



2017 Easton Heritage Town Crier Competition and Performance July 8-9, 2017 Competition Topics and Guidelines

Cry Topics Assigned. (Cries are to be between one hundred (100) to one hundred twenty five (125) words on the following topics. Cries must be submitted via e-mail to David Rose, the host crier, the week prior to the competition: davidrose52@hotmail.com)

- **Saturday Morning Competitive Cry: Easton Farmers Market.** Cries will be performed as part of the Easton Farmers Market Birthday Celebration of its 265th Season. The Easton Farmers Market is the oldest continuously running open air Farmer's Market in the former colonies, having its first Farmers' Market shortly after Easton's founding in 1752. Cry to be about farmers markets and recognize the 265th birthday of the Easton Farmers Market. See: <http://eastonfarmersmarket.com>
- **Saturday Afternoon Competitive Cry: Easton's Industrial Workers.** The venue for this Cry will be the old Simon Silk Mill, a large industrial area that is currently be renovated for office, apartments, and yes, another Easton brewery. Easton has a long industrial history that started with the opening of the canals around 1830 that connected Easton with the cities of Philadelphia and New York and with the coal region of Pennsylvania. Iron works, such as the Glendon Iron Works, were located along the Lehigh River even before the Civil War. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, Easton, and the Lehigh Valley, was a center for the manufacture of silk, of which the Simon Silk Mill was one of the largest, hiring at one time, over 2,000 workers, many of them woman and/or immigrants. With so many industrial workers in the area, or as some would call them, the proletariat, there was also much labor unrest in the early twentieth century. Cry to celebrate the life of an industrial worker during the nineteenth century and could, for example, be either a call to organize a strike or a description of the opportunities that existed here in the Lehigh Valley. There are two museums in the Lehigh Valley dedicated to industrial history, the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem and the National Canal Museum in Easton.
 - http://articles.mcall.com/1998-08-13/news/3212969_1_lehigh-river-furnace-tons-of-pig-iron
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lehigh_Valley_Silk_Mills
- **Sunday Heritage Day Performance Cry: Declaring Independence.** This cry will be for performance and will not be judged. Cry will be in response to the proposition: "These colonies ought to be Free and Independent States". Cries in opposition are to end with "God Save the King", those in support are to close with "God preserve Congress and General Washington" (counts as one word). Be advised that agitators for independence will be in the crowd. Order of Cries will be determined by the Host Crier to insure alternating views.

Criteria for Judging Cries (Scoring Sheet attached) Total Possible Score: 100

- Attention Getting Device:
 - While most Criers use a bell, other devices can also be used. The scoring of this criteria is a combination of the sound of the device and deportment of the Crier while using it.
 - Possible Score: 10 points with deduction of 2 points for forgetting device on stage.
- Deportment:
 - As a representative of their municipality or organization, Criers are to fulfill the role of Town Crier with strong confidence, clear movement, and memorable overall image. Judging begins when Crier is introduced and ends with departure from stage.
 - Possible Score: 15 points
- Sustained Volume:
 - While the three “Oyez’s” may be louder than the body of the cry, Crier should be able to maintain volume throughout the cry. The louder the better.
 - Possible Score: 20
- Clarity:
 - Clear enunciation and well placed phrasing. Clarity must be maintained throughout Cry.
 - Possible Score: 25 with deductions of 2 points each time voice cracks.
- Call Content:
 - Cry should adhere to required subject. Effective use of appropriate language with message. Overall literary effectiveness. Use of oratorical techniques to arouse listener’s interest in message such as rhyme or alliteration.
 - Possible Score: 30 with deduction of one point for each departure from submitted cry.
- Content Adherence
 - Cry must be performed as written. Criers reading Royal Proclamations could not deviate from the Kings missive.
 - Possible Deductions: Up to 10 (1 for each error)
- Length of Cry
 - To be from one hundred (100) to one hundred twenty five (125) words.
 - Possible Deductions: Up to 10 One-point deduction for each word over or under limits to a maximum of 10 points. This deduction will be established prior to competition by the Host Crier and based on Cry submitted.

Format of Competition

- Order of Criers
 - Friday Evening: Names of Criers will be randomly drawn and matched with a number randomly drawn indicating order of Crier.
 - Saturday afternoon: Deck split.
- Judges, Scorers and Advisors
 - There will be four Competition Judges, a Uniform Judge, a Language Advisor and a scorer. In the case of a tie score, judges will make a subjective call to break tie.
 - One judge will be provided with the submitted cry to monitor adherence and make deductions for any variation from submitted cry.
 - Cries given in German, Dutch or French will be read first in English by the Host Crier.
- Escorts/Consorts
 - Escorts may assist the Crier to the stage but shall not participate in the performance of the Cry.
 - Uniform Judge will determine winner for Best Dressed Escort.
- Prizes and Recognition
 - There will be a First, Second and Third place prize for Criers.
 - If an American Crier does not place in the top three, an additional prize will be given to the “Best American Crier”.
 - Prize will be given for “Best Dressed Escort”
 - Prizes will be awarded at Saturday evening awards dinner.