



# HONEY COMPETITION GUIDE



## 2026 Entry Timeline

- Entry deadline ..... **Monday, June 8, by 6 p.m.**
- Entry delivery ..... **Monday, June 22, 9- 11 a.m.**
- Fair dates ..... July 17 - Aug. 16 (*closed Mondays and Tuesdays*)
- Entry pick up ..... **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 • Fees are non-refundable.**
- Entry limit ..... **No limit**
- 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 Department at 714-708-1621 to leave a message 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. All hive products, except for Division 1074, must be from the exhibitor's own apiary. Apiaries must be registered with their local county agricultural commissioners according to California law.
7. All entries must have been collected between June 22, 2025 and June 8, 2026.
8. Honey must be 100 percent pure honey. Do not flavor or alter the honey.
9. Honey must only be gravity strained/filtered and not heated above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
10. Liquid or creamed honey must be eight (8) ounces by weight. Comb honey must be 8-12 ounces by weight. Purified beeswax must be submitted in a half-pound block.
11. **Do not label any entries before the competition.**
  - A label will be added when the entry is checked in.
  - Exhibitor is encouraged to include a custom product label to be attached by Fair staff after judging.
12. **Packaging requirements:**
  - Liquid honey must be packaged in a clear eight (8) ounce Queenline glass jar.
  - Creamed honey must be packaged in a clear eight (8) ounce wide-mouth jar.
  - Cut comb honey must be packaged in a clear eight (8) or 12-ounce glass or plastic comb container.
13. Containers of great or sentimental value should not be used.
14. **All honey entries will be available for pick up on entry pick up day.**
  - Honey entries and containers not picked up on entry pick up day become property of the OC Fair. Honey and wax will be recycled back to the bees.
15. **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.



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## ELIGIBILITY

### Adult divisions:

Open to California residents ages 18 and older.

## ENTRY LIMIT

**No entry limits.**

## ENTRY FEES

### Adult divisions .....\$10 per entry

- Entry fees are payable online with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express).
- Entry fees are non-refundable.

## 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

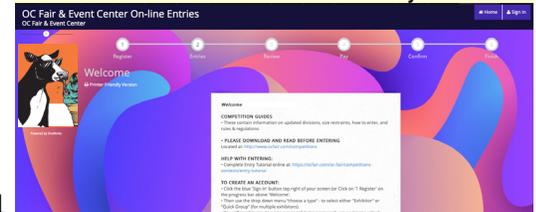
**Online entry deadline: Monday, June 8, by 6 p.m.**

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

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



fairwire.com welcome page

### 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 and will see a blue "UPLOAD FILES" button.

***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.***

## 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)



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## ENTRY DELIVERY

### **Hand delivery: Monday, June 22, 9 - 11 a.m.**

- Entries must be registered online prior to dropping off.
- Enter Gate 5 and follow the directional signs to the Anaheim Building (building 4 on the map). Note delivery location has changed from previous years.



### **Mail delivery: must arrive by June 22, before 11 a.m.**

All mail-in entries must:

- Be registered online prior to shipping entry.
- Include a copy of your registration receipt with your entry.

### **Address packages to:**

OC Fair & Event Center Attn: Entries Dept., Honey Competition  
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

- Include a return address.



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## ENTRY PICK UP

**Pick up date: Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026, 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 to Centennial Farm, Silo Building.





## 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."

### Judging criteria

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

### Comment sheets

- Comment sheets are notes from the judges on the entry's performance in the competition.
- Comment sheets for each entry will be made available at the information desk in Culinary Arts.
- 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.

### Disqualifications may include the following:

- Entries incorrectly entered/identified.
- Entries submitted with a pre-attached label before the competition.
- Entries in incorrect containers.
- Entries containing foreign objects such as hair or insects.
- Entries in under-filled jar.
- Entries with flavored and/or altered honey.

### 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 .....	\$100
Division Winner .....	\$50
First Place.....	\$25
Second Place .....	\$15
Third Place.....	\$10
Honorable Mention .....	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.
- Premium checks will be made payable to either the owner or exhibitor as stated on the entry 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 on 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](http://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.***

## AWARD 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 California residents, ages 18 and older.

**Entry limit** ..... No entry limit

**Entry fee** ..... \$10 per entry

• Rules & guidelines on page 1 apply.

### DIVISION 1070

#### Liquid Honey

- From own apiary
- Use a **CLEAR** Queenline 8-ounce glass jar.
- 100 percent pure honey, containing no more than 18.6 percent moisture.

##### Based on USDA recommended judging/scoring system

- Maximum acceptable moisture content for any liquid honey is 18.6%.
- Liquid honey with moisture content above 18.6% will be disqualified.
- No additional points will be awarded for liquid honey with 16% or less moisture content.



Queenline glass jar

**Clear**

**Class 01: Light**

**Class 02: Amber**

**Class 03: Dark**

### DIVISION 1071

#### Creamed Unflavored Honey

- From own apiary
- Use a **CLEAR** wide-mouth 8-ounce jar.
- Smoothly granulated spreadable honey.
- No starter powder or kits.



Wide-mouth jar

**Clear**

**Class 01:**

**Unflavored creamed honey**

### DIVISION 1072

#### Comb Honey

- From own apiary
- Submit 8-12 ounces.
- Square or circle comb container, present with caps and honey.



Comb honey in square container

**Class 01: All colors**

### DIVISION 1073

#### Purified Beeswax

- From own apiary

##### Class 01: Purified beeswax

Submit one 16-ounce block.



Beeswax block

##### Class 02: Candles

Minimum 8 ounces. Free-standing candles only. Must be 100-percent wax.

### DIVISION 1074

#### Pure Beeswax Products

- Must be produced with pure honey or beeswax.
- Does not need to be from exhibitor's own apiary.

##### Class 01: Lip balm

e.g., lavender, spice, coconut, rose hip, chocolate mint, cinnamon

##### Class 02: Moisturizer

e.g., creams, lotions & bar, herbal or healing salve, make-up remover, body butter

##### Class 03: Hand-crafted soap

e.g., honey & beeswax, milk & honey, honey & vanilla

##### Class 04: Candles

e.g., hand-dipped tapers, hand-rolled, Mason jar candles. For free-standing, 100-percent beeswax candles from own apiary, see Division 1073, class 02.

##### Class 05: Other, specify item

e.g., wrap, ornaments, cold-weather paw protectors, beard wax, wood polish, food-safe cutting board conditioner, snowboard/ski/surfboard wax, pinecone fire starters