



## 2016 Autumnfest 'Golden Ax' Wood Splitting Competition

Below are the rules governing the 2015 Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce Virginia 'Golden Ax' Wood Splitting Competition:

### Administrative:

- 1. Date/Time:** The competition will be held on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Shenandoah County Fairgrounds. Gates open at 12:00 p.m. The competition will begin at 1:30 p.m. Wood splitting contestants are required to check in with wood splitting officials at the Fairgrounds no later than 12:30 p.m. Please report to the designated competition area (look for the wood piles) to check in. Head referee is Jason Bushong.
- 2. Entry Fee:** Contestants will be required to pay a \$25 entry fee when submitting their registration application. This entry fee will also get them a free ticket to Autumnfest (\$10 value). No refunds available.
- 3. Age:** Contestants must be 21 years of age or older.
- 4. Equipment:** Contestants are required to bring their own ax/splitting maul. There are no restrictions to the size or weight of a contestant's ax/splitting maul.
- 5. Number of contestants:** The Golden Ax will allow a maximum number of 12 competitors. Contestants are required to submit their registration form and entry fee to the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce office **at least 30 days prior to the competition**. There are a limited number of spots for the competition; spots will be awarded on a first come first serve basis.
- 6. Prizes:** First Place: The winner of the competition will be awarded The Golden Ax trophy, as well as the wood split during the course of the competition. Second Place: The runner up will be awarded \$50.00. Third Place: The third place finisher will receive a 12-pack of Busch Beer.
- 7. Liability:** Contestants are required to sign a liability waiver upon registering for the competition.
- 8. Restrictions:** Contestants must not be under the influence of alcohol before or during the competition. Contestants in violation of this policy will be immediately disqualified from the competition and will not be refunded their registration fee.

**9. Inclement weather policy:** Shenandoah Autumnfest is a rain or shine event. In the event of inclement weather, the Log Splitting Competition may be moved inside. No refunds due to weather.

## **Competition Rules:**

**Overview:** The premise of the competition is to see which contestant can split a fixed amount of wood in the shortest amount of time. The sequence of the competition will depend on (1) the number of competitors and (2) the weather forecast (bitter cold weather will dictate fewer heats, and a shorter overall duration of the competition).



Ideally, the event will begin with two separate semi-final rounds. The winner of each semi-final round will advance to a head-to-head championship split-off. Seeds will be determined at random, based on numbers drawn at the wood draft (see below).

**Wood Size:** Logs to be split in the competition will be supplied by wood splitting officials. Wood pieces will be at least 16" in diameter and approximately 18" long/tall. Each competitor will be required to split five logs, each one quartered (into 4 separate pieces). When competitors register at 12:30 pm on the day of the competition, there will be a wood "draft." Competitors will draw numbers to determine their order in the draft, and then take turns picking their preferred pieces of wood. This process will ensure that no competitor will be assigned a superior/inferior allotment of wood. Competitors will have their wood pieces marked for identification at the draft.

**Chopping Stalls:** Immediately following the draft, competitors will be required to move their wood allotments into their chopping stalls, and assemble them for competition. Chopping stalls will be 18' across and 12' deep. Orange cones will delineate the stall boundaries. There will be a 6' buffer between stall boundaries. Competitors and/or ax/splitting mauls may not leave the stall boundaries during the competition. Violation of this rule will lead to immediate disqualification.

**Splitting Criteria:** Each log will have a solid blaze orange circle painted in the center of the log. The diameter of the circle will be 6". In order for the log to be officially quartered, it must have a segment of the blaze orange circle in at 4 fully split pieces. Competitors will indicate to the referee that all their wood has been quartered by raising both hands in the air, and shouting "DONE!" When all contestants of that round have finished their splitting, referees will verify that all wood was properly quartered. If it turns out that the wood was not properly quartered, that contestant will not be allowed to advance/win the competition.

**Recovery Time:** The two semi-final rounds will take place in quick succession. There will be a recovery period of 5 minutes between the last semi-final round and the beginning of the championship split-off. The duration of the entire competition will be approximately 20 minutes.

## 2016 Autumnfest 'Golden Ax' Wood Splitting Competition Registration

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver: I hereby acknowledge all inherent risks associated with wood splitting and wood splitting competitions and I hereby promise not to hold anyone but myself responsible if I get hurt.

Competitor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Competitor Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return this registration form, with entry fee, to Cheri Wright at the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce at:

P.O. Box 605  
103 South Main Street  
Woodstock, VA 22664

Make checks payable to **Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce**