



## 2026 Entry Timeline

Entry deadline ..... Tuesday, July 28, by 6 p.m.

Entry delivery ..... Monday, Aug. 3, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

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

**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](mailto:culinary@ocfair.com)

Office 714-708-1553 • 714-708-1621 (during Fair)  
OC Fair & Event Center • 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



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## 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 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](mailto: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. Food entries do not need to be baked from an original recipe. Food entries must be handmade by the exhibitor from scratch and not a prepared mix.
7. An ingredient list must accompany each entry on a 3-by-5 inch card. The exhibitor's name should not be on the card.
8. Entries must be delivered on disposable plates. OC Fair is not responsible for lost baking pans.
9. 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.
10. Food items will be selected for display and discarded after each show or when they deteriorate.
11. **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.



## 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 (1) item in each class.
- If two (2) 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: Tuesday, July 28, by 6 p.m.**

Click on the link to go to the entry homepage [ocfair.fairwire.com](http://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

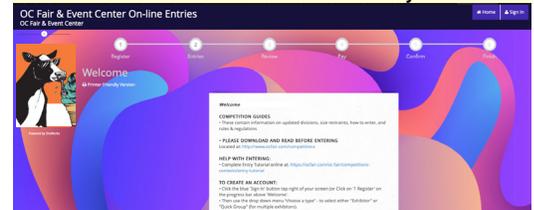
- Enter your credit card information (Mastercard, Visa or American Express).
- An email notification and confirmation will be sent immediately after the online payment is received.
- Check your spam folder if the email confirmation does not arrive shortly after submitting payment.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:entries@ocfair.com)



## ENTRY DELIVERY

### **Delivery date: Monday, Aug. 3, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

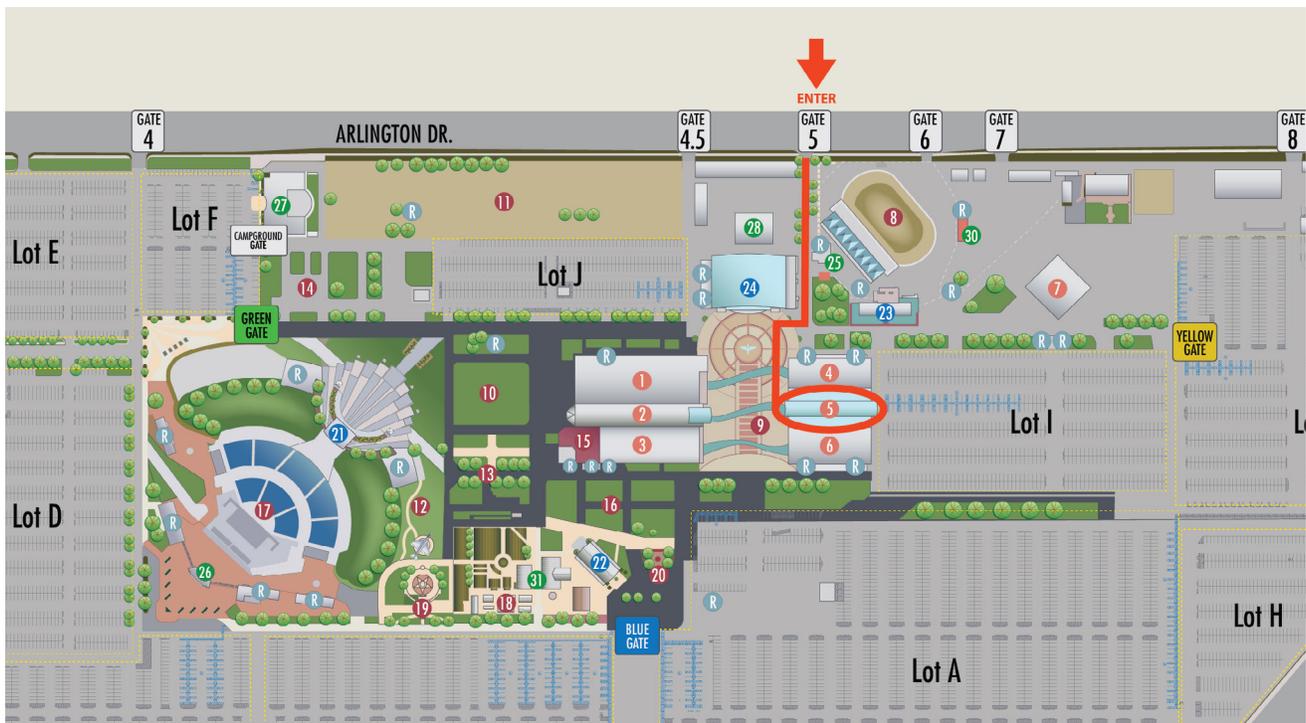
- One (1) participation ribbon will be given to each exhibitor on entry delivery day.
- Late deliveries will not be accepted.
- Entries may be delivered by someone other than the exhibitor.

### **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.

### **Entry delivery**

Enter Gate 5 and follow the marked route to the OC Promenade, building labeled 5, as shown on the map below.





## 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

Best of Show Sweet Pies.....	\$100
Best of Show Savory Pies .....	\$100
Best of Show Cheesecakes.....	\$100
Division Winner.....	\$50
First Place .....	\$25
Second Place .....	\$15
Third Place .....	\$10
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](https://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

**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.
- Please bring entries in disposable containers/plates. Pans will not be returned, no exceptions.
- If using a springform pan, the bottom can be replaced with cardboard cut to size and covered in foil prior to baking. Springform rings must be removed on delivery.
- Refrigerators are used for the display of pie and cheesecake entries only.
- Submit a list of ingredients on a 3-by-5 inch card.

### DIVISION 1080

#### Sweet Pies Rolled Crust

- Submit one (1) pie not to exceed 10 inches.
- Must use pie tin (no glass). Pans will not be returned.
- Tarts and custards see Division 1081.
- Special diet see Division 1081

**Class 01: Apple pie, any**

**Class 02: Single rolled crust, any**

e.g., sweet potato, Ube (purple yam), pumpkin, pecan

**Class 03: Double-rolled crust or lattice and any other**

e.g., cherry, blueberry, strawberry-rhubarb

### DIVISION 1081

#### Sweet Pies. Other

- Submit one (1) pie not to exceed 10 inches, except class 5.
- Must use pie tin (no glass). Pans will not be returned.

**Class 01: Cream or custard pie**

e.g., lemon or chocolate meringue, egg custard

**Class 02: Crumb or cookie crust, any unbaked filling**

e.g., keylime, Mississippi mud, citrus chiffon, lemon icebox

**Class 03: Crumb or cookie crust, any baked filling**

**Class 04: Special diet**

e.g., gluten-free, sugar-free, vegan

**Class 05: Tarts, any size**

e.g., bündner nusstorte, fruit tart, chocolate ganache, passion fruit

- If mini, submit four (4), 2-4 inch tarts from one recipe.

### DIVISION 1082

#### Savory Pies

- Submit one (1) pie not to exceed 10 inches.
- Class 2: submit four (4) each, same recipe.
- Must use pie tin (no glass). Pans will not be returned.

**Class 01: Quiche**

e.g., lorraine, florentine, bacon & zucchini, champignon

**Class 02: Hand pie**

e.g., cornish, Jamaican, empanada, pizza pocket, turnover, curry puff, epok epok

- Submit four (4) each, same recipe.

**Class 03: Meat pie**

Includes fish and poultry

**Class 04: Other, specify item**

### DIVISION 1083

#### Cheesecake (Baked)

- Submit one (1) cheesecake not to exceed 10 inches.
- Class 5: submit four (4) each, 2 - 4 inch, from one (1) recipe.
- Unbaked entries will be disqualified.

**Class 01: Plain**

**Class 02: Fruit, any berry**

e.g., strawberry, blackberry, blueberry

**Class 03: Fruit, any other**

e.g., passionfruit, lemon, orange

**Class 04: Chocolate, caramel or candy**

**Class 05: Cheesecake minis**

Submit four (4) each, 2 - 4 inch, from one (1) recipe.

**Class 06: Basque burnt**

**Class 07: Special diet**

e.g., gluten-free, sugar-free, vegan

**Class 08: Other cheesecake, specify item**

e.g., Kahlua, coffee, honey



## Youth Divisions

**Eligibility**..... Open to Southern California youth 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.
- Entries must be delivered in disposable containers/plates. Pans will not be returned, no exceptions.
- If using a springform pan, the bottom can be replaced with cardboard cut to size and covered in foil prior to baking. Springform rings must be removed on delivery.
- Refrigerators are used for the display of pie and cheesecake entries only.
- Submit a list of ingredients on a 3-by-5 inch card.

### DIVISION 380

#### **Youth Pies & Cheesecakes (Baked), Ages 9-17**

Class 01: Pie or cheesecake (baked), any

