

Janet Smith Crowned America's Most Gifted Wrapper

Wraps Up \$10,000 Grand Prize in Eleventh Annual Scotch Brand Most Gifted Wrapper Contest

Janet Smith, a gift-wrapping guru from Willow Grove, Penn., was crowned "America's Most Gifted Wrapper" for 2007 in a national gift-wrapping contest sponsored by the maker of Scotch brand tape.

Amid throngs of holiday revelers at Rockefeller Center today, Smith out wrapped six other gift-wrapping experts in the eleventh annual Scotch Brand Most Gifted Wrapper Contest to earn the ultimate holiday prize: \$10,000. With bows, ribbons and Scotch tape in hand, Smith and her worthy competitors elegantly wrapped the ultimate "Winter Wonderland" gifts – a pair of ladies ice skates, a snowboard with boots and bindings attached, and a 2008 Yamaha Phazer Snowmobile!

Smith offers this advice to those who are getting ready to wrap their holiday presents: "My number one tip is always pre-measure and cut the paper before you begin to wrap a gift. If you're not certain how much paper to cut, just use a piece of ribbon to measure the size of the gift."

The first runner-up, Vicky Mihara Avery, from Montara, Calif., received a \$2,500 cash prize. The other five contestants received smaller cash prizes as well. Contestants were judged on three criteria: appearance, technique and speed.

The judging panel consisted of experts in the art of gift-wrapping, including Christine Fritsch, author of *Gifted Wrapping* and the 2002 Scotch Brand Most Gifted Wrapper; Eleanor Leinen, known as "the celebrity wrapper," whose coffee table book *Uniquely Gifted* was just released this month; Mark Ski, former producer for Martha Stewart Living and Kristine Solomon, an editor at Quamut, a new series of lifestyle how-to guides published by Barnes & Noble.

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