

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

2026 Welding Rodeo

Contest Rules & Guidelines



- Sculptures must incorporate designated sculpture theme with maximum dimensions of 5ft x 5ft x 5ft.
- Welding competition slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Safety Meeting

All contestants must attend a 30-minute pre-event safety meeting on the NWTC campus.

- Marinette – October 1, 2026, 7:00 a.m.
- Green Bay – October 13, 2026, 7:00 a.m.

Safety rules, competition rules, information (questions & answers) session and campus orientation will occur at this meeting. Teams will also be assigned their booth locations and select scrap materials at this time.

All contestants must sign a liability waiver prior to participation in the Welding Rodeo. This will also be done at the pre-event safety meeting. Contestants who are not in attendance will not be allowed to participate in the Rodeo until a signed waiver has been received by NWTC.

Safety Rules

1. All contestants must always follow proper shop safety procedures while participating in welding or cutting operations, as well as when in the welding shop area during Welding Rodeo.
2. Only registered team members or authorized NWTC personnel are approved to enter the fabrication booth during the fabrication period.
3. Safety glasses are required at all times during the competition.
4. Proper PPE (boots, leather gloves and sleeves, cotton clothing, long sleeves, Carhartt's, ear plugs, etc.) must be worn by all participants. Do not wear synthetic clothing, wear cotton or wool blends only.
5. All personal gear, clothing, tools, and equipment must be in good, safe working condition.
6. Face shields and ear plugs must be worn for grinding. Guards on grinders are recommended.
7. Welding hoods with proper shade lenses must be worn while welding.
8. Shade 5 or 6 cutting goggles must be worn for cutting.
9. Handle all compressed gas bottles with extreme care. Do not overpressure Acetylene (10 psi or less). Bottles must remain chained to cart at all times. Do not weld grind or cut on or near any compressed gas bottles.
10. Do not weld on containers that have held gasoline or petroleum products.
11. Don't leave welding electrode in holder when not welding.
12. Give a warning to fellow workers or onlookers when you are about to strike an arc or grind.
13. Use equipment only for its intended use.
14. Always use proper lifting techniques. Lift with your legs, not your back. Know your safe lifting limits. Ask for help when lifting heavy objects. Beware of pinch points and potential smashing hazards. Use leverage whenever possible.

15. Don't take chances on safety; use common sense and awareness. Please take care when working around spectators, they may not be as knowledgeable as you about safety in the trade.
16. Judging criteria will be agreed upon prior to the contests and will be published along with specifications for each contest. These specifications will be available to all participants before the start of the Welding Rodeo.

Tools and Equipment

1. Contestants will be provided the following items in their 20'x20' Welding Booth:
 - a. Steel workbench
 - b. 20 volt, 20 A receptacle to operate hand tools
 - c. Oxy/Acetylene fuel cutting outfit
 - d. Oxygen and Acetylene with regulators and gas hoses
 - e. 350 amp DC MIG/flux core & stick welder
 - f. Argon, CO₂ shielding gas, regulator, and gas hose
 - g. Carbon steel solid and flux-cored filler metals
 - h. Plasma cutter with consumables (3/8" cut capabilities)
 - i. Compressed air supplied for plasma cutter
 - j. **Note: NO TIG OR ALUMINUM WELDING will be allowed**
 - k. **Note:** Plasma cutters will be available in a community space for all teams to use and will not be in individual booths
2. Individuals or their teams are responsible for supplying their own hand tools, lifting tools, grinders (electric only, no air will be provided), or other tools or equipment.
3. All tools and equipment, as well as all fabricating and storage of materials and personal gear, must occur within your allotted 20' x 20' area.
4. No outside scrap metal, other than that provided from the designated scrap area by NWTC will be allowed into the contest or used for any sculptures by any participants.
5. Embellishments such as glass, plastic, paint, lights, etc. will be allowed to enhance the sculpture
6. No participant from a team. may assist or in any way obstruct or interfere with another participant or team. prior to or during the performance of the contest. Such actions will be grounds for disqualification. Disputes or questions will be addressed by the contest organizers.
7. The contest itinerary will be strictly adhered to. Contestants are required to take a half-hour lunch break. Lunch will be provided free of charge for all participants at noon (sounded by an air horn).
8. Set-up for your booths can begin at 6:30 a.m. Do not arrive before this. You will be able to drive directly to your booth for unloading at this time. All vehicles must be removed from the fabricating area (to outside the designated parking area by 7:45 a.m. Late arrivals will have to unload tools from outside the taped fabrication area and carry them to your assigned booth.
9. Scrap metal selection begins at 7:30 a.m. with the welding competition beginning promptly at 8:00 a.m. No entry into the scrap pile or fabrication of any kind will be allowed prior to this time. (Hint: you may want to bring a cart, wheelbarrow, etc. to transport scrap to your booth. NWTC will not provide any assistance in hauling scrap metal from scrap pile to your booth.
10. Judging will commence at 4:30 p.m. All booths must be cleaned of tools, equipment, materials, and swept before each team. leaves at the end of the contest. Clean-up will begin at 4:00 p.m. or when the team. has completed their sculpture. You will be allowed to bring your vehicles close to (but not into) the fabricating area for loading. Please have your booths completely cleaned by 4:30 p.m.
11. Volunteer judges for each contest will include NWTC welding instructors, local artists, and industry professionals from the Northeast Wisconsin area. Judges will be chosen based on their

expertise in their field and will act in the best interest of fairness and impartiality. Our esteemed panel of judges represent years of experience as skilled craftsmen, established exhibiting artists, and college instructors. They will use the provided judging criteria to select the winning sculptures, ensuring excellence, fairness, and impartiality. The judges' decisions will be final in awarding contest winners. In the event of a tie, judges may consult with the rodeo organizers for the final decision. Some criteria may be subjective, and we will depend on the many years of experience in the metal trades for our judges' expert opinions.

Sculpture Auction

1. An auction will be held at the end of the event. Sculptures will be moved from the teams booth to the auction area by NWTC Faculty prior to the auction at 5:00 p.m.
2. Payments must be made at the time of the auction.
3. Anyone may bid on sculptures.
4. It is the responsibility of all winning bidders to remove sculptures from NWTC property by appointment by contacting Michelle Rutues, NWTC Event Coordinator, at michelle.rutues@nwtc.edu or 920-272-9459.
5. We ask for all sculptures to remain on the NWTC campus for one week following the event. All sculptures must be moved at the owner's expense. Any sculpture not picked up after one week following the event or arrangements made in writing to the Event Coordinator will become property of NWTC Rodeo Foundation. NWTC may assist with loading sculptures from the NWTC campus onto owner's vehicle at NWTC's discretion and based on time and availability. Liability, maintenance, installation and removal and all associated costs will be according to campus policy.
6. NWTC reserves the right to use photographs of sculptures and contestants for publicity purposes. The intent of the NWTC Welding Rodeo sculpture competition is to showcase artist/craftsmen's skills before their peers and the local community. Bear in mind, there will be representatives of industry, the art community, and the public at large in attendance, and it is our own best interest to maintain a high professional demeanor, and to promote the highest level of our accomplished and practiced skill. We do, at the same time, want to have a fun and richly rewarding experience for all.

So, saddle up, lasso your creativity, and join the Welding Rodeo Fun!