

2021 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Insert

Please make sure you read and follow all contest rules

1. Entries will be accepted only from American First Day Cover Society members in good standing.
2. It is assumed that all legal requirements have been met by the cachetmaker. Any cachet that has the appearance of being artwork that is not original or in the public domain must have proof of originality or licensing consent or it will not be accepted.
3. Each entry must have the actual cover submitted with an entry form. One fee, one cover, and one entry form is required for each entry. If the cover is to be donated to the AFDCS Fundraising Auction, the entry fee is \$5 for each cover entered; otherwise the fee is \$10. In the case of se-tenant and Rookie of the Year sets, one entry fee will be sufficient for the entire set. If a single from a se-tenant set is entered in another category, a separate cover, fee, and entry form is required for the second category. The junior category entry fee is \$2 and the cover will be returned. Fees can be paid online by PayPal, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or by a check made payable to the AFDCS, drawn in US funds and from a US bank.
4. Any cover that has been entered in the wrong category will be disqualified and returned. The chairperson may, at his or her discretion, place it in the correct category if such category is obvious from the information provided. The chair will attempt to notify the cachetmaker of the change.
5. At least 10 identical cachets must exist for each cover entered. Smaller editions will not be accepted in any category except Noncommercial and Youth.
6. Entries will be accepted in the two junior categories if the entrant is a member of the AFDCS or is a relative (child, grandchild, niece/nephew, etc.) of an AFDCS member. In addition to the usual awards, junior category winners will receive a one year junior AFDCS membership (or a one year membership extension).
7. Entries will include only those covers postmarked during the 2021 year. All covers must bear enough postage to pay a legitimate rate and to be carried by the postal service issuing the stamp. Entries submitted for every category, except the Federal & State Duck category, are not restricted to USPS- issued stamps and can be first day covers from any legitimate postal service. Covers may include combo stamps to support the theme of the stamp or event. Except for combos, all postage must receive a cancel from the country issuing the stamp.
8. A category that receives entries from fewer than four cachetmakers for two years in a row will be put on probation the following year. If the number of entrants is fewer than four during the third year, the category will be dropped from the contest. No categories are on probation this year.
9. On the back of the entry form, cachetmakers must write a brief description of the cover, to include method of production, quantity made and type of art. This information is helpful to the judges and for writing lot descriptions for the AFDCS Fundraising Auction.
10. The Top Cachet Award will be selected by the judges from among the winners of all categories. Only category winners are eligible for this award. The Top Cachet Award cannot be won by the same cachetmaker two years in a row.
11. No cachetmaker will be eligible to win the Rookie of the Year more than once. Rookie of the Year can only be entered the first year a cachetmaker starts producing FDCs and the year following his/her first year of production. First and second place will go to different individuals. Cachetmakers are eligible to enter any of the other categories every year.
12. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at Americover, the annual AFDCS convention. Awards this year will be named First and Second place. No results will be available until that time.
13. **All entries must be postmarked by Friday, April 15, 2022.** The chairperson and/or judges shall retain the right, exercised in good faith, to disqualify any entry.
14. Entries in Categories 1–11 must be first day covers.

2021 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Categories

1. **Handdrawn/Handpainted** — A cover, strictly handdrawn and handpainted where no means of mechanical or electronic production has been used.
2. **Handpainted/Printed from original art** — A cover where mechanical or electronic reproduction has been used; however each cover is individually handcolored and the design is original and executed specifically for the cover.
3. **Handpainted/Printed from nonoriginal art** — A cover where mechanical or electronic reproduction has been used; however each cover is then individually handcolored and the design is not original to the cachetmaker.
4. **Handpainted/Mechanically reproduced** — Artwork created by/for the cachetmaker and mechanically reproduced by any method.
5. **Printer or Copier art/Single color (also black and white)** — A cover produced using only one color on a printer or copier, not on a printing press. Note: A single color is one color. The use of different transparencies to achieve the same effect as screening in offset printing is acceptable as long as only a single color is used.
6. **Printer or Copier art/Two colors or more** — A cover with two or more colors that is produced on a printer or color copier.
7. **Miscellaneous Medium cachets** — A cover with a cachet made by any of several methods such as wood block printing, silk screen printing, attached metallic plates, coins, medallions, photographs, printed cutouts, labels, etc. Plus, any method of cachetmaking not described above would be acceptable.
8. **Federal and State Duck covers** — This category includes both federal and state Duck stamps issued during the contest year. Any method of artwork or reproduction will be accepted.
9. **Esoteric covers** — This category includes a broad spectrum of esoteric items, including anything unusual in design, theme, format, shape or materials used to make an unusual, out-of-the-ordinary type of cover.
10. **Se-tenant covers** — One or more covers bearing stamps from a se-tenant issue. This category is open to all forms of production. All the stamps must be used on one or more covers and all the covers must be submitted.
11. **Noncommercial covers** — A cover that was not produced for commercial sale. This category is included to highlight the talents of individuals who produce covers in limited numbers for their own purposes, as opposed to being for sale to the public. The category is open to all forms of production and is not limited to covers where 10 or more have been produced.
12. **Event covers** — This category is open to all forms of production and includes items such as holidays, stamp show events, military events, political covers, death covers, etc. These covers need not contain a first day date. The event and event postmark must have occurred in the year indicated by the contest title. Entries are not restricted to USPS-issued stamps and can be event covers from any legitimate postal service. Covers may include combo stamps to support the theme of the stamp or event. The category is not limited to covers where 10 or more have been produced.
13. **Foreign covers** — This category is open to all forms of production and may include first day and event covers cancelled in any country other than the United States.
14. **Rookie of the Year** — This category welcomes new cachetmakers (not a cachet line) who have begun commercial production within the past two calendar years. At least three different covers must be submitted.
15. **2021 Inaugural covers** — At least 10 of each cachet must be made, otherwise the cover is entered in Category 11 or Category 12.
16. **Juniors age 10 and younger** — These covers may be one-of-a-kind.
17. **Juniors age 11 to 17** — These covers may be one-of-a-kind.
18. **Top Cachet Award** — The judges will select the best cover from among the winning covers in the above categories and this cover will be awarded “The Top Cachet Award” (See Rule 10).

2021 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Entry Form

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, April 15, 2022

Complete all information on the other side.

Please photocopy this form for additional entries.

Use this side to describe your cachet. Descriptions will be used by judges and for describing your cover in the AFDCS Fundraising auction. The contest judges have requested the following information. Please check all that apply.

- The images and artwork are original to the cachetmaker.
- The images are not original to the cachetmaker and are in the public domain or written permission has been granted for their use.
- The artwork is not original to the cachetmaker and are in the public domain or written permission has been granted for their use. Number of covers produced: _____

Describe how your cachet was produced:

Official AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Judging Criteria

Judges will approach their task with the understanding that this is a first day/event cover award. Their goal will be to select the best illustrated cover in each of the contest categories using the criteria stated below. The decision of the judges is final.

Each cover will be awarded points in each of the five criteria listed below. The cover with the highest number of points wins the category. Ties for the winning cover in a contest category will be broken by vote of the judges. The Top Cachet Award will be chosen from among the winning covers in the individual categories.

The categories will be weighted as to importance. The percentage weight given to each category's awarded points is shown after the category description.

1. Cachet's impact on enhancing the theme of the stamp or event (40%)
2. Overall Impact: The immediate reaction to the cover (25%)
3. Use of art, color and/or design to enhance the cover's impact (15%)
4. Ingenuity: Skill or cleverness in design, i.e., use of text, and/or special cancels and/or combo stamps and/or imaginative and/or creative designs. For purposes of this category, the overall submission will be considered including any additional material provided on the back of the cover or as an insert. (10%)
5. Technical details and craftsmanship of the work (10%)