



2026 Entry Timeline

Entry deadlineMonday, July 1, by 6 p.m.

Entry deliveryMonday, July 13, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Fair datesJuly 17 - Aug. 16 (*closed Mondays and Tuesdays*)

Entry pick up-Sugar Arts.....Thursday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Entries may be picked up by someone other than the exhibitor.

BY ENTERING YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND RULES PRESENTED IN THIS GUIDEBOOK.

Entry fees.....\$10 adult • \$6 youth (9-17) • *Fees are non-refundable.*

Entry limit.....Adults: one (1) entry per class • Youth: two (2) entries per class

Contact.....Culinary Arts Department • Kylie Gilliam, Program Coordinator
culinary@ocfair.com

Office 714-708-1553 • 714-708-1621 (during Fair)

OC Fair & Event Center • 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rules & Guidelines.....	1
Eligibility / Entry Limit.....	2
Entry Fees / OC Fair Exhibitor Ticket.....	2
How to Enter / Help Entering.....	3
Entry Delivery / Entry Pick Up.....	4
Judging.....	5
Awards / Awards Ceremony.....	6
Sugar Arts Divisions.....	7
• Division 1030 Cake Design	
• Division 1031 Sugar Sculpture, Molded Sugar & Edible Art	
• Division 1032 Decorated Cupcakes & Cookies	
Confections Divisions.....	8
• Division 1038 Chocolate Confections	
• Division 1039 Sugar Confections	
Youth Divisions.....	9
• Division 330 Youth Sugar Arts, Ages 9-17	
• Division 338 Youth Confections, Ages 9-17	



RULES & GUIDELINES

1. [Local](#) and [state rules](#) govern this competition.
2. Exhibitors are responsible for reading and abiding by the guidelines stated herein.
3. Exhibitors are responsible for entering their items in the correct class.
4. If assistance is needed to determine the division and/or class, please contact the Culinary Arts Department at 714-708-1621 or email culinary@ocfair.com.
5. **Entry fees are non-refundable.**
There will be no refunds for any reason. By entering the competition, the exhibitor is accepting the no-refund policy.
6. **Each entry must be the sole work of one (1) exhibitor and must be original, not copied.**
 - While you can take inspiration from various places, your design should not be copied from the internet, books, magazines, directly from another artist's website, Pinterest, etc. All exhibitors found in violation of this will be disqualified.
 - Entries previously exhibited at OC Fair are not eligible.
7. **Sugar Arts entries**
 - Each entry must be the sole work of one (1) exhibitor and must be original, not copied.
 - While you can take inspiration from various places, your design should not be copied from the internet, books, magazines, directly from another artist's website, Pinterest, etc. All exhibitors found in violation of this will be disqualified.
 - Entries previously exhibited at OC Fair are not eligible.
 - Must be attached to an un-iced base 1 inch larger than the cake base on all sides for handling.
 - Need to be original and handmade by the exhibitor.
 - Cannot be glued (frosting/fondant only) or contain fresh fruit.
 - Cannot exceed a maximum of 18 inches front-to-back, 24 inches wide and 30 inches tall. Items exceeding these dimensions will be disqualified.
8. **Confection entries**
 - Must be handmade by the exhibitor from scratch and not from a prepared mix.
 - Must include an ingredient list on a 3-by-5 inch card. Do not include your name on the card.
 - Should be placed on a disposable plate and covered with plastic wrap or placed in a resealable bag.
9. Refrigeration will not be available.
10. Final acceptance of the entry will be left to the discretion of the program coordinator. Judges and/or the program coordinator have the option of reassigning an entry to a more appropriate division or class.
11. Food items will be selected for display and discarded after each show or when they deteriorate.
12. Due to the family-oriented theme of OC Fair, no work dealing with drug use, obscenity, defamatory statements, violence or gang activity or other offensive or objectionable content will be accepted. This is at the discretion of OC Fair staff.
13. **Hold harmless.** Although reasonable efforts will be taken to safeguard exhibitors' property against loss, damage or theft, neither the State of California nor OC Fair & Event Center will be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of exhibitors' property brought on the premises during the period of OC Fair.
- 14. Entries not picked up on Entry Pick up Day become the property of OC Fair and will be disposed of promptly.—



ELIGIBILITY

Adult divisions:

Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older..

Youth divisions:

Open to Southern California youth ages 9-17 (by July 17).

ENTRY LIMIT

Adult divisions One (1) entry per class

- Adult exhibitors may enter in several divisions and classes but may enter only one item in each class.
- If two or more entries are made in the same class, only the first entry will be accepted.
- Other entries in the class will be deleted by the entry office and refunds will not be issued.

Youth divisions Two (2) entries per class

ENTRY FEES

Adult divisions \$10 per entry

Youth divisions \$6 per entry

- Entry fees are payable online with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express).
- No refunds will be issued.

OC FAIR EXHIBITOR TICKET

Exhibitors will receive one (1) OC Fair admission ticket at the time of entry delivery.

- One (1) ticket per exhibitor, not per entry.
- Ticket is good any day during the OC Fair and does not require a reservation.
- Tickets are provided to participants to view the results of their efforts.
- Tickets must not be sold.



HOW TO ENTER

Online entry deadline: Monday, July 1, by 6 p.m.

Click on the link to go to the entry homepage ocfair.fairwire.com

Step 1. Register

- Last year's accounts are no longer valid. All exhibitors must create a new account.
- Entries must be submitted under the name of the individual who will be exhibiting.
- Do not use business or fictitious names.
- There are no team entries.
- Enter the information carefully and proofread the name to ensure accuracy on exhibit display labels.
- Email will be used to send important information. Check your spam folders and whitelist emails coming from @ocfair.com.

Step 2. Entries

- Input your entry (or entries) in the proper department, division and class along with other required information.

Step 3. Cart review

- Review your entries. You can add, edit, delete or save your entries.
- When satisfied, click the "CHECK OUT" button.

Step 4. Payment

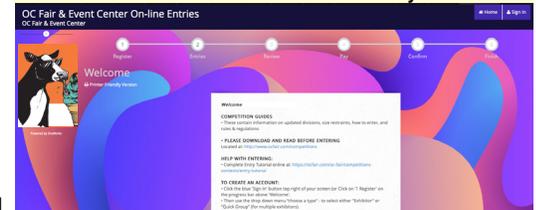
- Enter your credit card information (Mastercard, Visa or American Express).
- An email notification and confirmation will be sent immediately after the online payment is received.
- Check your spam folder if the email confirmation does not arrive shortly after submitting payment.

Step 5. Confirmation

- Sign by typing "YES" in the "Agreement to Terms" box.
- DO NOT click the "SUBMIT" button multiple times as you will be charged.
- On the resulting confirmation page you can print a receipt.

***You can log back into your account to see your entries.
For any changes, contact entries@ocfair.com; do not re-enter to make corrections as you will be charged.***

The numbered steps along top of page are clickable and show the current section you are on



fairwire.com welcome page

HELP ENTERING

For additional help, review this detailed step-by-step guide:

- [Entry tutorial](#)

Phone: 714-708-1553 (during office hours)

Email: entries@ocfair.com



ENTRY DELIVERY

Delivery date: Monday, July 13, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

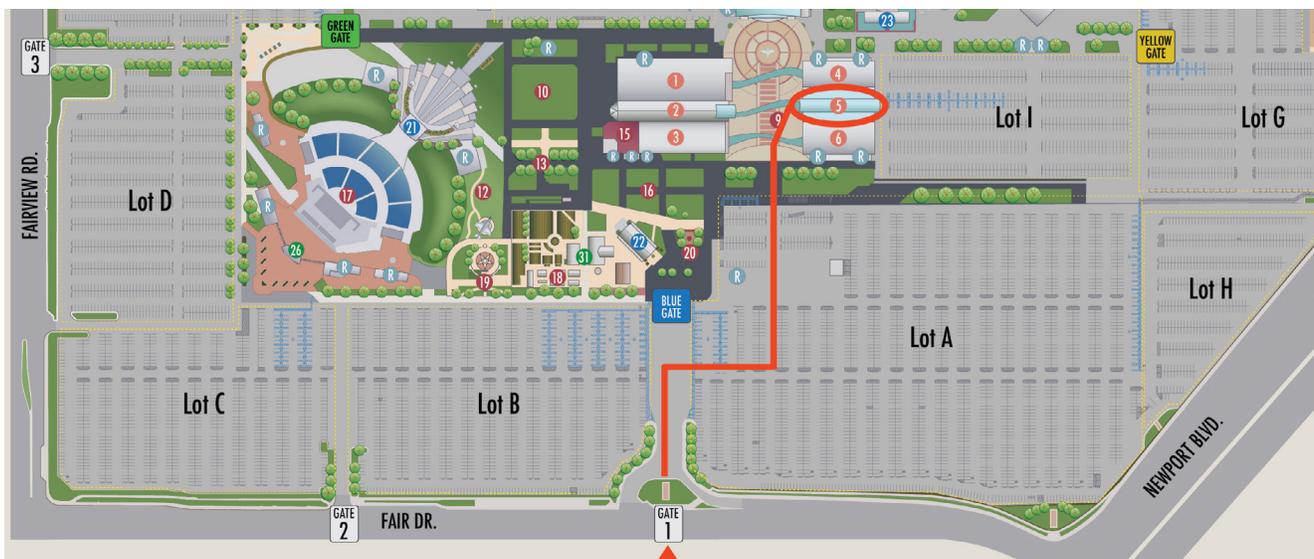
- One (1) participation ribbon will be given to each exhibitor on entry delivery day.
- Late deliveries will not be accepted.

Claim checks

- Claim checks will be provided when entries are delivered.
- Claim checks or photo ID are required to pick up judging comment sheets and potential ribbons during the OC Fair.
- Entries may be delivered by someone other than the exhibitor.

Entry delivery

Enter Gate 1 and follow the directional signs to the OC Promenade (building 5 on the map).



ENTRY PICK UP (SUGAR ARTS ONLY)

Pick up date: Thursday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- Claim check or photo ID is required for pick up.
- If you are unable to pick up your items, please arrange for someone to pick them up for you.
- Unclaimed items become the property of OC Fair and will be discarded.
- The OC Fair & Event Center is not responsible for exhibits left after this date.

Entry pick up

- Pick up at the building where the entry was displayed.
- Enter through Gate 1 (Main Gate) and follow directional signs.



JUDGING

Qualified judges are utilized to judge all culinary exhibits and special contests.

Adult divisions

Entries are placed using the American Judging System, where exhibits are ranked one against another.

- First, second, third place and honorable mention(s) may be awarded in each class if judges so determine.
- First place winners will compete for "Division Winner."
- Those chosen for Division Winner will compete for "Best of Show."

Youth divisions

Entries are placed using the Danish Judging System, where each entry is judged on how well it meets a standard rather than how it compares to other entries.

- Entries are judged first, second or third place.
- There may be more than one first, second or third place award per class.
- All first place awards will then compete, using the American Judging System, for "Best of Class."
- Those chosen for Best of Class will compete for "Division Winner."

Judging criteria

Read the [Culinary Arts Judging Criteria](#) for each division.

Comment sheets

- Comment sheets for each entry will be made available at the information desk in Culinary Arts.
- Comment sheets are notes from the judges on the entry's performance in the competition.
- They are available for pick up, with claim check or photo ID, any day of the Fair. Final pick up day is Thursday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Disqualified entries

- If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, the judge will not change the status of awards given for other entries.
- Judges reserve the right to remove or disqualify any entry in violation of the rules, in poor taste or not in accordance with the competition standards.

Reassignment of entry division or class

Judges and/or the program coordinator have the option of reassigning an entry to a more appropriate division or class or combining divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of exhibitors to enter work in the appropriate class. Failure to enter the appropriate class may result in disqualification.



AWARDS

Includes ribbons and/or prize money (premiums)

Adult Divisions

Sugar Arts Best of Show	\$100
Confections Best of Show	\$100
Division Winner	\$50
First Place	\$25
Second Place	\$15
Third Place	\$10
Theme Award.....	\$25
Honorable Mention.....	Ribbon

Youth Divisions

Division Winner	\$50
Best of Class.....	\$25
First, Second, Third.....	Ribbon



- Ribbons and comment sheets may be picked up any day of the OC Fair during open hours with a claim check or photo ID. Final pick up day is Thursday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Award checks will be made payable to the exhibitor whose name is indicated on the entry form and mailed within 30 business days after the close of the 2026 OC Fair.
- Total premiums of \$600 or more to any individual will be paid only after a completed **Payee Data Record** form has been received.

Judging Results

- Entries will be selected for display in the OC Promenade with any awards received.
- Results will be posted online around the second week of OC Fair at ocfair.com/results.
- ***Please do not call, email or message OC Fair via social media for competition results. We receive a high volume of inquiries daily.***

AWARDS CEREMONY

Sunday, Aug. 16, at noon.

- Hosted on the OC Promenade Main Stage.
- Best of Show award recipients will be invited, given two (2) tickets to attend and be recognized at the ceremony.
- Invitations will be sent to the email provided at entry registration.
- All exhibitors and the general public are welcome to attend the ceremony.
- Additional guests should purchase Fair admission tickets in advance.





Adult Divisions: Sugar Arts

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.

Entry limit One (1) entry per class.

Entry fee \$10 per entry

- Rules & guidelines on page 1 apply.
- Traditional icing may be American or decorator's icing, French, Swiss or meringue based.
- All Sugar Arts entries will be judged on decoration and will not be tasted.
- Exhibitors will be allowed up to 30 minutes and one assistant for final setup.

DIVISION 1030

Cake Design

- **Do not decorate an actual cake.** Use Styrofoam forms only for cakes/tiers.
- All decorations must be handmade by exhibitor and edible.
- Pillars, separators and support equipment may be non-edible.
- Base of cake may not exceed 18 inches front-to-back, 24 inches wide, and 30 inches tall, and at least one inch of the base on all sides must be left un-iced for handling.

Class 01: Decorated fondant tiered formal cake

Class 02: Decorated fondant tiered non-formal cake

Class 03: Decorated cake-traditional icing

Class 04: OC Fair theme: "Your Adventure Awaits" cake design

 **Class 05: Happy 250th America birthday cake design**

DIVISION 1031

Sugar Sculpture, Molded Sugar & Edible Art

- Created to be art- all from scratch and your imagination.

Class 01: Floral piece

Class 02: Sculptural art piece

e.g., chocolate sculpture, gingerbread house

Class 03: Other, specify item

e.g., spun sugar, cast, pastillage or combination

DIVISION 1032

Decorated Cupcakes & Cookies

- Six (6) identical pieces, or up to six (6) unique designs which follow a theme.
- All entries will be **JUDGED ON DECORATION AND WILL NOT BE TASTED.**
- There are no restrictions on the size or shape of the cookies, but the base/board should not exceed 20 by 20 inches.

Class 01: Cupcakes

Class 02: Cookies

Class 03: Happy 250th birthday America, cupcakes or cookies 



Adult Divisions Confections

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.

Entry limit One (1) entry per class.

Entry fee \$10 per entry

- Rules & guidelines on page 1 apply.
- Prepare a list of all ingredients in your recipe on a 3-by-5 inch card. Do not put your name on the list. Bring the card with your entry.
- Submit ½ pound or 10 pieces of the same recipe.
- Use 7- to 9-inch disposable plates and cover with plastic wrap, or slide plate into resealable bag.

DIVISION 1038

Chocolate Confections

- All candy entries must be at least ½ lb or ten (10) pieces.

Class 01: Fudge

e.g., plain, mixed, peanut butter, mint

Class 02: Truffles/bonbons (made with chocolate ganache center)

e.g., solid, filled, plain

Class 03: Enrobed (dipped) confections

e.g., turtles, chocolate covered: caramels, nougat, fruit, chocolate covered cherries, buckeyes, angel food

- Whole pieces of fruit e.g. a dipped whole apple is **NOT** considered a confection

Class 04: Other, specify item

e.g., bark, vegan-chocolate

DIVISION 1039

Sugar Confections

- All candy entries must be at least ½ lb or ten (10) pieces.

Class 01: Toffee

Class 02: Brittle

Class 03: Marshmallow

e.g., vanilla, passion fruit, strawberry, mint

Class 04: Caramels, traditional or flavored

e.g., traditional wrapped caramel, coffee flavored, caramel tootsie-roll

Class 05: Other, specify item

e.g., praline, jellies, candied fruit/bacon/nuts



Youth Divisions

Eligibility..... Open to Southern California residents ages 9-17 (by July 17).

Entry limit Two (2) entries per class.

Entry fee \$6 per entry

- Rules & guidelines on page 1 apply.
- Entries must be made by the exhibitor with minimal or no adult assistance.

DIVISION 330

Youth Sugar Arts, Ages 9-17

- Entries will be judged only on decoration and will not be tasted.
- See category guidelines on page 7.

Class 01: Cake design, any

e.g., OC Fair theme, birthday, celebration, movie

Class 02: All other, specify

e.g., decorated cookies, cake pops, etc.

