 2026, on the Axe Festival website (http://prazdniktopora.ru) by completing the online form provided in Appendix No. 1, along with sketches (or mock-ups, if desired) of the works to be created for the Competition and the artisans' portfolios. The materials attached to the application must be compiled into a single archive with the file name: "Participant's first name, last name."

4.5. The competition jury shall review the submitted applications by June 10, 2026. After reviewing the application, one of the following decisions is made:

- admission to participate in the Competition;
- artisan is advised to refine their application;
- the application is rejected, and the applicant is not admitted to participate in the Competition. Sketches and mockups attached to the application will not be returned and may not be used by the organizer in the future.

4.6. Artisans who are not immediately eligible to participate in the competition will be placed on the competition's participants' reserve list. If any of the selected artisans decline to participate in the Competition, the panel of judges reserves the right, at the panel's discretion, to invite artisans from the reserve list to participate.

4.7. Based on the results of the competitive selection process, the Competition jury will send invitations to the artisans whose applications have been approved, and these artisans will be admitted to participate in the Competition within the timeframes specified in these Regulations.

4.8. Participants who have received invitations must confirm their participation in the Competition via email (or through social media or by cell phone), or notify the organizers in the same manner that they are unable to participate in the Competition, within 10 calendar days following the date the invitation was sent to them.

4.9. If such written confirmation of participation in the Competition is not received from a participant admitted to the Competition by the specified deadline, the jury reserves the right to deny participation.

4.10. The organizers are committed to:

- providing media coverage of the competition;
- providing a competition venue, exhibition equipment, and working tools for the competition;
- ensuring the safety of the exhibits;
- ensuring power supply;
- providing consumables;
- arranging storage space for tools;
- providing exhibition spaces and set up an exhibition featuring works from previous competitions;
- arranging space for an exhibition-fair featuring works by participating artisans;
- providing technical staff with small-scale mechanization equipment at the competition site;
- ensuring fire safety and favorable sanitary and hygienic conditions.

5. Competition Procedures

5.1. The Competition features two categories:

1) **The "Park Sculpture" category.**

Individual artisans, as well as teams of no more than two artisans, are eligible to enter this category.

Artists use logs to create park sculptures or sets of sculptures. The organizers provide logs up to 6 meters long, with a diameter of at least 400 mm and no more than 600 mm. The final product

must be at least 120 cm tall. The organizers will distribute the materials prior to the start of the competition, taking into account the requirements specified in the application.
2) **The "Woodcarvers" category.**
Individual artisans are eligible to enter this category (no more than one person per item).
A piece of wood must be used to create one of the following items: a panel, a carved bench, a composition of carved elements, or a window casing with carved elements.
5.2. The artisans and teams participating in the Competition will be provided with the following to create their work:

1) Working area with 220V power supply;
2) Required logs (cedar, pine) and cut timber (pine, cedar) as per the participant's application;
3) Sharpening service and minor repair of tools;
4) Gasoline, greases, and motor oils;
5) Necessary hardware and grinding supplies;
6) A colorless fire- and bio-resistant compound.

5.3. Organizing Committee undertakes to provide the following for the artisans and teams accepted to the Competition:
1) Payment of travel costs to and from the place of residence to the Festival location, covering actual costs with the following limits:

- For artisans and teams from Volga, Ural and Siberian federal districts of Russia – the cost of railroad ticket in open-plan carriage,
- For participants from other regions of the Russian Federation and international participants: the cost of an economy-class flight within the Russian Federation.

2) Paid accommodation in fully equipped hotel rooms **from August 17 to August 24, 2026.** For the purpose of preliminary preparation of working materials and tools, as well as completion of unfinished work during the Competition, a participant is allowed to stay in a hotel no more than 3 days before the start date of the Competition l and no more than 3 days after the end date of the Competition. Any additional nights at the hotel must be covered by the participant. In the event of unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure resulting in a delayed departure, or in the event of flight restrictions or cancellations, an extension of the stay is permitted until such circumstances are resolved.
3) Three paid meals per day during the competition **(August 18-23, 2026).**
The costs of accommodation and food outside of the hotel or Okolitsa park shall not be reimbursed to the participants.
4) Organized transportation according to the Competition program, meeting and seeing-off at the railroad and bus terminal of Tomsk.
5.4. The participants shall use their own electric, gasoline and handheld tools.
5.5. The participants shall take care to provide themselves with warm, waterproof clothing and footwear in case of unfavorable weather conditions during the Competition.
5.6. If the participants want to use premade parts and components or draft quality timber, this shall be discussed with the Organizing committee at the stage of application submission.
5.7. If a participant begins the work prior to the official start of the Festival, this will be penalized with deducted points during the evaluation of their work.
5.8. The works made at the competition shall become the property of the Organizers upon the end of the Competition.

6. Panel of Judges

6.1. An independent panel of judges shall be appointed to evaluate the entries. The panel of judges of the Competition is composed of experts in the fields of culture and the arts, renowned figures in the cultural and artistic communities, distinguished cultural workers, leading educators from educational institutions, well-known artists, sculptors, architects, and individuals representing the Competition's partners. The composition of the panel of judges is determined by the Competition organizers. The chairperson and the members of the panel shall determine the

order of discussion of the entries and the voting procedure. The panel's decision is final and is recorded in a protocol.

6.2. The panel of judges is entitled to:

- assign prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place;
- decline to award some prize places;
- assign special diplomas and prizes;
- make changes to the competition categories;
- split the prize places among the contenders for a single spot;
- reallocate prize places;
- make other necessary decisions aimed at objectively evaluating the entries.

6.3. Entries will be evaluated using a point system based on the following criteria:

1) artistic conception (0-10 points);
2) woodcarving quality (0-10 points);
3) overall view of the item (0-10 points);
4) item durability and structural integrity (0-10 points);
5) compliance with safety requirements (0-10 points);

Winners will be selected based on the total number of points earned. The maximum score is 50 points.

6.4. Participants are encouraged to bring symbols of the territories they represent (coats of arms, flags, banners of cities, districts, art studios, etc.).

7. Selection and Awarding of Winners

7.1. The panel of judges selects the winners during the final review of the entries.

7.2. The contestants who take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, as well as those recognized by the panel (in special nominations), will receive cash prizes and diplomas corresponding to their rankings. Contestants who do not win the prize places are awarded certificates of participation.

8. Location and Dates

8.1. Location of the Competition: Okolitsa Rural park (Sadovaya Street 1a, Zorkaltsevo Settlement, Tomsk Region)

8.2. Dates of the Competition:

- arrival of participants: August 17, 2026;
- competition site launch: August 18, 2026;
- opening of the Competition: August 18, 2026;
- closing of the Competition: August 23, 2026;
- departure of participants: August 24, 2026.

9. Safety and Responsibility

9.1. Safety is the responsibility of the Organizing Committee and the participants of the festival within their areas of competence.

9.2. The participants of the Competition are personally responsible for compliance with health, safety, and environmental requirements and fire safety requirements while using their tools.

The Organizers will provide a safety briefing for the participants during the technical opening ceremony (August 18, 2026), and the participants will have to sign the relevant document or submit a written waiver. Failure to do so will result in denial of participation in the Competition.

9.3. During the events of the Competition at Okolitsa park, it is strictly forbidden to use alcohol or alcoholic drinks, drugs, mind-altering and toxic substances. If any of above is discovered, the participants will be eliminated from the Competition and lose the right to compensation of any incurred costs.

9.4. Disqualification of an artisan from the Competition shall be documented in a report that indicates the reasons, and a written decision denying admission to the Competition shall be issued.

10. Final Provisions

10.1. All promotional materials obtained or recorded by the Organizers during the Competition (photographs, video recordings) are the property of the organizers, who reserve the right to reproduce and distribute video recordings made during the Competition, to rent them out, and to use them in the publication of compilations, booklets, and video discs without paying royalties to Competition participants. Such use for the purposes of conducting and advertising the Competition does not require additional consent from guests and participants.
10.2. Competition and presentation materials submitted by Competition participants may be published on the websites of the Tomsk region administration, Department of Culture of the Tomsk Region, and the State autonomous cultural institution *Arts and Crafts Palace Avantgarde,* may be used for advertising purposes.
10.3. Competition Coordinator – Svetlana Ivanovna Drozdova. Tel: +7 (3822) 646-514, e-mail: avangard_onpir@yandex.ru.

Appendix 1
to the Regulations of the 17th International
"Woodworking Craftsmanship" Competition
August 18-23, 2026

APPLICATION
for the 17th International "Woodworking Craftsmanship" Competition
of the17th International Festival of Folk Crafts "Axe Festival"

Registration form

Full name of the participant (team captain):	*Clothing size*	*Date of birth*	*Phone number*	*Country, city of residence*

Number of team members: _____
** in the case of team participation, the form is filled out for each participant*

Full name of the participant	*Clothing size*	*Date of birth*	*Phone number*	*Country, city of residence*

Web page with the participant's portfolio

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Category:
o *Park Sculpture*
o *Woodcarvers*
o *Team Work*

Product description and materials required for work:

This application constitutes my consent to the processing of my personal data by the State Autonomous Cultural Institution *Arts and Crafts Palace Avantgarde* for the purpose of processing documents in the event that I am awarded a prize or an incentive award (in accordance with the requirements of Article 9 of Federal Law No. 152-FZ of July 27, 2006, "On Personal Data"). This consent to the processing of personal data is valid until December 31, 2026, and may be revoked by written notice.

Signature _____