

In order to fit on our stands the tank can be no more than 12" high and 12" from front to back. If you want to bring a larger aquarium, you must bring your own stand. We only supply air and electricity. You need to supply your own lights, filters etc. and an extension cord if you need to plug anything in.

Aquascapes are not eligible for Best of Show or Reserve of Show. Fish or invertebrates in the Aquascape will not be judged in the fish or invertebrate classes. Artificial plants are not allowed in the aquascape. You must include at least 1 living animal in the aquascape. Please see the section on animals for the judging criteria.

Please forward these guidelines to anyone who might be interested in participating

There are five basic criteria which we wish considered in the judging of the aquascapes entered in the contest.

They are:

Overall Impression (between 0 - 30 points)

Composition, Balance, Use of Space, Use of Color (between 0 - 25 points)

Selection & Use of Materials (between 0 - 15 points)

Animals in the aquascape (between 0-15 points)

Viability of Aquascape (between 0 - 15 points)

To clarify and expand upon the basic criteria, these are some of the things we ask each judge to consider when reviewing each aquascape:

- ❖ Overall Impression - maximum 35 points
 - Does the aquascape make a significant positive visual impression upon the viewer?
 - Do all parts of the aquascape work together to present a harmonious whole?
- ❖ Composition, Balance, Use of Space, Use of Color - maximum 30 points
 - Is the aquascape laid out well?
 - Does balance exist between the various components of the aquascape? Is space within the aquarium used effectively? Do open areas exist and balance and complement more enclosed spaces?
 - Are the colors of the various elements of the aquascape complementary and do they work well together?
- ❖ Selection & Use of Materials - maximum 20 points
 - Are the materials selected for use within the aquascape appropriate for use in an aquarium?
 - Are the various materials harmonious with one another? I.e. if several rocks and/or pieces of driftwood are used, do they complement one another or do they produce a discordant effect?
- ❖ Animals in the Aquascape
 - There must be animals (fish and/or inverts and/or amphibians) in the tank
 - Are the animals appropriate to the size of the tank?
 - Will they harm the plants?
 - Are they healthy and acting appropriately?
 - With schooling fish, are there enough fish that they feel comfortable?
- ❖ Viability of Aquascape - maximum 15 points
 - Is the aquascape set up in a manner which, with proper maintenance, is likely to lead to long term success of the aquarium? (hardware such as filters and heaters will not be judged, and may be removed at the entrant's discretion for the length of the show)
 - Are the plants selected for the aquascape appropriate for long term use in an aquarium?
 - Are the plants of a size appropriate to the aquarium, and placed appropriately in the tank for their growth pattern?
 - Is it possible to work around hardscape to maintain the tank?