

How to Be a Great Audience Member

Attending our bi-monthly meetings, whether for a presentation or listening to judges' comments at a competition, is an important part of increasing your knowledge. The presenters and judges are our guests and they are here to share their knowledge and critique our entries. For some members it may be their first experience in such a setting; they may not know what is expected of them in terms of audience conduct and etiquette. This page provides a set of basic guidelines for all members for upcoming meetings and presentations.

- The success of a presentation depends in large part on the audience members – YOU! Being a great audience requires respect for the presenter, the judge, fellow club members, other participants, and yourself. Creating a supportive and focused atmosphere promotes the best experience for everyone involved. Remember, everything you do and say has an effect on the presenter as well as those around you. Plus, the presenter can hear you and see you.
- When the speaker or judge is introduced, and the program begins, please stop talking. If it is necessary to have a conversation, please invite the person you are speaking with to leave the room and continue your conversation outside.
- Please avoid any activities that will distract from the presentation. Avoid talking, whispering and especially eating during the presentation. In addition, please turn off all cell phones. It is rude to send text messages or talk on your phone during a presentation. Again, if it is important, leave the room and continue outside.
- During a presentation or competition, you may see or hear something you like, dislike, or disagree with. Unless asked by the presenter, please avoid making any comments at that time and discuss it with other members after the presentation. Do not approach a judge or presenter with your personal opinion, point of view, or correct them. Besides being inappropriate, it can be considered rude. Keep in mind that each judge has their own expertise and point of view, so don't take it personally.
- Above all, we want you to enjoy yourself. Please feel free to applaud at the end of the presentation to show your appreciation.

Members can contact the Judging Committee with any concerns, requests, or to volunteer on the committee.