



National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art & Practices
Sloss Furnaces, National Historic Landmark
Birmingham, Alabama
April 5 - 8, 2023

STUDENT CUPOLA CONTEST

Deadline for registration: October 31, 2022

Registration Fee: \$85.00

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This year we return to running the competition on Sloss grounds! Student teams will build their furnace according to the usual student cupola contest guidelines, run their furnace, fill molds, mature their pattern making skills, test their melting talents, and grow in technical experience within steps of the other competitors in the absence of mentor intervention.

GUIDELINES:

- Teams must designate a Captain as the primary contact person; each team must have a faculty sponsor.
- All teams must be present on Monday morning, April 3, 2023, at Sloss Furnaces. At a minimum, the team captain must be present.
- Furnace must have an Inside Diameter of 10 inches. Furnaces will be measured at the tuyeres. Those that do not meet the guidelines will be disqualified.
- Furnaces must be built entirely by students. No outsourced fabrication is allowed.
- Teams provide their tools, equipment, and supplies for furnace operation and competition preparation.
- Sloss will provide Coke and iron for teams to prepare their own charges.
- All equipment must run on 110-volt power.
- Cupolas or Cupolettes, Intermittent or Continuous types, are all acceptable.
- Minimum of three members per team.

- Limit of six members per team on the pouring floor at a time. Teams may have additional members who can be rotated in.

- Faculty sponsor must be present during the pour but MAY NOT:

- Coach
- Prompt
- Advise
- Or be on the casting floor

This competition is meant to test the students' abilities and for them to safely demonstrate their skills. Faculty sponsors or any other affiliated collegiate member found breaking these rules will disqualify their team.

- Team Captains must be present for a Safety Meeting before the competition light off.
- All furnace sites must be cleaned and furnaces removed by 12:00pm on the day following the competition. Sloss personnel will approve cleaned areas.
- Furnaces that have run at previous conferences are not eligible to compete again.

SLOSS WILL PROVIDE:

- COKE (As much as necessary)
- IRON 400lbs. (Bring your personal hammers)
- PROPANE 100lb (bring your torches, hoses, and regulators)
- O2 LANCE (operated by Sloss personnel)

MOLDING GUIDELINES

COMPETITION MOLDS SLOSS WILL PROVIDE:

- Each team will gate one Fluidity Test pattern. Provided by Sloss.
- Each team will ram and gate a Sloss Chain Link pattern. Provided by Sloss.
- Each team will ram and gate a Student Chain Link pattern. Provided by the team.
- Each team will ram and gate Production Stackers. Provided by Sloss.

ADDITIONAL MOLDS

- Each team may pour additional personal molds after the contest molds have been poured.
- Competition molds must be poured first.
- Additional molds may be poured with a balance of metal provided.
- No reaction molds.

STUDENT CHAIN LINK PATTERN

This year as part of the student cupola contest we will continue to incorporate a student designed and built pattern as part of the competition. Patternmaking is as essential to this process as furnace operation. Each team will design and make a chain link, which will be joined with a Sloss chain link to create a tangible connection between the competitors and Sloss. The original intent of Mr. Meredith (Butch) Jack's call for a "Chain for America" was to have links made all over the country at different casting events. Those links would travel from place to place and be connected as they were made. Noah Kirby, a longtime student competition overlord, saw how this would naturally fit into the student cupola contest.

- Pattern must fit within a 12" x 16" x 3" box.
- Pattern must be appropriate for a two-part mold.
- It cannot be a burnout pattern or vaporized pattern.
- It must represent your school, institution, or team and have the date (April 2023)
- The Pattern must have a hole (5" Dia min.) that will allow it to be connected to the Sloss Link.
- Finished casting becomes part of the Sloss Chain and will stay at Sloss.
- Sloss personnel will approve each pattern before it is molded. Teams with patterns deemed inappropriate will be disqualified from the competition.
- The Student Chain Link Pattern is part of the contest. Teams without a chain link pattern will be disqualified from the competition.

AWARDS

First Tap

To be considered for this award, a judge must be notified before the first tap of your furnace.

Hottest Overall Metal

The fluidity test mold can be poured at any point during your campaign.

Production Furnace

This award will be given to the crew that has the most products successfully cast from the production molds. In the event of a tie, the quality of the casting will be inspected to determine the overall win / best product.

The Wolf Pack

All judges/assistants will discuss this award, and they will choose the crew they feel has best represented the idea of teamwork and camaraderie. All stages of the iron casting process will be considered. A team will not only be judged on how well they worked together but how they worked to help others. From the time student crews arrive until cleanup is finished.

School Spirit

This award will be given to the crew who has received the most support from their school, whether it be funds allocated to the sculpture department for the competition or furnace build. The most people attending the competition from the team's school, including students, faculty, and staff, most supportive decoration and signs, etc.

Catwalk Award

A special guest judge will be in attendance to pick what they consider to be the most unique, innovative, and/or aesthetically superior furnace design.

Community Choice

This award goes to the crew chosen by the spectators of the competition. Voting will take place after all teams have completed their campaign.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR TEAMS

Work with your Institution

Look for student research grants. Reach out to your intuitions Office of Undergraduate Research. The definition of research focuses on inquiry. The NCCCIAP student cupola contest connects faculty and students to recognize inquiry to be a process and/or a product which centers on asking questions or solving problems and which encompasses intellectual traits that transcend subject matter divisions. Examples of such processes common to the disciplines include questioning existing ideas, identifying approaches to unstructured issues, thinking creatively, exploring new ideas, and examining the methods by which knowledge is discovered. What you are doing is research! So reach out, write a grant, and get funding for your student cupola.

Notification of acceptance by November 18, 2022