



ICE
ALASKA

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The World Ice Art Championships are an international ice sculpture competition held annually in Fairbanks Alaska and sponsored by Ice Alaska, a non-profit corporation formed in 1990. An annual event has been held in Fairbanks, Alaska each March since 1988, when the tradition of ice sculpture, a feature of the Fairbanks Winter Carnival celebrations held during the 1930's, was revived. Since 1988, there has been participation by sculptors from more than thirty countries, including France, Russia, China, Sweden, Morocco, Malaysia, England, Australia, Japan, Mexico, and Finland. Typically there are about 100 sculptors participating in the event.

In 2006, more than 48,000 spectators, representing 49 states and 27 countries of the world, passed through the gates of the Ice Park home of the World Ice Art Championships. Spectators may view the sculptors at work on their sculptures from 10 AM to 10 PM from the first day of the competition, February 27 until the park closes, March 25th. The park also features the Flint Hills Resources Kids Park, with interactive ice sculptures such as slides and mazes for entertainment for the whole family. In all there are more than 100 larger-than life sculptures to view at the park.

The 2007 World Ice Art Championships will begin with the ConocoPhillips Single Block Classic competition on February 27 – March 1, with the Carhartt Sculptors' Awards Ceremony on March 2nd, followed by the British Petroleum Multi-Block Classic competition on March 4-9. The Carhartt Sculptors' Awards ceremony for this event will take place on March 10 at 8 PM. In the ConocoPhillips Single Block Classic, teams of up to two persons work on a 3 x 5 x 8-foot block of naturally formed Alaskan ice, weighing roughly 7,800 lbs. In the British Petroleum Multi-Block Classic, teams of up to four persons each receive ten blocks of approximately 6' x 4' x 3' foot each weighing about 4,400 lbs. to create their crystal masterpieces. Teams that compete in both the ConocoPhillips Single Block and British Petroleum Multi-Block events must handle a total of 50,000 lb. of ice. Power tools and scaffolding can be used in both events: assistance from heavy equipment is only permitted in the British Petroleum Multi-Block Competition. Thus, participation in the event requires exceptional strength, endurance, and engineering skill as well as mastery of basic ice sculpture techniques and artistic vision. In 2004 there were 40 entries in the ConocoPhillips Single Block category and 15 entries in the British Petroleum Multi-Block category.

The Sam's Club Amateur Open Exhibition, February 28 – March 15, 2007, is open to anyone over 16 interested in trying ice sculpting. This exhibition is an opportunity for artists to try out some ideas on a block of ice without the stress of competition.

Fairbanks, Alaska Ice Capital of the World

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Contestants can register and sculpt on a flexible schedule.

Teams usually consist of one to two sculptors, but since it is an exhibition the only hard and fast rule is - safety first. Participants under 16 years of age must have parental permission and be accompanied by an adult while they are working.

Ten spaces are set aside for the Sam's Club Amateur Open. The finished sculptures are illuminated with colored lights for the public to view. Sam's Club Amateur Open teams are recognized at the Jr. Ice Art Championship Awards Ceremony on the Friday night after the sculpting time ends.

On March 13-15, the Second Annual Junior World Ice Art Championships will take place at Ice Park. Teams of up to two persons will sculpt blocks of ice of approximately 3' x 5' x 3', weighing approximately 2,800 lbs for two and a half days, with a final awards ceremony on March 16th at 8 PM.

In one year alone, Ice Alaska typically harvests over 4.1 million lb. of ice from O'Grady Pond, a man-made pond located close to the sculpting site. Fairbanks's exceptionally clear, thick ice has won the name "The Arctic Diamond" and is a favorite medium for ice sculptors. Ice has been shipped to nearby communities such as Anchorage and Nenana and as far away as Seattle, Washington; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Bahamas, and Israel.

In 1996, Fairbanks, Alaska was proclaimed by the state to be the Ice Capital of the World, and in 2000 the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly proclaimed Fairbanks to be the Ice Sculpting Capital of the World. Media coverage for the event has brought the World Ice Art Championships into the homes of millions of viewers through the Discovery Channel, Learning Channel, CNN Travel News, NBC, ABC's Mike and Maty Show and many other major media programs. It has been featured in newspapers across the country ranging from the New York Times to the Napa Valley Register (California). The event has been followed by press agents from around the United States as well as France, Japan, and Germany, and returning sculptors have received media coverage around the world.

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