

# State's Top Seamstresses Advance To National Competition

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— Two Pennsylvania young women are anticipating the next round, which is national competition, since winning the senior and junior divisions of Make It Yourself With Wool. The Pennsylvania state event was conducted Saturday, Oct. 14, at Boscovs in the Galleria Mall.

Aleecha Jones from Loysburg, Bedford County, was the senior winner and Deidra Smith, Glencoe, Somerset County, was the junior winner.

Make It Yourself With Wool competitions promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns; encourage personal creativity in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving; offer a forum for learning life skills, and teach self-responsibility.

The garment is judged on and off the contestant and presentation is 60 percent while construction is 40 percent of the final score. Fashion and good construction methods go hand in hand with coordination, creativity, and comfort.

Jones found challenge enough in constructing her first-ever coat, chosen because the project was something different, said the Northern Bedford High School senior who began sewing at age seven.

"The pockets gave me the most challenge," she said. "I had a difficult time getting them in right and to look nice."

Her grandmother, Shirley Pennel was a faithful encourager throughout the course of the coat project. It paid off because in January, Jones will fly to Sparks, Nevada near Reno for the national event.

"I feel great," she said. "I'm really excited to go there and see the greater level of competition."

Jones chose 100 percent Pendleton wool in black for the coat and added a lining of black satin with functional pockets and pocket flaps. Under the coat, also in 100 percent Pendleton wool, she wore a rather burnished red skirt that featured a back slit, invisible zipper and back darts. Jones made a vest that matched.

The daughter of Tom and Karen Jones has one brother. She has taken time out from twirling commitments to enter the state wool competition each of the last six years. Track is another of her interests in addition to the youth group at Community Grace Brethren Church. In 4-H she raises sheep and pigs at the farm of her grandfather James Pennel.

As the junior winner Deidra Smith's black and white check 100-percent wool, fully lined skirt and jacket posed certain

difficulties when she tried to achieve both a perfect fit and a perfect look, reported the 16-year old daughter of Dwight and Gail Smith about setting the sleeves.

"It seemed like everything that could go wrong did go wrong. The hardest part was getting the shoulders to look right," said Smith, who felt a particular responsibility to enter the contest in behalf of the industry she represents as the Somerset County Lamb and Wool Queen.

She wants to nab every opportunity to sing the praises of lamb and wool to people who are unaware of its contributions to numerous by-products.

Joan Klein, Darlington, an instructor to about 40 sewing students, won the adult division with a special event outfit. The beautiful fabric came from the Amana Woolen Mills in Amana, Iowa.

The semi-fitted, fully-lined jacket with asymmetrical front closure topped the asymmetrical dress with elbow length sleeves, and princess seams, which meet at the hips and slash pockets. For the lining Klein used a bridal acetate with shades of teal and hunter green.

Like adult winners in other states, Klein will send a photograph and a video of herself wearing the garment to a national photo competition.

Kelsie Smith, Glencoe, was the preteen winner with a fully-lined, deep green hooded cape that she says she made to wear to the historical reenactments her family enjoys attending. She is 11 and the daughter of Dwight and Gail Smith of Glencoe.

Erin Stennett, Irwin, was second in the senior division; Breigh Svonavec, Rockwood, second in juniors; Pam Marburger, Espyville, second in adult, and Leah Huston, Beaver Falls, second in preteen.

Judges were Barbara Black, Unita Dull, Jenna Svonavec, Jo-Rene Lightfoot, and Kathy Vieregge. Coordinators were state directors Jodell Antram and Peggy Black.

The event is sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Association, American Sheep Industry Women, Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association and Boscovs.



Aleecha Jones, left, senior winner in Make It Yourself With Wool state contest, will compete nationally in January at Nevada. Erin Stennett is at right.



Preteen contestants from left are Jaci Marburger, Leah Huston, Kelsie Smith, and Jenna Huston.



Pictured are the adult contestants in Make It Yourself With Wool. From left, Pam Marburger, Joan Klein, winner, and Ruth Goddard.



From left junior contestants are Elisabeth Spangler, Breigh Svonavec, Deidra Smith, winner; Rebekah Swick, and Kayla Huston.