

## **A Scoring Rubric? What's That?**

*Judy Corbus (FL), Awards Training Subcommittee*

You've submitted your application and now you're waiting for the results. How do the judges select the winning entries? The answer lies in those tables beginning on page 72 in the NEAFCS Awards Manual. Each award has its own Judging Sheet, which outlines the specific criteria against which the application will be evaluated and the total possible points to be awarded for each criterion. Scoring rubrics give clear-cut guidance to judges on key points to look for within an application and how much each item is weighted. This supports consistency in the judging and scoring process.



But scoring rubrics aren't just for the judges. Use the award's Judging Sheet as you prepare your application! Review each section to see what information needs to be included – this will guide your writing as you focus on key components to be addressed. You can use the rubric as a checklist to make sure you've included the required information in a way that is easy for the judges to identify. Pay attention, too, to the Possible Points column so you'll know what sections carry the most weight in the overall score.

Include the Judging Sheet with your application draft so your proofreader(s) can evaluate how well you've addressed the criteria. If it's clear to them, it most likely will be clear to the judges, too.

Knowing how your application will be evaluated is a powerful tool in preparing a well-written submission. Use those Judging Sheets to guide you in the writing process!