



BRECKENRIDGE
TOURISM OFFICE

DMMO
DESTINATION MARKETING
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

International Snow Sculpture Championships Celebrate 35 Years in Breckenridge, Colo.

BRECKENRIDGE, COLO. — JANUARY 05, 2026 — The 35th annual International Snow Sculpture Championships (ISSC) presented by Toyota will return to Breckenridge Jan. 24 - Feb. 3, 2026, marking more than three decades of transforming the town into a world-renowned outdoor winter art gallery.

This milestone year will showcase one of the most **internationally diverse** lineups in the history of the event, with 10 of 12 teams traveling from outside the United States to compete, including teams from Ukraine, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Lithuania, Argentina, Germany, India, Finland, Malta and Mongolia, in addition to a domestic Vermont team and the Breckenridge home team. Each team will carve a **12-foot-tall, 25-ton block of snow** into a larger-than-life work of art entirely by hand (no power tools allowed) showcasing extraordinary creativity, engineering and artistic expression set against Breckenridge's iconic mountains.

The 2026 Championships continue the event's legacy as a global stage for artistic ability using snow. Among this year's international competitors are several teams with powerful narratives:

- **Team Ukraine**, presenting work rooted in themes of peace, resilience and the enduring role of art amid ongoing conflict.
- **Team South Korea**, the only team led by a female captain, whose participation highlights female leadership and innovation within the snow sculpting world.
- **Team Italy**, composed entirely of first responders, brings a collaborative approach shaped by service and real-world teamwork.
- **Team Lithuania**, known for technical experimentation, arrives with newly engineered, custom-built hand tools designed specifically for their 2026 sculpture.

Snow sculpting is both an art form and a test of endurance. **Over 94 continuous hours**, sculptors must balance creativity with structural integrity while navigating weather shifts, overnight carving sessions, and the pressure of the clock. Watching the sculptures take shape during carving week offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at this demanding craft.

The finished sculptures will remain on display for one week, inviting visitors to wander through the sculpture exhibit by day and night. After dark, each piece is illuminated, creating a dramatic and colorful viewing experience. Guests are encouraged to vote for their favorite sculpture to determine the **People's Choice Award**. The event is **free** and open to the public, and this year will not require reservations to view the sculptures on Saturday.

A panel of experienced artistic judges will award **Gold, Silver and Bronze** medals based on technical skill, creativity, and expressive impact. Sculptors will also vote among themselves for the **Luthar Luboschik Artists' Choice Award**. Teams compete not for cash prizes, but for global recognition and the opportunity to sculpt in Breckenridge's ideal snow conditions, created by Breckenridge Ski Resort and the region's cold, high-altitude climate.



EVENT SCHEDULE

- **Sculpting Week: Jan. 24 - Jan. 28**
Begins with opening remarks and a ceremonial cannon start, followed by continuous carving for 94 hours. Sculpting week is free and open to the public. *This is a great time for interviews with sculptors, team interviews and guest interviews.*
- **Awards Ceremony: Jan. 28**
Sculptors will be awarded Gold, Silver, Bronze and the Lothar Luboschik Artists' Choice Award. The awards ceremony is free and open to the public, held outdoors at the sculpture site. *This will be a great day to interview the team winners, see the finished sculptures, and conduct live interviews from Breckenridge. We're happy to provide SAT setup.*
- **Finished Sculpture Viewing: Jan. 28 - Feb. 3**
Daily public viewing through the conclusion of the event. Free and open to the public.
- **Grand Illumination: Jan 28 - Feb. 02**
Nightly lighting of sculptures offers enhanced nighttime viewing.

Please find press materials in our **Media Room** [HERE](#), which includes media from previous years. Our folders will be updated daily during the event.

For event details, sign-up links and FAQs, visit the [International Snow Sculpture Championships](#) event page. Stay connected all year long at @GoBreck and #BreckLife on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

###

Media Contact: Kerry O'Connor, Koconnor@gobreck.com, (303) 827-5743. Please email, text or call Kerry to set up interviews.

About the Breckenridge Tourism Office (BTO)

The Breckenridge Tourism Office is the destination marketing and management organization (DMMO) for the Town of Breckenridge, Colo. Join us at [GoBreck.com](#) for local insight and travel inspiration. Stay connected all year long at @GoBreck and #BreckLife on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Breckenridge

In the 1800s, prospectors flooded what was to become Breckenridge, Colorado with the hopes of striking gold (and they found it). Today, travelers discover an adventurous mountain community that feels historic yet timeless. Breckenridge is where old-school charm and new-school modern amenities merge with 200+ shops, restaurants and tap houses showcasing endless character. As one of the nation's premier year-round destinations, Breckenridge visitors feel welcome and, when here, feel local.