

2010 AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest Rules

All entries must be received by Thursday, April 15, 2010

1. Entries will be accepted only from members in good standing with the American First Day Cover Society.
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 not 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. If the cover is to be donated to the AFDCS Fundraising Auction, the entry fee is \$5 for each cover entered. The fee is \$10 if the cover is to be returned. In the case of se-tenant and Rookie of the Year sets, one entry fee will be sufficient for the entire set. The junior category entry fee is \$2 and the cover will be returned. Fees can be paid by MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or by a check drawn in U.S. funds and from a U.S. bank, made payable to the AFDCS.
4. Any cover that has been entered in the wrong category will be disqualified and returned, unless it is being donated to the Society auction. However, the chairperson will, at his discretion, place it in the correct category if such category is obvious from information provided. The chairperson 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 (such as a 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 year indicated by the contest title. 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 categories, 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. All postage MUST receive a cancel from the country issuing the stamp, except for combos.
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 the third year, the category will be dropped from the contest.
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 each of the 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. 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. However, a cachetmaker is eligible to enter and win any of the other categories every year.
11. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at AMERICOVER, the annual AFDCS convention. No results will be available until that time. Covers that are to be returned will be mailed after the convention.
12. The chairperson and/or judges shall retain the right, exercised in good faith, to disqualify any entry.
13. Entries in Categories 1 -12 must be First Day Covers.

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 18 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 - Immediate reaction to 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%

2009 AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest Categories

Make sure you read and follow all of the contest rules.

1. **Handdrawn/Handpainted** - A cover, strictly handdrawn and handpainted where no means of mechanical or electronic production have 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. **Printed art/Single color** (also black and white) - A cover produced using only one color on a printing press, not on a computer or copier. Note: A single color is one color - the use of screening in the printing process is acceptable, as long as, there is a single pass on the press using only one color
6. **Printed art/Two colors or more** - A cover produced using two colors or more on a printing press, *not* on a computer or copier.
7. **Computer or Copier art/Single color** (also black and white) - A cover produced using only one color on a computer 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.
8. **Computer or Copier art/Two colors or more** - A cachet with two or more colors designed with computer software and printed on a computer printer or color copier using artwork not created for a cachet.
9. **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 will be acceptable.
10. **Federal and State Duck Covers** - This category includes both federal and state Duck Hunting stamps issued during the contest year. Any method of artwork or reproduction will be accepted.
11. **Esoteric covers** - This category will include 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.
12. **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.
13. **Noncommercial Cachetmaker** - 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.
14. **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 do 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.
15. **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.
16. **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.
17. **Juniors age 10 and younger** - These covers may be one-of-a-kind.
18. **Juniors age 11 to 17** - These covers may be one-of-a-kind.
19. **Top Cachet Award** - The winning covers in the above categories will entered against each other. The judges will select the best cover from among this group and this cover will be awarded "The Top Cachet Award." (See Rule 10)

AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest Entry Form

All entries must be received by Thursday, April 15, 2010

To be completed by the person entering the contest.

Please photocopy this form for additional entries.

Last Name	First Name	AFDCS Number
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Address

City	State	ZIP/Postal Code	Country
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Phone	Fax	E-mail
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Cachetmaker information if different from entrant.

Name of Cachet Line

Cachetmaker name if different from entrant

AFDCS Number

You must describe your cachet on the back of this entry form.

Signature

(Signing this form acknowledges that you have read, understand and followed all the rules of the contest appearing with this entry form.)

Category	Scott Number and Issue Name	Retail Value
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Entry Fee (Circle One)

\$5

Cover donated to
Society Auction.

\$10

Cover returned
to entrant.

\$2

Junior category.
Cover returned.

Entry fees can be paid with Mastercard, Visa, American Express or check, written in U.S. funds from a U.S. bank, made payable to AFDCS.

Complete this form and send with covers and entry fee to:

Thomas O'Hagan, AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest

POB 32, Lewes, DE 19958
