



2026 Entry Timeline

Entry deadline..... Wednesday, July 1, by 6 p.m.

Entry delivery..... Wednesday, July 15, 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 • *Fees are non-refundable.*

Entry limit.....Adults: one (1) entry 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 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. Entries previously exhibited at the OC Fair are not eligible.
7. 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.
8. An ingredient list must accompany each entry on a 3-by-5 inch card. The exhibitor's name should not be on the card.
9. Entries must to be brought on disposable plates. OC Fair is not responsible for lost baking pans.
10. Refrigeration and/or heating will not be available.
11. 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.
12. Food items will be selected for display and discarded after each show or when they deteriorate.
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.



ELIGIBILITY

Adult divisions:

Open to Southern California residents, ages 18 or older.

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.

ENTRY FEES

Adult divisions \$10 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: Wednesday, 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, save your entries
- When satisfied, click the "CHECK OUT" button

Step 4. Payment

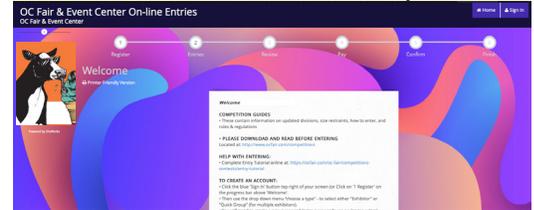
- Enter your credit card information (Mastercard, Visa or American Express.)
- An email notification and confirmation will be sent immediately after the online payment is received.
- Check your spam folder If the email confirmation does not arrive shortly after submitting payment.

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: Wednesday, July 15, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

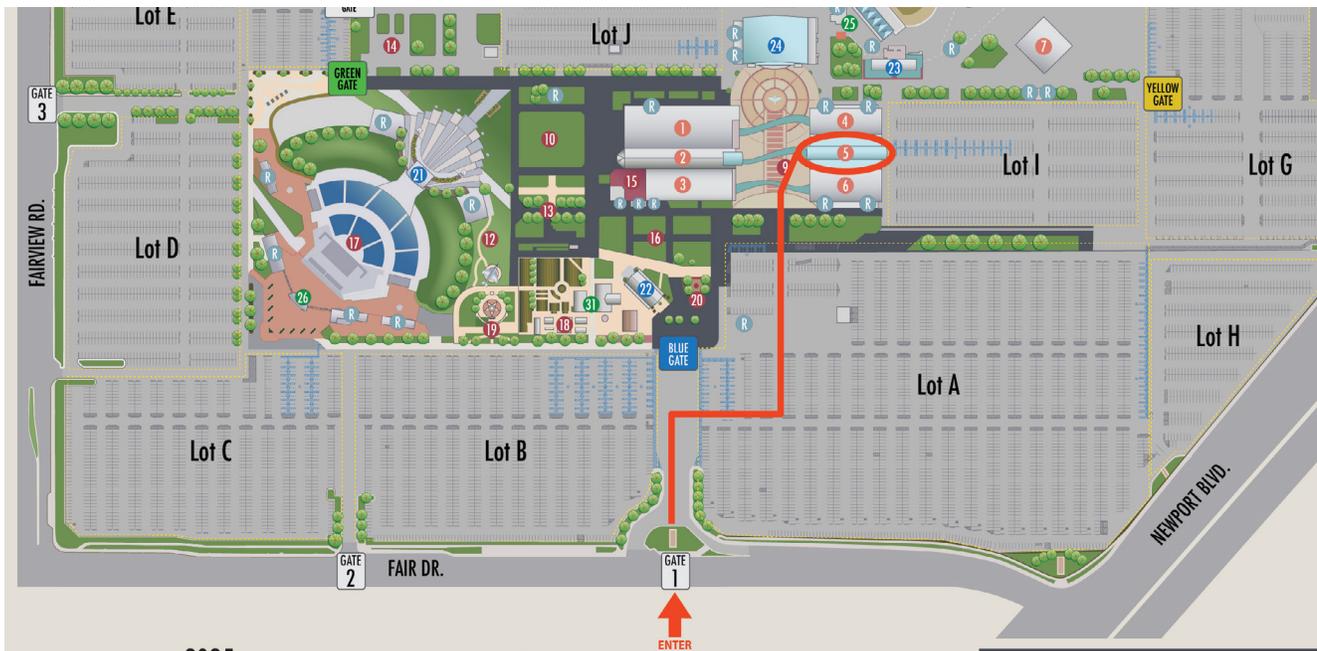
- One (1) participation ribbon will be given to each exhibitor on entry delivery day.
- Late deliveries will not be accepted.

Claim checks

- Claim checks will be provided when entries are delivered.
- Claim checks 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 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."

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	\$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 selected for display in the OC Promenade with any awards received.
- Results will be posted online at ocfair.com/results within one (1) week after the competition date.
- ***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.
- Please bring entries in disposable containers/plates. Pans will not be returned; no exceptions.
- Duplication of entries in more than one class is not allowed.

DIVISION 1060

Quick Breads

- Submit one (1) whole standard loaf, 9-by-5 inches in size.

Class 01: Fruit bread, no nuts

e.g., blueberry, lemon, pumpkin, zucchini, banana

Class 02: Nut bread

e.g., cranberry walnut, banana nut, raspberry pecan

Class 03: Special diet

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

Class 04: Other bread, specify item

e.g., cornbread, Irish soda, ube (purple yam)

DIVISION 1061

Muffins, Biscuits & Scones

- Submit six (6) muffins, biscuits, scones or others.

Class 01: Fruit muffins

e.g., blueberry, banana, strawberry

Class 02: Chocolate muffins

e.g., chocolate chip, double chocolate, white chocolate

Class 03: Muffins, any other flavor

Class 04: Biscuits, any flavor

Class 05: Scones, any flavor

Class 06: Special diet

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

DIVISION 1062

Artisan Leavened Bread

- Submit one (1) loaf or approximately 1 pound.
- No machine breads or packaged mixes.

Class 01: French, white, wheat or whole grain

Class 02: Special ingredient

e.g., cheese, onion, herb, vegetable, olive

Class 03: Focaccia or fougasse

e.g., onion, herbed garlic, apricot, cherry, olive

**Class 04: Animal shaped, wreath, braided,
rosca de reyes, pan de muerto**

Class 05: Special diet

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

DIVISION 1063

Sourdough

- Submit one (1) loaf or approximately 1 pound.
- No machine breads or packaged mixes.

Class 01: Classic (sourdough starter, salt, flour)

Class 02: Bread art with scoring

Class 03: With additions

e.g., fruit, nuts, chocolate, cheese, herbs

Class 04: Special Diet



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- Please bring entries in disposable containers/plates. Pans will not be returned; no exceptions.
- Duplication of entries in more than one class is not allowed.

DIVISION 1064

Leavened Bread

- Submit one (1) loaf or approximately one (1) pound, unless noted.
- No machine breads or packaged mixes.

Class 01: Rolls or breadsticks

Submit six (6).

Class 02: Cinnamon rolls or sticky buns

Submit six (6).

Class 03: Pretzels or bagels

Submit six (6).

Class 04: Special diet

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

Class 05: Other, specify item

e.g., babka, pumpernickel, croutons, fritters

DIVISION 1065

Unleavened Bread

Class 01: Crackers

e.g., graham cracker, saltine, oyster, cheese, hardtack

- Submit twelve (12).

Class 02: Other, specify item

e.g., pita, naan, tortillas, matzo, rotis, lavash, lefse

- Submit six (6).

DIVISION 1066

Pastries

- Submit six (6) each of same recipe.

Class 01: Croissants

e.g., plain, chocolate, ham and cheese

Class 02: Danish

e.g., Spandauer, cinnamon snail, bear claw

Class 03: Baklava

Class 04: Donuts

e.g., old fashioned, yeasted, filled, crullers, beignets

Class 05: Other, specify item