



Submitted photo by Robyn Unruh

On Saturday, July 18 during the 31st annual Sandsations in Long Beach, Washington, youth, novice, intermediate and master sculptors will have six hours to transform beach sand into imaginative sculptures.

Watch sand-sculptors in action at Sandsations

Long Beach holds annual competition

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The 31st annual Sandsations kicked off Wednesday, July 15 and runs through Sunday, July 19. This sand-sculpting extravaganza is open to all ability levels from amateur to professional.

On Thursday, solo master sand artists will pull their forms and start sculpting demonstration sculptures. The public is invited to watch, ask questions and pick up tips.

On Friday, the sand artists add detail to their sculptures, which are finished that evening and will remain on view Saturday and Sunday for photo-ops and enjoyment. At 5 p.m., master sculptors will teach free sand sculpting lessons at the Bolstad beach approach. After the sculpting lessons, all are invited to a bonfire on the beach, with free

s'mores for the first 100 people. Fireworks will be set off at dusk for all to enjoy.

Saturday sees the much-anticipated 2015 sand-sculpting competition take place along the shoreline, adjacent to the Long Beach boardwalk and near the Bolstad beach approach. Check-in and plot assignments for masters teams start at 6 a.m., and check-in and plot assignments for youth, novice and intermediate teams starts at 7 a.m. Last-minute registration is open from 6:30 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Sculptors will have six hours to transform beach sand into imaginative sculptures,

Sandsations Competition

Saturday, July 18

6:30 a.m. Last-Minute Registration

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Construction

3 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Bolstad Beach Approach

Long Beach, Washington

sandsationslongbeach.com

starting at 8 a.m. with the outgoing tide and ending at 2 p.m. The public is invited to come to the beach and observe the sculptures before Mother Nature sweeps them back to sea.

The awards presentation will take place at 3 p.m. near the Kiwanis tent on the Bols-

tad beach approach before the incoming surf slowly washes away even the largest sculptures.

Judges vote on the best in the four categories of masters, intermediate, novice and family for overall appearance, creativity, teamwork, effort, design, suitability to sand, and intricacy. Prizes include commemorative artwork by event artist Don Nisbett of Ilwaco, Washington, cash prizes up to \$900 and gift cards from event sponsors.

Registration prices vary by level, with \$1 per child under 12, \$15 per family, \$35 per novice team, \$45 per intermediate team, and \$65 per masters team. You can register online at sandsationslongbeach.com or in person at the Sandsations trailer located at the Bolstad beach approach, which also features T-shirts and more fun activities.

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