



2026 Entry Timeline

Entry deadline Tuesday, July 21, by 6 p.m.

Entry delivery Monday, July 27, 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) • Free for Blue Ribbon Kids ages 5-8.
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



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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.
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. All entries must include a baked component.
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 cannot include fresh fruit garnishes.
9. Refrigeration and/or heating 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. **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 and older.

Youth divisions:

Open to Southern California youth ages 5-17 (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 (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

Blue Ribbon Kids (ages 5-8)..... Free

- 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

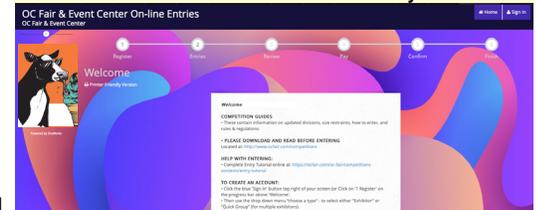
Online entry deadline: Tuesday, July 21, by 6 p.m.

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.

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.

You can log back into your account to see your entries.

For any changes, contact entries@ocfair.com; do not re-enter to make a correction 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



ENTRY DELIVERY

Delivery date: Monday, July 27, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

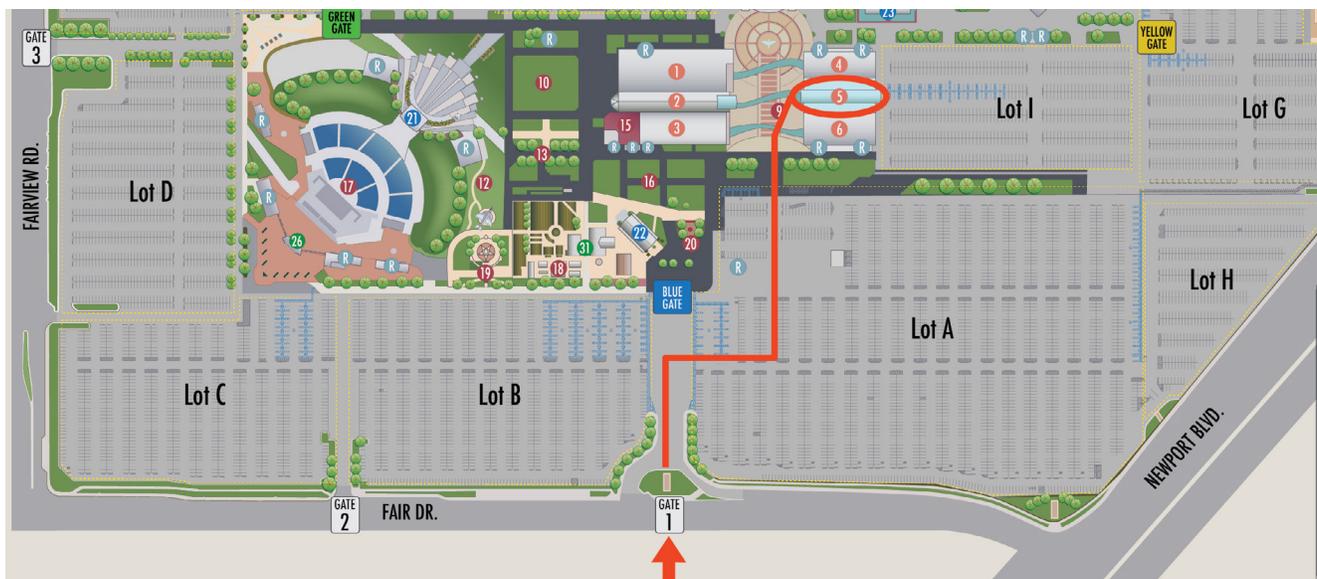
- One (1) participation ribbon will be given to each exhibitor on entry delivery day.
- Late deliveries will not be accepted.
- Entries may be delivered by someone other than the exhibitor.

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





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."

Blue Ribbon Kids

- All Blue Ribbon Kids (ages 5-8) receive a special ribbon.
- The entries are not judged and are not eligible for cash awards.

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 OC 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.....	\$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.
- ***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.
- 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.
- Cakes and cupcakes should be brought on a disposable plate or cardboard cake circle larger than the cake for handling. OC Fair will not return any baking pans or display items.
- Do not use any fresh fruit garnishes on the exterior of the cake.
- Submit a list of ingredients on a 3-by-5 inch card.
- Refrigerators will not be available for cakes and cupcakes. Choose a recipe that does not require refrigeration.

DIVISION 1046

Single Layer Cakes

- Submit one cake between 8-inch to 10-inch round, square or loaf pan.
- Cake must be made from scratch.
- Entries may be plain, frosted, iced or glazed.

Class 01: Bundt, any fruit flavor

e.g., blueberry, lemon, orange, pumpkin

Class 02: Bundt, any other flavor

e.g., chocolate, spice

Class 03: Pound cake, all flavors

Class 04: Coffee cake, non-yeast leavened

Class 05: Upside down cake, any flavor

e.g., pineapple, citrus, stone fruit

Class 06: Sponge cake, any flavor

e.g., genoise, angel food, jelly, Swiss roll

Class 07: Special diet, specify item

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

Class 08: Other single-layer cake, specify item

DIVISION 1047

Frosted Layer Cakes

- Submit one cake between 8-inch to 10-inch round.
- Must contain more than one layer of cake.
- Any frosting or filling.
- Enter the class which best represents the batter predominantly used.
- Layers refer to cakes baked in separate pans then filled between cake layers and assembled. A layer can be split and filled and is still considered one layer.

Class 01: White cake

Class 02: Chocolate cake

e.g., red velvet, devil's food, red wine chocolate

Class 03: Carrot cake

Class 04: Special diet, specify item

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

Class 05: Other layered cake, specify item

e.g., coconut cream, salted caramel, golden hummingbird



Adult Divisions

[CLICK TO ENTER](#)

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.
- 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.
- Cakes and cupcakes should be brought on a disposable plate or cardboard cake circle larger than the cake for handling. OC Fair will not return any baking pans or display items.
- Do not use any fresh fruit garnishes on the exterior of the cake.
- Submit a list of ingredients on a 3-by-5 inch card.
- Refrigerators will not be available for cakes and cupcakes. Choose a recipe that does not require refrigeration.

DIVISION 1048

Cupcakes & Cake Pops

- Enter the class which best represents the batter predominantly used.
- Submit six (6) identical cupcakes or bundtlettes or eight (8) cake pops.
- Standard cupcake size (no minis or jumbos).
- Cupcakes must be made from scratch.
- Entries may be plain, frosted, iced or glazed.
- **No whipped cream frosting.**

Class 01: Chocolate cupcake

Class 02: Fruit-flavored cupcake

Class 03: Unique flavored cupcake

e.g., chocolate stout, piña colada, coconut caramel, mint chocolate

Class 04: Filled cupcake, any flavor

e.g., ganache, chocolate, candy, cereal

Class 05: Cake pops or cake bars, any flavor

• All eight (8) cake pops or bars must be identical.

Class 06: Bundtlettes, any flavor

Class 07: Special diet

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

Class 08: Other, specify item





Youth Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California youth ages 5-17 (by July 17).

Entry limit Two (2) entries per class.

Entry fee \$6 per entry, Blue Ribbon Kids (ages 5-8) are free.

- Rules & guidelines on page 1 apply.
- Youth entries must follow the same rules and requirements as adult divisions
- Entries must be made by the exhibitor with minimal or no adult assistance.
- Use a disposable plate and cover with plastic wrap or slide into a resealable bag.

DIVISION 106

Youth Cakes & Cupcakes Blue Ribbon Kids, Ages 5-8

Class 01: Any

DIVISION 390

Youth Cakes & Cupcakes, Ages 9-17

Class 01: Cakes, any flavor or type, specify

Class 02: Cupcakes, any flavor, specify

Class 03: Other, specify item

e.g., cake pops, bundtlettes

