

Categories and Rules for the 2016 BMC Specimen Competition

The November BMC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1 November. For the 16th year in a row, it will once again feature our annual BMC Specimen Competition. Registration forms for specimens and displays can be downloaded from the BMC website at

http://www.bostonmineralclub.org/other_events/mineral_competition.

Please download and print the appropriate forms and bring them with you to the competition. It will save you a lot of time on the night of the competition!

2016 Competition Categories

The individual specimen competition categories for 2016 are listed below.

A) **Thirteen Self-Collected Categories for Individual Specimens:**

1. Connecticut or RI
2. Maine
3. Massachusetts
4. New Hampshire
5. Vermont or New York
6. Outside New England and New York
7. New Collector (<5 years of collecting experience)
8. Previous year (Nov. 2015 thru the present)
9. 2016 BMC Field Trip
10. Fossil (any locality)
11. Young Collector (16 years old or younger)
12. Thumbnail specimen (any specimen that fits inside a 1” perky box – can be any mineral species or locality)
13. Self-Collected Best of Show (1st & 2nd Place)

B) **Five Open Competition Categories for Individual Specimens:**

1. New England (VT, NH, ME, MA, CT, and RI)
2. Outside New England
3. Thumbnail Specimen (any mineral species or locality)
4. Featured Mineral Species: Fluorite
5. Featured Group: Hexagonal Minerals

C) **One Lapidary Category: Self-Created Lapidary.**

This must be original, self-made work that can include faceted, carved or polished stones; stones incorporated into an object; self-made jewelry using stones plus silver, gold, or other metals or alloys. Note that due to room size constraints very large pieces with one dimension greater than 12” cannot be entered. Entries can include single items or collections of up to 4 items of the same type (e.g.: 4 cabochons of different shapes & materials, 4 faceted gems, a wire-wrapped necklace & earring set).

Rules for Each Competition Category

Basic Rules for Individual Specimen Categories:

Note: This is a competition for individual specimens, not groups of specimens.

- a) All Specimens must be accompanied by a label indicating mineral species, specific locality and approximate collection date (if self-collected). You may also include your name on the label but are not required to.
- b) For all self-collected categories, each specimen submitted must have been personally collected by the BMC member submitting it.
- c) For the open competition categories, the specimen can be self-collected, purchased, gifted or bartered for.
- d) Members may submit up to 2 specimens in each category (but most people just submit one specimen per category).
- e) Judging will be done by everyone present using ballots supplied at the meeting.
- f) There will be only one winner in each category except the self-collected best of show (1st and 2nd place awards).
- g) Only self-collected specimens are eligible for the “Best-of-Show” awards.
- h) A single specimen cannot be entered in more than one category.
- i) Winning specimens will be recorded and will be ineligible for entry in future specimen contests (but may be combined with other specimens in a display in future years)
- j) Other than the 2016 BMC field trip and the previous year categories, there is no date restriction on self-collected specimens.

C) Specimen Display Competition

The third basic competition is for displays of 10 or more mineral or fossil specimens organized around a single theme of the exhibitor's choosing (1st and 2nd place awards will be made in this category). The specimens can be self-collected, purchased, gifted or bartered for.

Basic Rules for the Display Competition:

- a) Since the space for displays is limited, each display should be no bigger than 36” x 24”.
- b) Each BMC member entering a display must provide his/her own display case or a display board (fancy cases are not needed – a 30” x 20” piece of black foam core makes an excellent display board).
- c) Each specimen must be accompanied by a label indicating species & locality
- d) The BMC member entering a display is free to choose his or her own theme (for example; a specific mineral species, locality, region, environment, or mineralogical property).
- e) Judging will be done by everyone present using ballots supplied at the meeting. To encourage good labeling and thoughtful arrangement of specimens, judging is based on a point system that awards up to 35 points for specimen quality, up to 5 points for labeling, and up to 10 points for presentation.

If you have any questions about the rules or competition categories please contact Nathan Martin (rocknate@gmail.com).