



2026 Entry Timeline

- Entry deadline** **Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.**
- Entry acceptance email**..... Friday, June 5, by 6 p.m. (Check spam folder.)
Email will come from sweb@fairsoftware.com.
- Entry delivery** **Friday & Saturday, June 19-20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** 
- Award judging results**..... Viewable in person. Posted online by the second week of Fair.
- 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 • \$6 youth (9-17) • Free for Blue Ribbon Kids ages 5-8**
Fees are non-refundable.
- Entry limit**..... **Five (5) per adult • Three (3) per youth (5-17)**
- Contact**..... **Hobbies & Handcrafts • Kim Millett, Program Coordinator**
hobbiesandhandcrafts@ocfair.com
Office 714-708-1553 • 714-708-1623 (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. If you need assistance determining the division and/or class, please contact the Exhibits Office at 714-708-1553 or email hobbiesandhandcrafts@ocfair.com.
4. **Causes for disqualification.** Disqualified entries will not be displayed and must be picked up when notified.
 - Non-compliance to the competition and OC Fair guidelines will result in disqualification.
 - Entries over the maximum amount will not be accepted.
 - Articles showing signs of wear or use may be disqualified.
 - Entries that do not follow the rules of the division and class will be disqualified.
 - Items previously shown in the OC Fair will be disqualified.
 - Work must be finished; no incomplete or work-in-progress will be accepted.
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. Adult Handcrafts is a juried competition. Not all entries will be accepted.
7. All youth entries are accepted if rules are followed.
8. All entries must have been completed within the last two (2) years.
9. **A photo upload of each entry is required. If a photo is not received, the entry will not be accepted.**
10. The display and location of entry are at the discretion of the program coordinator. No entry will be accepted where an exhibitor describes the conditions under which they will exhibit or how the entry must be displayed.
11. Exhibitors are responsible for entering their items in the correct division and class.
12. Final acceptance of the entry will be left to the discretion of the program coordinator.
13. Due to the family-oriented theme of OC Fair, work dealing with drug use, obscenity, defamatory statements, violence, gang activity, offensive or objectionable content will not be accepted. This is at the discretion of OC Fair staff.
14. **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.
15. 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 and older.

Youth divisions:

Open to youth ages 5-17 (by July 17) who live in Southern California.

ENTRY LIMIT

Adult divisionsFive (5) handcraft entries per exhibitor

Youth divisionsThree (3) handcraft entries per exhibitor

- Sets or ensembles may be entered as one (1) entry.
- The total number of accepted entries is limited to the space available.

ENTRY FEES

Adult divisions\$10 per entry

Youth divisions (9-17).....\$6 per entry

Ages (5-8).....Free

- 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.

If none of an exhibitor's entries are accepted for exhibition, one (1) free admission ticket will be mailed to you.

- One (1) ticket per exhibitor, not per entry.
- Ticket is good any day during 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.

PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR WORK FOR ENTRY

Digital photo submission of your entry is required.



- Photo upload is limited to one per entry.

Image format

- JPEG, JPG or PNG file formats.
- iPhone users must change the default HEIC camera setting to JPEG or convert the image.
- RGB color space (CMYK files will be converted to RGB by the system).
- Be sure that the image is rotated to be in an upright position and orientation.
- Maximum file size: 8 MB (megabytes).

Tutorial [Photographing Your Work](#)



HOW TO ENTER

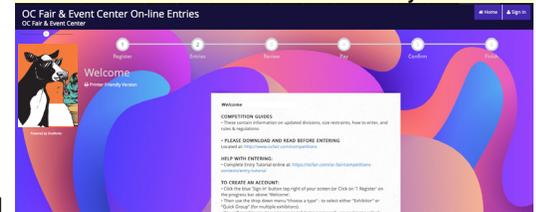
Online entry deadline: Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.

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, title and description of the entry for punctuation, capitalization and spelling to ensure accuracy on exhibit display labels.
- Descriptions are limited to 100 characters and should include a short statement about the work or the methods and techniques used.
- 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. A blue "UPLOAD FILES" button will also appear.

Step 6. Image upload

- Click on the "UPLOAD FILES" button to start uploading your images into the system.

You can log back into your account to see your entry (or entries) and replace images and descriptions. For any other changes, contact us: entries@ocfair.com. Do not re-enter to make corrections as you will be charged.



HELP ENTERING

For additional help, review these detailed step-by-step guides:

- [Entry Tutorial](#)
- [Photographing Your Work](#)

Phone: 714-708-1553 (during office hours) Email: entries@ocfair.com

PRICE & SELL ENTRIES (ADULTS)

Pricing

Entries may be marked NFS (not for sale) or for sale by indicating the selling price \$_____.

Prospective buyers

No sale or acceptance of fees for items will be made by OC Fair. Prospective buyers may fill out an *Interested in Purchasing Exhibited Art* form that will be forwarded to the exhibitor at the close of the OC Fair. OC Fair does not take commission on items sold as a result of exhibition in the Hobbies & Handcrafts Competition.

JUDGES

Qualified judges are utilized to judge all exhibits and special contests. Judges are selected from local professionals and individuals who are experienced and highly qualified in their fields. Each year, the program coordinator may choose new judges or judges may judge different divisions. The judges' decisions are final.

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.

FIRST-ROUND ONLINE JUDGING

Adult divisions will be judged first from your uploaded images to determine if the submitted entry meets the basic requirements for participation in this competition, is entered in the most correct or appropriate category and meets the subjective standards for the exhibition set by the judges.

The exhibitor will be notified by email with the results of the first-round judging.

An email will be sent for each entry. Please check your spam/junk folder. The email will come from sweb@fairsoftware.com. Results may also be viewed online at ocfair.com/results.

Acceptance for exhibition

Only accepted work should be delivered on the entry delivery day. First-round judging acceptance does not guarantee acceptance for exhibition. The delivered entry may still be judged out for not complying with the competition rules and guidelines.

- Not all entries will be accepted. Due to the high number of entries and limited display space, OC Fair cannot accept all the work submitted.



ENTRY DELIVERY



Delivery date: Friday & Saturday, June 19-20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- One 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.

Entry delivery

- Enter Gate 1 and follow the marked route.
- Drop off is located on the east side of the Hobbies & Handcrafts Gallery/Anaheim Building (building 4 on the map).
- Email alerts will be sent prior to the delivery date with detailed information. Check your spam folder for emails.



Claim checks

- Will be provided when exhibits are delivered.
- Are required to pick up your entry on entry pick up day.
- Entries may be picked up by someone other than the exhibitor.

ENTRY PICK UP

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

- An email alert will be sent prior to the pick up date with detailed information. Check your spam folder for emails.
- 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 and ribbons become the property of OC Fair and will be discarded.

Entry pick up

- Pick up entries at the Hobbies & Handcrafts Gallery/Anaheim Building (building 4 on the map).
- Enter through Gate 1 (Main Gate) and follow the directional signs.



AWARD JUDGING

Adult divisions

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

- First, second, third place and honorable mention may be awarded in each class if judges so determine. More than one honorable mention per class may be awarded.
- First place winners will compete for "Division Winner."
- Division Winners 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 "Division Winner."
- Those chosen for Division Winner will compete for "Best of Show" when there are two (2) or more divisions represented in the show.

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.

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.

Judging criteria

- **Adult:** entries are judged on originality and creativity, workmanship and technique, level of difficulty, color and design, finishing/framing and visual impact.
- **Youth:** entries are judged on appearance, workmanship, creativity/originality and an overall score.

Judges' Award

Additional awards may be made at the discretion of each judge for outstanding entries that exhibit special qualities that the judges feel deserve to be recognized.

Industry awards

Awarded by a community guild or organization.

Theme Award

Awarded to an entry that best represents the annual OC Fair theme.

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.



AWARDS

Adult

Best of Show.....	\$150
Division Winner.....	\$50
First Place.....	\$25
Second Place.....	\$15
Third Place.....	\$10
Honorable Mention.....	Ribbon
Judges' Award.....	Rosette
Theme Award.....	\$50

Youth

Best of Show.....	\$75
Division Winner.....	\$35
Judges' Award.....	Rosette
First, Second, Third.....	Ribbon
Blue Ribbon Kids.....	Ribbon



- Exhibitors will receive awarded ribbons on entry pick up day.
- 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

- All accepted entries will be displayed in the Hobbies & Handcrafts Gallery 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 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.





HOW TO PREPARE

Size, weight and other restrictions

- Items exceeding 36 inches wide and 36 inches deep must be pre-approved by the program coordinator.
- Entries cannot weigh more than 40 pounds.
- No food items.
- No live plants.

Framed items

- **Maximum Size is 36-by-36 inches.**
- Framed items to be hung must be wired and ready to hang. A multi-strand braided galvanized steel wire is required.
- Improperly wired entries will not be hung.
- No sawtooth hangers, masking tape, string, pop-top rings, etc.
- Framing with plastic or plexiglass is preferred.
- OC Fair staff will use extreme care in handling frames containing glass but assumes no responsibility for breakage.



Multi-strand braided galvanized steel wire



No sawtooth hangers

Sets or ensembles

May be entered as one entry. Exhibitor must label each piece in a set: "1 of 2," "2 of 2," etc.

Models and miniatures

All parts of models, miniatures and other items should be secured. Fragile items should be attached to a sturdy base.



Adult Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.

Entry limit Five (5) per exhibitor in all classes combined

Entry fee \$10 per entry

- All rules & guidelines apply.
- All entries require a photo upload.

DIVISION 400

Polymer Clay

Class 01: Jewelry

Class 02: Sculpture

Class 03: All other items, specify

DIVISION 401

Embellished Clothing & Fashion Accessories

- Embellished ready-made wearing apparel or fashion accessories. (e.g. purchased jacket, t-shirt, sweatshirt, scarf, tote, etc., that the entrant embellished.)
- Items can be bejeweled, hand or machine appliqué, dyed, etc.
- For decoratively painted apparel items see Division 403.

Class 01: Apparel

Class 02: Fashion accessory

DIVISION 402

Figure, Doll, Toy or Animal

Class 01: Any, specify

DIVISION 403

Tole Painting

- Decorative painting (oil or acrylic) on objects primarily tin, wood, furniture and fabric.
- Weight limit: 40 pounds.
- Items over 36 inches wide or 36 inches deep must be pre-approved by the program coordinator.
- Includes hand-painted apparel and fabric accessories.
- No framed painting. For original framed painting on canvas, please see the Fine Arts Competition Guide.

Use the following definitions as a guide:

- **Folk art:** Reflects art form from the Old World and requires skills and techniques that separate it from primitive art.

- **Naturalistic:** Realistic objects in a natural setting, paying attention to accurate and precise details, portraying things as they are. Treatment of forms, colors, space, etc. as they appear or might appear in nature.
- **Stylized:** Life-like qualities are weaker. Methods of stylization include flatness (lack of three-dimensional depth, no shading), simplified shapes and unrealistically vibrant colors.
- **Cutesy or whimsical:** Fun, cute or seasonal pieces that do not fit any other class.
- **Rosemaling & strokework:** Using basic brush strokes in various combinations.

Class 01: Folk art

Class 02: Naturalistic

Class 03: Stylized

Class 04: Cutesy or whimsical, specify

Class 05: Rosemaling & strokework

Class 06: Holiday

Class 07: Other techniques, specify

DIVISION 404

Glass

- Weight limit: 40 pounds.
- For resin-based artwork see Division 418.

Class 01: Stained glass - flat panel

Class 02: Stained glass - dimensional

Class 03: Other techniques, specify

E.g. fused, blown, cast.

DIVISION 405

Mosaics

- Weight limit: 40 pounds

Class 01: Flat panel - glass

Class 02: Flat panel - all other materials

Class 03: Dimensional



Adult Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.

Entry limit Five (5) per exhibitor in all classes combined

Entry fee \$10 per entry

- All rules & guidelines apply.
- All entries require a photo upload.

DIVISION 406

Resin

Class 01: Poured with frit, sheet glass inclusions

Class 02: Sculpture

Class 03: Other

DIVISION 407

Gourds

Class 01: Painted

Class 02: Carved

Class 03: Whimsical

Class 04: Other techniques

Class 05: Mixed techniques

DIVISION 409

Metal & Leatherwork

Class 01: Metalwork

Class 02: Leatherwork

DIVISION 410

More Handcrafts

- Weight limit: 40 pounds.
- For holiday-themed items, see Division 444.
- For floral creations, see Floral Competition Guide.
- For figures, dolls, toy and animals, see Division 402.

Class 01: Using natural items

Shells, seeds, rice, rocks, etc.

Class 02: Beading (other than jewelry)

Class 03: Mixed craft, specify

Class 04: Decorated wreaths

Class 05: Other, specify

DIVISION 411

Miniatures

- Weight limit: 40 pounds.
- Scale: 1 inch = 1 foot or less.
- Specify size on entry form. Exhibits larger than 36 inches wide by 36 inches deep must be pre-approved by the program coordinator.
- Bring a 3-by-5-inch card with the entry stating all materials involved, new and used.
- May be a combination of purchased, found and handmade materials.
- Any information you can share about the finer aspects of your entry will ensure those things will not be overlooked during judging.
- For model kits, see Division 413.
- For art shadow boxes with scrapbooking materials, see scrapbooking, Division 415.

Class 01: Miniature structure and furnishings

E.g. doll house, fort - must be to scale.

Class 02: Room boxes, shadow boxes

Class 03: Miniature vignettes, dioramas, etc.

DIVISION 412

Scratch-built Models & Miniatures

- Any item built "from scratch" rather than building it from a commercial kit, kit-bashing or buying it pre-assembled.
- For items made entirely of wood, please see Division 583, Class 04 in the Woodworking Competition Guide.

Class 01: Scratch built - vehicle

Class 02: Scratch built - structure

Class 03: Scratch built - other, specify



Adult Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.

Entry limit Five (5) per exhibitor in all classes combined.

Entry fee \$10 per entry

- All rules & guidelines apply.
- All entries require a photo upload.

DIVISION 413

Models

- Cars, planes, ships, vehicles, figures, etc., created by the exhibitor from pre-formed kits and assembled.
- For scratch-built items, see Division 412.
- Specify size on entry form. Exhibits larger than 36 inches wide by 36 inches deep must be pre-approved by the program coordinator.
- **Model kits:** The model has been built from a commercial kit or kits. Color schemes and/or markings may be changed. Metal foil allowed. Structural changes and the addition of non-kit components may be made to correct, change, and/or improve detailing.

Class 01: Plastic

Class 02: Wood

Class 03: Other, specify

DIVISION 414

Paper Art

- Includes paper lace, papier-maché, origami, decoupage, collage, quilling, pressed paper and cardboard objects. Paper itself as a decorative piece.
- For scrapbooking, cards, stamping and other paper crafts, see Divisions 415 & 417.

Class 01: 2-Dimensional

Flat surface with slight dimension

Class 02: 3-Dimensional

In the round, viewable from different angles

DIVISION 415

Scrapbooking

- All individual scrapbook pages must be in frames and wired to be hung for display. (12-by-12 inch frames are available at craft stores in the scrapbooking section.)
- Decorated scrapbook album pages must be designed by the scrapbooker.
- Digital scrapbooking, see Division 416.

Class 01: Single-page layout: single photo

Class 02: Single-page layout: multiple photos

Class 03: Two-page layout

Class 04: All other

DIVISION 416

Digital Scrapbook

- Form of scrapbooking that is done using a personal computer, digital or scanned photos and computer graphics software.
- No kits allowed.
- Not eligible for "Best of Show."

Class 01: 8 ½-by-11 inches and larger

Class 02: Smaller than 8 ½-by-11 inches

DIVISION 417

Cards, Invitations & Other Paper Crafts

Class 01: Pop-up cards

Class 02: Shaker boxes

Class 03: Stamping

Class 04: Quilling

Class 05: OC Fair theme "Your Adventure Awaits"

Class 06: All other cards & invitations

Class 07: All other paper crafts

E.g. gift bags, tags, boxes, etc.



Adult Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.

Entry limit Five (5) per exhibitor in all classes combined.

Entry fee \$10 per entry

- All rules & guidelines apply.
- All entries require a photo upload.

DIVISION 418

Upcycled Handcrafts

- Upcycled products encourage a creativity that benefits both the environment and society, using innovation and creativity to make a new, better-quality object from unwanted or scrap materials that have been restored or reinvented.
- Bring a 3-by-5-inch card with the entry stating all materials involved, new and used.

Class 01: Decorative craft items

Class 02: Functional items, specify

E.g. purse, lamp

DIVISION 439

Cosplay Costumes

- Bring to life your favorite existing fantasy or fictional character from anime, movies, video games or comics.
- Full costumes must be at least 75 percent made by the entrant. Found parts or props are allowed and must be disclosed.
- Include a color image of your character for reference with your entry.
- No live steel. No functional or previously functioning projectile weapons. No actual clubs, maces or other crushing weapons. Acceptable weapon props include soft plastic, fabric, wood, paper, etc.
- Wigs can be purchased cut, colored, styled or embellished for cosplay.
- Please be mindful that OC Fair is a family event.

Class 01: Full costume

Class 02: Accessory or prop (handmade)

Class 03: Wig

DIVISION 444

Holiday-Themed Items

Class 01: Fiber arts

Class 02: All other crafts items, specify

For tole painting, see Division 403.

Class 03: Celebrating America's 250th birthday





Youth Divisions Ages 5-17 Hobbies & Handcrafts

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

Entry limit Three (3) per exhibitor in all classes combined.

Entry fee \$6 per entry. No fee for Blue Ribbon Kids (ages 5-8).

- All rules & guidelines apply.
- All entries require a photo upload.
- No paintings or drawings.
- No Legos or Bionics.

DIVISION 101

Blue Ribbon Kids, ages 5-8

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

Class 01: Any item

DIVISION 348

Youth Handcrafts, ages 9-12

- Class 01: Sculpture
- Class 02: Paper
- Class 03: Multimedia
- Class 04: All other

DIVISION 349

Youth Handcrafts, ages 13-17

- For drawing or painting see [Fine Arts Competition Guide](#).

Class 01: Sculpture

Class 02: Paper

Class 03: Multimedia

Class 04: All other

DIVISION 333

Special Needs, up to age 25

Class 01: Fiber arts

Class 02: Handcrafts & jewelry