



Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

P.O. Box 380699

East Hartford, Connecticut 06138

SZOPKA COMPETITION RULES

1. Szopka must be portable, lightweight, and stable. It must be constructed so NOTHING FALLS OFF or BREAKS.
2. Szopka must have AT LEAST TWO LEVELS. It may have more, if you want. Traditionally, the lower level was a stage for a puppet show with figures of King Herod and the Three Kings. You can do that, or fill it with scenes of people celebrating Christmas, shepherds, angels, contemporary people, characters, or anyone coming to adore the Christ Child. The upper level is for the nativity scene -- Jesus, Mary and Joseph. These may be handmade, cut out of cards or magazines, or be store-bought.
3. Szopka must have AT LEAST TWO TOWERS. They can be topped with flags, eagles, or stars. Other decorations can include balconies, clocks, round or onion-shaped domes, windows, steeples, bells, birds, or crowns. Although the Szopka uses church architecture as a model, do not top your steeples or towers with crosses; the newborn Christ Child has not yet been crucified.
4. As much as possible should be made by hand. Found objects (such as shoe boxes, milk cartons, paper towel rolls, plastic bottles) can also be used as parts. One of the ideas of the Szopka is to re-use old materials in new, clever ways.

Decorations can include aluminum foil, sequins, holiday wrapping paper, pipe cleaners, glitter, fabric trim, beads, old Christmas ornaments, tinsel, and dried macaroni. You may add electric lights, but they are not necessary.

5. Participants should attach the following Competition Application to the Szopka, when it is submitted for judging.
6. **All Szopki must be delivered to the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT (telephone: 860.247.1784) between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.**
7. Judging will take place on that Saturday. Prizes will be awarded the next day, Sunday, at 2:30 p.m. at the SZOPKA FESTIVAL held in the Chopin Ball Room, 2nd floor of the Polish National Home. Awards are as follows: First Prize - \$100; Second Prize - \$50; Third Prize - \$35; and Honorable Mention - \$20.
8. All Szopki must be removed after the conclusion of the Festival, on the day of the Festival. The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to persons or property during the contest.

For help or information, call MAREK CZARNECKI at 203.238.7553,
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An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture