



Lambtown Festival 2026 Sheep to Shawl Competition

General Information and Rules

Shawl: The handwoven shawl must be a minimum of 19" wide and 72" long, excluding fringe.

Weaving guidelines: Design, color, and pattern are at the discretion of the team. The sett must be a minimum of 8 EPI and no more than 4 harnesses may be used.

- **Warp:** Prior to the competition, the loom may be warped and tied on; no header may be woven. Warp can be commercial or handspun, naturally colored or dyed, and must be at least 75% wool. Extra consideration will be given for handspun warp. All warp yarn must consist of a minimum of two plies.
- **Weft:** Teams will provide their own fleece; there is no breed requirement. Prior to the competition, fleece may be washed and/or dyed but no processing or picking is allowed. Teams may choose any fiber or blend of fibers as long as it is at least 75% wool. Weft fiber will be prepared for spinning during the contest by teasing, flicking, hand carding, hand combing, or using a drum carder. All weft yarn must consist of a minimum of two plies; weft yarn may not exceed twice the diameter of the warp yarn.

Tools: All tools must be manually operated, with the only exception made for electric spinners. Mechanical pickers are not allowed for fiber preparation.

Finishing: Shawl must be securely finished. Examples include fringe, knotting, or hem stitch. If competition time allows, the shawl may be wet finished with a light spritzing. Full immersion wet finishing and pinning/blocking are not allowed.

Divisions: As done since 2022, this year's competition will feature both Virtual and Fairgrounds teams, with the winner of each division going head-to-head for a Grand Champion Blue Ribbon! Individuals may not compete on more than one team in each division. Rules regarding each division are below. If necessary, Lambtown Festival will inform all teams of any changes as soon as possible.

Judging: Consideration will be given for spinning, weaving technique, pattern design, overall quality, handspun warp, and ability to complete the shawl on time. Virtual and Fairgrounds Divisions and the Grand Champion will be judged by Amelia Garripoli. The judge's decisions will be final, and each team will receive notes on the scoring sheet.

Prizes: Prize baskets will be awarded to second place in each division, as well as the teams with the best educational display and educational video, as decided by the judges. Prize baskets and \$100 will be awarded to each division winner. The Grand Champion will receive an additional \$100 prize.

Registration: Complete the registration form and payment at www.lambtown.org/sheep-to-shawl

Fairgrounds Division

Day and Time: The Festival Division competition will take place at the Dixon May Fairgrounds on Sunday, October 4th, from 10:00AM to 2:45PM, with judging to follow the completion of all shawls. Teams should be on-site by 9:30AM to set up.

Team composition: Teams will consist of not more than eight people as follows: 1 weaver, 4 spinners, 1 pleyer, 1 go'fer, and 1 Educational Liaison. Team members can exchange jobs with other team members as long as the totals for any position are not exceeded, i.e., no more than 4 spinners, 1 weaver, 1 pleyer, 1 go'fer, 1 Educational Liaison. All team members except the Educational Liaison may work on weft fiber prep. The Educational Liaison cannot work on the shawl; their job is to interact, communicate, demonstrate, and dispense information to the public.

Educational Display: Each team shall create a poster-size board demonstrating the design, construction, and creation of their shawl. Weaving samples and unprocessed fiber are encouraged. Share any information helpful for onlookers to understand the making of cloth in general, and your shawl in particular.

Time: Each team is allowed 4 hours of work and a 45-minute break for lunch. It is up to each team to decide when to break, but all team members must stop working during that period. There will be a break area in the barn for the teams to have lunch and cool off. Lambtown will provide signage for the team's workspace when they are on their lunch break.

Competition Fee: \$75 competition fee includes admission for each team member on Sunday, October 4. One vehicle per team will be allowed to enter the fairgrounds to deliver equipment to the Sheep to Shawl barn.

Virtual Division

Day and time: Teams can work independently to complete their shawls. Teams may begin work as soon as they have registered. Completed shawls must be received by the end of day on August 25th.

Team composition: Teams may consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of seven members and may compete remotely, in person, or a combination thereof. If working concurrently, no more than four team members may spin singles; only one person may ply or weave at a time, and only one drum carder may be used at a time.

Educational video: Each team will create a 5-10 minute video demonstrating the design, construction, and creation of their shawl. Videos must be uploaded by September 10th. These videos will be made available for viewing on the Lambtown Festival YouTube channel and will be premiered as part of the Virtual Division judging on September 20th.

Time: Each team must complete their shawl in a total of 28 hours of work. Example A: a team of seven people competes in person for four straight hours. Example B: a two-person team competes in four separate seven-hour sessions, with each person taking two sessions. It is up to each team to decide how they want to divide their hours both among their team members and the processes of creating a shawl. Creation of the educational video does not count against the team's 28 hours of work.

Tracking: Each team must track their work hours to ensure they stay within the total of 28 hours of work. This tracking shall be provided along with the submission of the completed shawl.

Transfer of work in process: Teams working remotely will need to transfer fiber or yarn between members. This will not count against the team's hours of work.

Preparation for judging: No additional work can be done on the shawl once time has elapsed before the shawl is to be submitted for judging – this includes any finishing techniques, fixing weaving errors or trimming ends. Close-up, still photos of the shawl should be taken immediately at the end of the team's 28 hours of work, including both sides of the weaving. The shawl should be postmarked the next business day; we encourage sending with tracking. A return address label should be included with the shawl. Shawls should be sent to:

Lambtown Festival Fiber Events
P.O. Box 103
Dixon, CA 95620

Competition Fee: \$75 competition fee includes return shipping after the festival. Shawls will be on display during festival weekend, October 3-4, 2026, and shipped the following week.