

Lighted Boat Contest judging rules

Three judges will be located on the River Stage, next to the announcer. They will be judging the following categories:

1. Originality: This should be judged on how unique their interpretation and presentation of their theme is.
2. Sound: The sound should be judged on whether their music coincides with their theme and how well you can hear it.
3. Effort and Detail: The detail should be judged on the amount of items on their boat and how well they are distinguished.
4. Color: The color should be judged on how well they use their lights and different color of lights.
5. Audience reaction*: Did the crowd clap or cheer? Did the participants work the crowd and motivate them?

* Audience reaction points are doubled on the ballot to make them more important, giving the audience the largest vote.

After the ballots from the judges are received, a series of bonus/ penalty points will be applied. Here are the rules:

- 5 BONUS POINTS for using the same theme as the Venetian Festival. This year's theme is "Making Waves."
- 15 BONUS POINTS for a new Captain in a boat that has never been in the contest before.
- 20 BONUS POINTS if the judges unanimously agree that the crowd likes your boat best.
- 1 BONUS POINT for each fellow boater that votes for your boat.
- 5 PENALTY POINTS for winning the Best of Show the previous year.
- 5 PENALTY POINTS for making a late entry.
- 5 PENALTY POINTS for not attending the MANDATORY driver's meeting. (A competent crewmember may attend for you)