

2026 GUIDE BOOK



HOSTED BY

LEATHER CRAFTERS' JOURNAL



World Leather Debut winning saddle by Fritz Reidl

SHERIDAN, WYOMING - May 15th 16th 17th, 2026

WHAT IS THE WORLD LEATHER DEBUT

The World Leather Debut is a perfect example of our leather community coming together to do something very special.

For over 20 years, the World Leather Debut has served as a premier competition that is held during the Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show in Sheridan, Wyoming in May of each year.

The event is open to all leather workers/artists of all skill levels worldwide. Sixteen categories are available for contestants to compete in (two of which are for our youth). And cash prizes totaling \$13,875 along with ribbons and certificates are awarded to those placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in each category. The cash prizes are provided by over forty individuals, companies and organizations who generously sponsor the World Leather Debut with their cash donations.

Every contestant receives copies of their score sheets which include written feedback from the judges. And all artwork entered in the Debut is on display in a gallery setting during the trade show for the public to view and enjoy.

As reported by so many, the World Leather Debut is an enjoyable event that can challenge and even advance one's perspective, skills and self-confidence, whether a contestant or visitor to the event.



SPONSORS

Imperative to the success of the World Leather Debut are the sponsors who generously provide cash contributions towards the prize money and operations of this exciting event. The 2026 Debut will award \$13,875.00 in cash prizes to those who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category. We appreciate the desire of each sponsor to contribute to the success of both the Debut and its participating artists.

Listed on the following pages are the sponsors of the 2026 Debut. Please express your gratitude the next time you meet or do business with each of them. Thank you sponsors for your support!

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Leather Crafter's Journal • 23 Year Sponsor
leathercraftersjournal.com ~ info@leathercraftersjournal.com ~ 715-362-5393

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MillerCustomLeatherToolCo.com ~ 254-654-4906

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pikespeaksaddlery.com ~ bob@pikespeaksaddlery.com ~ 719-495-3176

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renia.com ~ info@renia.com ~ +49-221-630799-0

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ronstools.com ~ tools@ronstools.com ~ 406-552-7433

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schwarzboots.com ~ schwarzboots@gmail.com ~ 406-925-9465

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crosswindsforge.com ~ crosswindsforge@yahoo.com ~ 928-978-1822

Snapping Turtle Leather Company, LLC • 5 Year Sponsor
snappingturtleleathercompany.com ~ 267-371-9118

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sorrell.shop ~ lisa@sorrell.shop ~ 405-282-5464

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**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS THAT MAKE
THE WORLD LEATHER DEBUT POSSIBLE.**

PRIZE MONEY & AWARDS

MAIN CATEGORIES #1 - #14

1ST PLACE

Cash Prize \$550.00, Blue Ribbon & Award Certificate
(*\$1000.00 for each Saddle category*)

2ND PLACE

Cash Prize \$250.00, Red Ribbon & Award Certificate

3RD PLACE

Cash Prize \$100.00, White Ribbon & Award Certificate

YOUTH CATEGORY - JUNIOR DIVISION #15

1ST PLACE

Cash Prize \$75.00, Blue Ribbon & Award Certificate

2ND PLACE

Cash Prize \$50.00, Red Ribbon & Award Certificate

3RD PLACE

Cash Prize \$25.00, White Ribbon & Award Certificate

YOUTH CATEGORY - SENIOR DIVISION #16

1ST PLACE

Cash Prize \$100.00, Blue Ribbon & Award Certificate

2ND PLACE

Cash Prize \$75.00, Red Ribbon & Award Certificate

3RD PLACE

Cash Prize \$50.00, White Ribbon & Award Certificate

Payment of Cash Prizes will be distributed within three weeks after the show. Cash prizes paid to artists in the USA will be paid by check. International payments must be made to a PayPal account.

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OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD LEATHER DEBUT

REVIEW THIS YEAR

- Artwork entered in the World Leather Debut may not have participated in another competition or gallery before January 1, 2025.
- If having your artwork shipped back to you, you must complete the Return Shipping Address on the Registration Form AND pay the Return Shipping Deposit (\$50.00 for artwork returned to an address in the USA and \$200.00 for artwork returned to an address outside the USA).
- When return shipping artwork, do not combine artwork from more than one artist in one shipment/package. Each shipment/package can only contain one artist's artwork.

LOCATION OF THE DEBUT *(See map on the outside back cover)*

Sheridan College
Thorne-Rider Campus Center
1 Whitney Way
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801 USA

DATES

Wednesday	April 8, 2026	Early Registration Deadline
Wednesday	April 29, 2026	Final Registration Deadline
Thursday	May 14, 2026	Check-In of Entries: Noon - 5:30 pm
Thursday	May 14, 2026	Judging in the evening
Friday	May 15, 2026	Judging in the morning
Friday	May 15, 2026	World Leather Debut is OPEN: Noonish - 5 pm
Saturday	May 16, 2026	World Leather Debut is OPEN: 8 am - 5 pm
Saturday	May 16, 2026	Sheridan Honors Night: 7:30 pm
Sunday	May 17, 2026	World Leather Debut is OPEN: 8 am - 11 am
Sunday	May 17, 2026	Check-Out of Entries: 11 am - 2 pm

ARTWORK

- Decide what you want to make to enter in the World Leather Debut.
- Review General Rules section on *Page 2* to ensure your artwork is eligible to participate.
- Review Categories section on *Pages 7-9* to determine what category(s) to enter.
- Make and/or finish your artwork in time for the check-in date.

ARTWORK REGISTRATION

- Register by completing the registration form and paying registration fees.
- Register deadlines are:
 - Early Registration: Register by April 8th, 2026 and save \$15.00 per entry.
 - Final Registration: All registrations are due by April 29th, 2026.
- *See Registration section on Page 3 for registration details.*
- *See Registration Checklist on Page 7.*

OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD LEATHER DEBUT

ARTWORK ARRIVAL

- Artwork can be shipped or hand delivered to the World Leather Debut.
- Contestants need not be present to participate.
- See *Artwork Arrival* section on *Page 5*.

ARTWORK DEPARTURE

- Artwork can be picked up at the show or shipped back to the artist.
- See *Artwork Departure* section on *Page 6*.

JUDGING

- Judges and judging details can be seen on *Pages 10-11*.
- Judges Score Sheets will be available for artists to pick up at the show beginning Friday afternoon. Those not picked up will be mailed or shipped with artwork.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

- Artists placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category will be announced Friday, May 15th.
- Contestants will receive an email from the Leather Crafter's Journal with a list of those winners.

PRIZES & AWARDS

- \$13,875 in Cash Prizes to be awarded.
- Prize Money and Awards are awarded to the artists who place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their respective categories. See *Prize Money and Awards* section on *Page iv*.

SHERIDAN HONORS NIGHT

- Presentation of the 2026 World Leather Debut Awards, Al Stohlman Award, Ann Stohlman Youth Award & Rafflemania will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

RECAP OF SCORES

- A report showing only the scores of each entry by category will be e-mailed to the artists after the show for the artist to compare their scores with their peers.

CASH PRIZE PAYMENT

- Cash Prizes will be paid within three weeks after the show.

PHOTOS OF ARTWORK

- Photos of artwork placing 1st, may possibly be featured in the Leather Crafter's Journal during the year following the World Leather Debut.

WORLD LEATHER DEBUT SPONSORS

- The World Leather Debut is made possible by the generosity of over forty sponsors who have provided cash donations which make up this year's \$13,875.00 in cash prizes to be awarded in the Debut. The sponsors are highlighted on *Pages i - iii* for your viewing. Please express your gratitude to these sponsors the next time you interact with them.

GENERAL RULES

- 1** Entries must be suitable for display in a gallery setting for all ages to view. For example, items can be disqualified for vulgarity, profanity and sexually explicit content. All questionable entries are subject to approval by an independent, undisclosed panel of artists. If concerned, submit photos of your entry for prior review by the artist panel.
- 2** Each entry must be made by one individual and registered under that maker's name. Prizes, awards and announcements will be awarded only to the individual who made the item.
- 3** All entries must have:
 - a)** been completed after January 1, 2025
 - b)** never entered in a previous World Leather Debut
 - c)** never entered in any other competition or gallery prior to January 1, 2025
- 4** Each entry must consist of 70% or more leather. Frames, foundations, and hardware excluded.
- 5** Each entry must bear the name of the maker (maker stamp or tag) for identification purposes. Attach tags to an inconspicuous location.
- 6** Metal decorations, hardware and poppers (braiding) that are part of the entry do not have to be made by the maker/contestant. (e. g. silverwork, conchos, horn caps, poppers, etc.)
- 7** Entries are to remain on display until 11:00 a.m. Sunday, May 17, 2026.
- 8** Definitions specific to each category are detailed in the "Categories" section on pages 7-9 and apply to all items entered in the World Leather Debut.
- 9** Stand Rental - Saddle and chap stands are available to rent for display of your entry(s). Rental fee is \$10.00 per stand. Quantities are limited - First-come, first-served basis.
- 10** The Leather Crafter's Journal will use all reasonable care in the handling of entries but will assume no liability for loss or damage. Contestants hereby release the Leather Crafter's Journal (including all staff and volunteers) and the Sheridan College (including its staff, volunteers and directors) from any responsibility, personal liability or claims for loss or damage arising from contestant's participation in the 2026 World Leather Debut.
- 11** Photographs of entries, information about the contestants and other such materials may be used by the Leather Crafter's Journal in promotional and merchandising materials.
- 12** Refund Policy - A full refund of all paid fees will be issued for cancellations received by the Journal on or before April 29, 2026. Return shipping, repacking and stand rental fees only will be refunded after this date, provided no items are to be return shipped at the time of cancellation.
- 13** Violation of rules **1, 2, 3 or 4** are grounds for disqualification of the entry from the current year's event as well as possible disqualification of the artist from future events.

REGISTRATION

- 1 Artwork must be registered to be eligible to participate in the World Leather Debut.
- 2 Registration consists of completing and submitting the registration form(s), paying the related registration fee(s) and receiving approval of your registration.

3 REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration Forms can be obtained and submitted as follows:

- 1) Online: Go to <https://leathercraftersjournal.com/world-leather-debut/> and click on “*WLD Registration Form*”. Complete the form and click the “*Submit*” button at the bottom of form. After that, pay your registration fees online.
- 2) By mail. Contact the Leather Crafter’s Journal to request your registration packet. Once you receive the form, complete and mail it back to the Leather Crafter’s Journal with payment. Mail early!
- 3) By phone. Call the Leather Crafter’s Journal at 715-362-5393.

All relative sections of the registration form must be completed.

If having your artwork shipped back to you, you must complete the Return Shipping Address on the Registration Form.

4 REGISTRATION FEES

A) Entry Fee - An entry fee is required for each artwork entered as follows:

a1) Main Categories 1-14:

- Early Registration: Entries registered by Apr. 8, 2026. An entry fee of \$35.00 per entry applies.
- Final Registration: For those entries registered between April 9, 2026 and April 29, 2026. An entry fee of \$50.00 per entry applies.

b1) Youth Category - \$10.00 entry fee per entry.

B) Prepaid Return Shipping Deposit –Required if having your artwork shipped back to you AND a prepaid return shipping label will not be provided.

b1) The deposit amount is:

- \$50.00 for artwork returned to an address in the USA
- \$200.00 for artwork returned to an address outside the USA

b2) Any excess amount remaining after the artwork is shipped back will be refunded to the artist.

C) Repacking Fee – Required if having your artwork shipped back to you. The Repacking Fee is per container (not per artwork). The fee amount is:

- \$15.00 per container for artwork returned to an address in the USA
- \$25.00 per container for artwork returned to an address outside the USA

D) Stand Rental Fee – If renting a saddle or chap stand(s), the rental fee is \$10.00 per stand. Quantities are limited - First-come, first-served basis.

Note: Fees must be paid with the submission of the registration form(s).

Continued on next page...

REGISTRATION

5 REGISTRATION DEADLINES

5a) Early Registration: If registering early, registration forms and payment of fees must be received (digital, paper or phone registrations) at the office of the Leather Crafter's Journal by the early registration deadline of midnight, CST, Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

5b) Final Registration: All other registration forms and payment of fees must be received (digital, paper or phone registrations) at the office of the Leather Crafter's Journal by the final registration deadline of midnight, CST, Wednesday, April 29, 2026 to be eligible to enter the Debut. Registrations received after this date and time are not allowed to compete in the Debut.

6 REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Once your registration form(s) and payment are approved by the Leather Crafter's Journal, a Registration Confirmation will be emailed to the email address reflected on the registration form within 1-15 days after submission. If you do not receive your Registration Confirmation, please contact Brian Stelzel at info@leathercraftersjournal.com.

7 MISCELLANEOUS

7a) Payment of entry fees evidences contestant's agreement to all Rules and Regulations of the World Leather Debut.

7b) Enter as many items and/or categories as you wish in the Main Categories 1-15.

7c) Limit one item per Youth contestant.

7d) Parent or guardian of Youth contestant must sign the registration form.

MAKERS DIRECTORY

1 The Makers Directory is a pamphlet that lists each contestant's name by category to help promote the Maker. There is no cost to the contestant for this listing. The Makers Directory is free for the public to take at will at the World Leather Debut.

2 Contestant can choose to have their contact information (e.g. company name, address, telephone, e-mail and website) listed in the Makers Directory. This is optional and there is no additional cost to the contestant to have this information listed.

3 The Makers Directory is the property of the Leather Crafter's Journal. Reproduction of the Makers Directory is prohibited.

ABOUT MY WORK

About My Work is an optional write-up that contestants can display with their entry regarding any aspect(s) of their artwork that they want the judges or public to know. For example, your entry might have a particular aspect in design or construction that you want to explain to avoid any misunderstanding on the judge's part. Or perhaps you would like to share a particular challenge(s) you faced in creating your entry and how you overcame it.

The write-up needs to display the contestants name at the top of the page, needs to be typed on either a 5.50" X 8.50" or 8.50" X 11.00" size paper and enclosed in a clear plastic sleeve or laminated. Include your write-up with your artwork when you deliver it to the World Leather Debut.

ARTWORK ARRIVAL

HAND DELIVERY

Hand-delivered entries will be accepted and checked-in at the Sheridan College - Thorne-Rider Campus Center between 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. MST on Thursday May 14, 2026.

SHIPPED

Entries shipped are to arrive at the Sheridan College between Monday, April 27, 2026 and 5:30 p.m. MST on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

IF SHIPPING, SEND YOUR ENTRY(S) TO:

Sheridan College
Attn: Debi Kaul - World Leather Debut
1 Whitney Way
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801 USA
Tel: 307-675-0514

Exceptions to the above are possible and must be pre-approved by the Leather Crafter's Journal.

To ensure safe arrival of your entry, use new and sturdy shipping containers.

ARTWORK DEPARTURE

1 PICKING UP ENTRY

If picking up your entry, please do so between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2026. Entries not picked up by 2:00 p.m. on the 17th are subject to a \$20.00 handling fee in addition to repacking and return shipping fees.

2 RETURN SHIPPING ENTRY

Return Shipping Method - The following methods of shipping are available to have your item return shipped to you: UPS-Ground, Fed Ex-Air, Fed Ex-Ground, US Postal Service - Priority Mail.

3 Return Shipping Container - To aid in the safe return of entries to be return shipped, please carry out the following:

- One container/package per artist. Artwork from multiple artists cannot be combined into one package. If one artist has multiple entries, that artist's artwork can be combined into one package.
- Include return shipping Name and Address information with entries.
- "Invest in the box". Use new and extra sturdy shipping containers. Entries will be returned in the same containers they were received in.
- Use adequate packing material inside of container to protect your artwork during shipping. This same material (type and amount) will be used to return ship your item to you. Please NO Packing Peanuts.
- Items that arrive damaged and/or poorly packaged may be returned unopened!

4 Return Shipping Costs - If your entry(s) is to be shipped back to you, payment of return shipping funds must be prearranged by one of the following:

- Include a prepaid return shipping label with entry.
- Prepaid Return Shipping Deposit. Required if having your artwork shipped back to you AND a prepaid return shipping label will not be provided.
- The deposit amount is:
 - \$50.00 for artwork returned to an address in the USA
 - \$200.00 for artwork returned to an address outside the USA
- Any excess amount remaining after the artwork is shipped back will be refunded to the artist.
- Entries without adequate return shipping funds will not be return shipped until adequate return shipping funds are received by the Journal.

5 Return Shipping Repacking Fee - Required if having your artwork shipped back to you. The Repacking Fee is per container (not per artwork). The fee amount is:

- \$15.00 per container for artwork returned to an address in the USA
- \$25.00 per container for artwork returned to an address outside the USA

6 Return Shipping of artwork is a process that requires care and attention to details. It is oftentimes very involved and time consuming to ensure that the artist's artwork is returned properly and to the correct address, particularly for artwork that is shipped outside of the USA. Return shipping of artwork may take up to four weeks before it is shipped, all dependent upon communication and verification with the artist and the overall number of artworks to be shipped.

REGISTRATION & ARRIVAL CHECK LIST

- Be sure to register by the Final Deadline of Wednesday, April 29, 2026.
-or-
- Register Early by April 8, 2026 and SAVE \$15.00 on your entry fee.
- Complete your Registration Form(s) (online, paper form or via telephone).
- Answer all questions on the registration form.
- Sign the registration form (paper form only).
- Submit your registration form.
- Pay your Registration Fees.
- Receive Registration Confirmation via email from Leather Crafter's Journal.
- Ship your artwork – If shipping your artwork, it must arrive at the Sheridan College by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026. Ship on time!
- Hand-Delivery – If delivering your artwork by hand, it will be accepted and checked-in between 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

See the Registration Section on page 3 for all registration details.

WORLD LEATHER DEBUT CATEGORIES

1 BRAIDED ITEMS - LEATHER

2 BRAIDED ITEMS - RAWHIDE

3 CHAPS & CHINKS

4 COWBOYBOOTS

5 HOLSTERS - TOOLED

6 HOLSTERS - UN-TOOLED

7 PERSONAL ITEMS - TOOLED

8 PICTURES

9 PURSES, BAGS AND WALLETS

10 SADDLES - CARVED

11 SADDLES - GEOMETRIC &
BASKET STAMPED

12 STAND ALONE - TOOLED

13 TACK & SADDLE
ACCOUTERMENTS

14 UN-TOOLED ITEMS

15 YOUTH - JUNIOR (AGE 8-13)

16 YOUTH - SENIOR (AGE 14-18)

Category details on next page...

CATEGORIES DETAILS

1 BRAIDED ITEMS - LEATHER:

Any braided item which consists predominantly of leather braid. Specify if you cut, beveled and split your own string on the Registration Form. Components not braided (e.g. poppers, hobble rings, mecates, etc.) can be made by someone other than the contestant. However, all braiding must be done only by the contestant. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, String Formation & Uniformity, Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

2 BRAIDED ITEMS - RAWHIDE:

Any braided item which consists predominately of rawhide braid. Specify if you made your own rawhide and cut, beveled and split your own string on the Registration Form. Components not braided (e.g. poppers, hobble rings, mecates, etc.) can be made by someone other than the contestant. However, all braiding must be done only by the contestant. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, String Formation & Uniformity, Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

3 CHAPS & CHINKS:

All custom-made chaps or chinks such as batwing, shotgun, show chaps, chap-bat and reining, etc. Stands available to rent. See registration form. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Carving/Stamping (If Applicable), Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

4 COWBOY BOOTS:

All custom-made leather cowboy boots. A pair of boots must be entered. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Symmetry, Finish, Bonus Points.*

5 HOLSTERS - TOOLED:

All custom-made, fully or partially tooled holsters or rigs. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Fit & Function, Carving/Stamping, Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

6 HOLSTERS - UN-TOOLED:

All custom-made holsters or rigs whose surface is not carved/tooled (including swivel knife work) or stamped. Tools used only for molding purposes are allowed. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Fit & Function, Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

7 PERSONAL ITEMS - TOOLED:

Sheaths, book covers, albums, notebooks, portfolios, cases (including brief cases and attaché cases), canteens, cuffs, belts, or other items worn on or carried by a person excluding purses, bags and wallets. The surface of these items is partially or fully tooled – either carved (floral, figure, pictorial, etc.), stamped (basket or geometric) or both. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Carving/Stamping, Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

8 PICTURES:

Figure carving, pictorial carving, floral carving, embossing, etc. (or combinations of such) that are in “picture” form. Framed or unframed. If frame is made of or covered with leather, it will be judged as part of the picture. Can be designed to hang or stand. *Judging Criteria: Design, Craftsmanship, Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

9 PURSES, BAGS & WALLETS:

Purses, bags, backpacks and wallets (not including brief cases and attaché cases). The surface of these items are partially or fully tooled – either carved (floral, figure, pictorial, etc.), stamped (basket or geometric) or both. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Carving/Stamping, Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

10 SADDLES - CARVED:

Saddle is to be partially or fully carved. Seat is to be 13” or larger. Saddles predominantly carved but containing a lesser amount of basket or geometric stamping will be placed in the Saddles-Carved category. Stamping will not add to score but can detract if substandard in quality. Bring

CATEGORIES DETAILS

a tall stand if your saddle has “taps”. Regular size stands available to rent (See registration form).

Judging Criteria: Design, Balance/Symmetry, Construction, Functionality, Carving and Finish, Bonus Points.

11 SADDLES - GEOMETRIC OR BASKET STAMPED:

Saddle is to be partially or fully basket or geometric stamped. Seat is to be 13” or larger.

Saddles predominantly stamped but containing a lesser amount of carving will be placed in the Saddles-Geometric or Basket Stamped category. Carving will not add to score but can detract if substandard in quality. Bring a tall stand if your saddle has “taps”. Regular Size stands available to rent. See registration form. *Judging Criteria: Design, Balance/Symmetry, Construction, Functionality, Stamping and Finish, Bonus Points.*

12 STAND ALONE - TOOLED:

Objects such as leather sculptures, clocks, boxes, storage cases, mirrors, holders, decorative items, animals and other such things that “stand alone” and don’t move or tend to be moved.

Items as such designed to hang on a wall are included in this category. The surface of these items is partially or fully tooled – either carved (floral, figure, pictorial, etc.), stamped (basket or geometric) or both. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Carving/Stamping, Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

13 TACK & SADDLE ACCOUTERMENTS:

Any leather riding or driving equipment related to the horse or the saddle (but not part of saddle), (e.g. reins, bridles, headstalls, halters, breast collars, tapaderos, pommel bags, saddle holsters, rifle scabbards, saddlebags, spur straps, etc.) (Braided items not included). *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Carving/Stamping (If Applicable), Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

14 UN-TOOLED ITEMS:

Objects that would normally be classified in the Personal Items, Stand Alone or Purses, Bags & Wallets categories but whose surface is not carved/tooled (including swivel knife work) or stamped. Tools used only for molding purposes are allowed (which includes modeling tools).

Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.

15 YOUTH - JUNIOR DIVISION: AGES 8 TO 13

Only items matching description of Categories #1 through #15 are eligible to compete in the Youth category. Age is as of May 15, 2026. Entries in each division will be judged together (e.g. chaps, picture, and purse will compete against each other). All Rules and Regulations of the Debut apply to the Youth Category. Note: Youth are also eligible to participate in Main Categories 1 through 15 if interested. *Judging Criteria: Design, Construction, Carving/Stamping (If Applicable), Color & Finish & Accents, Bonus Points.*

16 YOUTH - SENIOR DIVISION: AGES 14 TO 18

Regulations in Category #16 apply.

Entries must be suitable for display in a gallery setting for all ages to view. For example, items can be disqualified for vulgarity, profanity and sexually explicit content. All questionable entries are subject to approval by an independent, undisclosed panel of artists. If concerned, submit photos of your entry for prior review by the artist panel. Judges reserve the right to disqualify an entry or move an entry to a more appropriate category. Thank you!

JUDGING

- 1 Judging of artwork takes place on Thursday evening, May 14, 2026 and Friday morning, May 15, 2026.
- 2 All entries will be judged for determination of First, Second and Third placement in each category.
- 3 Ribbons will be placed on winning entries as judging and scoring for each category is completed.
- 4 Judges and the Leather Crafter's Journal reserve the right to:
Move an entry into a more appropriate category.
Make exceptions for minor variances.
Disqualify an entry, all without contestant approval.
- 5 Judging of each category is done by two judges (barring unforeseen circumstances). All decisions of the judges are final. Each judge scores each entry based on the criteria reflected in each category description.
- 6 Each criterion is scored on the points basis, 1 being the lowest and 10 or 15 (dependent upon the category) the highest. As a judge evaluates an entry, he/she records each criterion's score on the judge's score sheet and then tallies them for that entry's total score. Each judge's score is then combined with their associate judge's score. The combined scores within a category are then compared to determine First, Second and Third placement.
- 7 Judges record their comments on the score sheets regarding the entry and the contestant's work. These comments are meant to provide the contestant constructive feedback as to what they are doing well and what can be improved, both in an effort to aid in the furtherance of their leatherworking skills. Copies of the score sheets are available for the contestants to pick up at the show or they will be returned with the artwork.
- 8 Consideration of individuals to serve as judges is based on their experience, knowledge, quality of work, recommendation by their peers in the leather community and availability. They make every effort to judge in an equitable manner according to general standards of the industry coupled with their own perspective of proper leatherwork. We appreciate the time they volunteer and the effort and personal concern each judge invests to fulfill, to the best of their abilities, the responsibility asked of them.



JUDGING

WORLD LEATHER DEBUT JUDGES

CATEGORY	JUDGES	
Braided Items – Leather	Nick Carter	TBD
Braided Items – Rawhide	TBD	Nate Wald
Chaps & Chinks	Bob Klenda	Nancy Martiny
Cowboy Boots	TBD	Julia Schwarz
Holsters – Tooled	Chris Andre	Karla Van Horne
Holsters - Un-Tooled	Erik Little	Cliff Powers
Personal Items – Tooled	Barry King	Jim Linnell
Pictures	Tony Laier	Annie Libertini
Purses, Bags & Wallets	Ryan King	Takeshi Yonazawa
Saddles – Carved	TBD	TBD
Saddles - Geometric & Basket Stamped	Fritz Reidl	TBD
Stand Alone – Tooled	Sheryl Katzke	Aaron Heizer
Tack & Saddle Accouterments	Mark Barkus	Jesse Smith
Un-Tooled Items	Kathy Flanagan	Jürgen Vollbach
Youth - Junior Division	Tom Katzke	Denise Linnell
Youth - Senior Division	TBD	Kay Orton

Note: Judges are subject to change

TBD: To Be Determined - Be sure to visit the World Leather Debut website for updates to the judges of this year's Debut at:

www.leathercraftersjournal.com/world-leather-debut/



WORLD LEATHER DEBUT & ROCKY MOUNTAIN LEATHER TRADE SHOW MAP

**THORNE-RIDER
CAMPUS CENTER**

**WHITNEY CENTER
FOR THE ARTS**

**EDWARD A. WHITNEY
ACADEMIC CENTER**



CORTEEN AVENUE (US HIGHWAY 87)

PAINTED WALKWAY



-  **WORLD LEATHER DEBUT**
Entrance & Cafeteria
-  Trade Show & Workshops Entrance
-  Parking

