



TABLE SETTINGS COMPETITION GUIDE



2026 Entry Timeline

- Entry deadline..... Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.
- First show entry delivery..... Friday, July 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- First show entry pick up..... Monday Aug. 3, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Second show entry delivery..... Monday Aug. 3, 4 - 8 p.m.
- Fair dates July 17 - Aug. 16 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
- Second show 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 (7-17). Fees are non-refundable.
- Entry limit..... One (1) per exhibitor

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rules & Guidelines.....	1
Eligibility / Entry Limit.....	2
Entry Fees / OC Fair Exhibitor Ticket	2
How to Enter / Help Entering.....	3
Entry Delivery / Entry Pick Up	4
Judging.....	5
Awards / Awards Ceremony.....	6
Guidelines.....	7-9
First Show Adult Divisions	10
First Show Youth Division.....	11
 Second Show Adult Divisions.....	12



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.**
 - Non-compliance to the competition and OC Fair guidelines will result in disqualification.
 - Entries over the maximum amount will not be accepted.
 - Items previously shown in the OC Fair will be disqualified.
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. **Set up**
 - All entries must be set up and completed within the allotted time on entry delivery day.
 - First show: 10:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
 - Second show: 4:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
 - No late entries will be accepted.
 - Only the person whose name appears on the entry form is allowed in the exhibit area during set up.
 - Exhibitors may not touch their own completed entry after the competition ends or another exhibitor's entry at any time.
7. **Display requirements**
 - See "Display Requirements and Restrictions" on page 7.
 - 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..
8. **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.
9. 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 7-17 (by July 17) who live in Southern California.

ENTRY LIMIT

Adults.....One (1) entry per exhibitor

YouthOne (1) entry per exhibitor

- Entries will be accepted based on the order received. All entries will be accepted unless notified otherwise. If your entry is not accepted, you will be notified by email within three (3) business days.
- Online entry will be disabled when capacity has been reached.
- Due to the popularity of the Table Setting Competition and limited space, not all entries may be accepted.
- Exhibitors will be limited to one show unless additional spots are available. If you are interested in competing twice, email hobbiesandhandcrafts@ocfair.com to be added to the waitlist. You will be notified by April 17.

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 time of entry delivery.

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

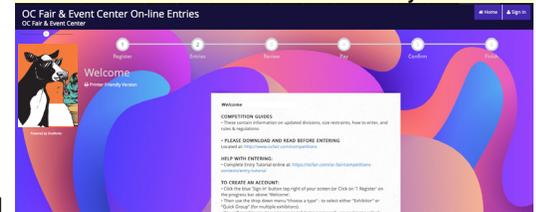
Online entry deadline: Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.

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.
- 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, 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.

***For any changes, contact us: 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



ENTRY DELIVERY

First show: Friday, July 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Second show: Monday, Aug. 3, 4 - 8 p.m.

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

Entry delivery

- Drop off is located on the west side of the Anaheim Building/Hobbies & Handcrafts Gallery.
- 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

First show pick up: Monday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Second show pick up: 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.



AWARD JUDGING

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. The judges' decisions are final.

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 "Best of Show."

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on:

- 25%..... Suitability for occasion and theme
- 25%..... Decorativeness/eye-appeal
- 25%..... Creativity and originality
- 25%..... Correctness

Judges' comments will be displayed at each table after judging is complete.

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.

Disqualified entries

If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, the judge will not change the status of awards given for other entries.



AWARDS

Includes ribbons and/or prize money (premiums)

Adult

Best of Show.....	\$150
Division Winner.....	\$75
First Place.....	\$50
Second Place.....	\$35
Third Place.....	\$20
Honorable Mention.....	Ribbon
Judges' Award.....	Rosette
Best Napkin Folds.....	Rosette
Best Menu Presentation.....	Rosette
Best Use of Color.....	Rosette
Most Creative.....	Rosette

Youth

Best of Show.....	\$75
Most Creative.....	\$30
Most Correct Components.....	\$30
Judges' Award.....	Rosette
First, Second, Third.....	Rosette



- 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.
- **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.





GUIDELINES FOR OC FAIR TABLE SETTINGS COMPETITIONS

- Create a tablescape and menu according to the theme of the division.
- Tables will be provided for your display.
- Round table dimensions are 36 inches round by 30 inches tall.
- Rectangle tables are 30 inches wide by 48 inches long and 30 inches tall.
- A floor-length black fabric tablecloth will be provided (and is not considered part of the entry).
- All other equipment and design elements are the exhibitor's responsibility.
- DIY elements are encouraged.
- Melamine may be used where appropriate to carry out the theme.
- Please let us know if you will need electrical access.

Display Requirements and Restrictions

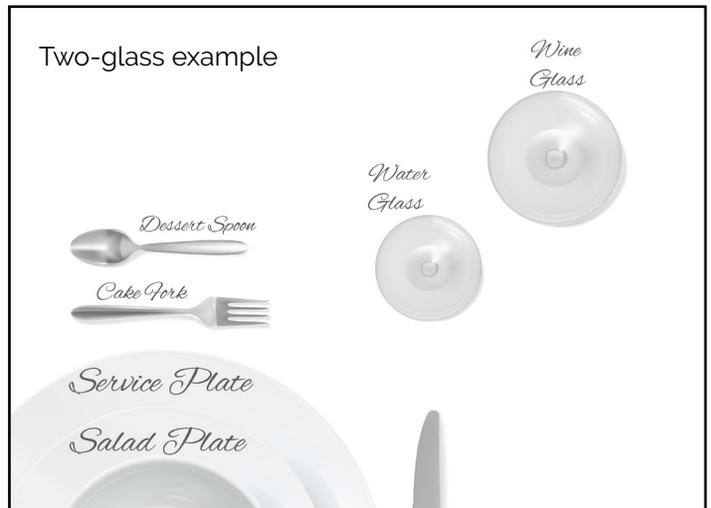
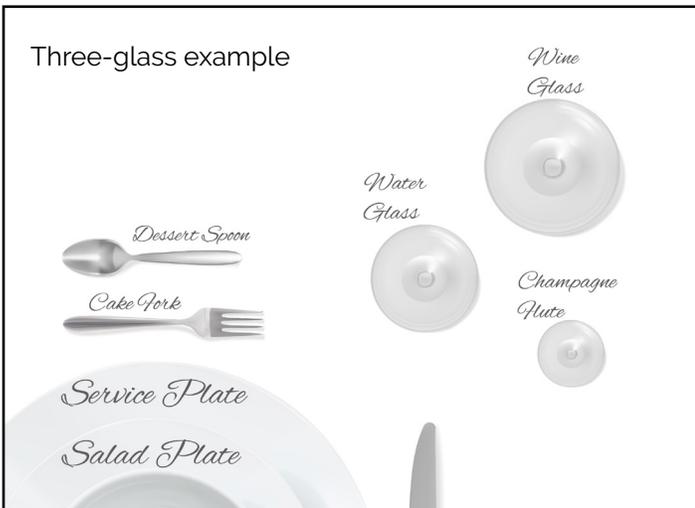
- All tables must display two (2) place settings.
- A menu must be displayed and items listed in order of service and must be easily read by Fair guests. For the purposes of this show, a minimum of three (3) courses should be served.
- Set all flatware, glassware, cups, saucers and plates for all courses corresponding to the menu, with the exception of the dessert plate. Do not set steak knives. Set a water glass for all menus and style of service.
- Include a table drape or cloth.
- No disposable/paper tableware.
- No fresh flowers or real food may be used on the tablescape displays.
- No soundtracks.
- Faux food items may be used as props only.
- All decorations, including backdrops, must be on or attached to the table and are not to exceed 6 ½ feet at its highest point measured from the floor. No additional floor items allowed (e.g., chairs, rugs, etc.). The entry will be disqualified if these conditions are not met.



Modern American Standards and Guidelines

- Judging criteria for OC Fair Table Settings is based on modern American standards, although there are distinctions between formal and informal place settings, as well as settings unique to meals served (non-traditional).
- Use the guidelines below to assist you, but **set according to the needs of your menu.**

Formal Table Setting





1) Table linens

- Include a table drape or cloth. The OC Fair table drapes will not be judged as part of entry and are to be used in addition to the exhibitor's cloth and not as the exhibitor's only tablecloth.
- Mats or runners may be used in conjunction with a tablecloth.
- All place settings may have creatively folded napkins and placed in a way that highlights the theme.

2) Menu

- Menu should reflect the theme or occasion.
- Menu should be easy to read and visible.
- Food items should be balanced, offering sufficient dishes from all food groups.
- For the purposes of this show, a minimum of three (3) courses should be served.

3) Flatware

- Utensils may follow the curve on a round table.
- Flatware should be arranged at each place in the order of its use for the various courses, utensils on the outermost position to be used first.
- Set no more than three (3) pieces of flatware on each side of the plate.
- Set forks (except cocktail fork) at left of plate with prongs up. The cocktail fork, if needed, is placed on the plate or at extreme right.
- Set knives and spoons to the right of plate. Set knives with blade turned toward the plate. Do not set steak knives.
- If a salad course is served early in the meal, the salad fork should be further from the main course fork, with both set on the left.
- For informal place settings, when an entrée salad is the main course, dinner fork may be set for the course.
- Dessert utensils (fork and teaspoon) should be set above the main plate horizontally (bowl of spoon facing left and the fork below with tines facing right), for both formal and informal tables.
- Bread knives are not required, but if used they should lay across the bread plate, parallel to edge of table with the handle pointing to the right, or at a 45 degree angle, handle to right, blade turned toward center of the plate.
- Chopsticks and Asian soup spoons may not replace American utensils.

4) Tableware

- Set all courses served according to the menu with the exception of dessert. The salad plate, if needed, may be set to the left of the forks or on top of the dinner/meal plate.
- The bread and butter plate may be placed above the fork for both formal and informal settings.
- If coffee or tea is listed on the menu, cups and saucers are set on the right of the knives and spoons or above the setting to the right. If space is limited, the handle should be turned to the right.

5) Glasses

- Drinking glasses of any kind – water, wine, juice, iced tea – are set at the top right of the dinner plate, above the knives and spoons.
- Glasses designed for certain types of wine may be set if available. If only one (1) type of glass is available, it is considered correct regardless of the type of wine provided.
- Set a water glass for all menus and styles of service.

6) Centerpieces

- Centerpieces may be scaled for a larger table that would seat more guests.
- Table decorations should be below eye level or not obstructive for diners.
- If centerpieces are placed in a corner of the table or at the end of the table, they may be higher and/or larger.



First Show - Adult Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older

Entry limit One (1) per exhibitor

Entry fee \$10 per entry

Tables are limited to the following sizes:

Round table dimensions are 36 inches round by 30 inches tall.

Rectangle table dimensions are 30 inches wide by 48 inches long and 30 inches tall

- Create a tablescape and menu according to the theme of the division.
- Use the table settings guidelines to assist you.
- Select the class of the table shape you prefer, but please note tables are limited and your preference may run out. If this is the case, you will be assigned the other shape and notified within 72 hours after you submit your entry.
- Due to limited space, online entry will be disabled when capacity has been reached.

DIVISION 801

OC Fair Theme: "Your Adventure Awaits"

Pack your gear! It's time for a trip down the road less traveled. Take the scenic route and tap into the excitement of novel experiences and unfamiliar territory. Leap out of your comfort zone and veer off the map, you never know what's around that bend. Climb that mountain. Sail the seven seas. Face the dragon. Whether you create your own adventure or relive a thrilling tale, your concept should be bold, exhilarating and take your guests off the beaten path.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 802

Get Your Kicks on Route 66

It's the 100-year anniversary of the "Main Street of America." Spanning 2,448 miles, Route 66 lasted less than 60 years but left an enduring imprint on our culture. The open road, neon signs, quirky diners, funky motels and wild natural landscapes create a quintessential portrait of America. Running from Chicago to Santa Monica, Route 66 encouraged western migration, linked small towns to big cities and continues to inspire to this day.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 803

Desert Mirage

There's something about a desert's endless, ever-eroding landscape, brutal climate and distance from civilization that has drawn artists for centuries. This unrelenting environment molds unique land formations, unusual creatures and resilient people. It is a land of harshness but also beauty, barrenness but life. It invites self-reflection and self-expression. In addition to the remarkable lives adapted to these conditions, take inspiration from the natural elements, dramatic lighting, earth tones, diverse textures, expansive sunrises and sunsets, and warm palette to create an oasis for your guests.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 804

Halloween

Witches and monsters and spooks, oh my! Ghouls have come out to play, and the eerie creatures of the night take center stage for this haunted extravaganza. Dust off your candelabras. Dig out your skeletons and harvest those pumpkins for an enchanting evening of festivities and frights. Will your visitors be in for a trick or a treat?

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table



Youth Division - First Show Only

Eligibility Open to youth ages 7-17 (by July 17) who live in Southern California

Entry limit One (1) per exhibitor

Entry fee \$6 per entry.

- All youth table settings exhibitors must follow traditional Modern American Standards for the correct placement of all components. Use the table settings guidelines to assist you.
- For youth divisions, table dimensions are 36 inches round by 30 inches tall.

DIVISION 366

My Summer Vacation- Youth, Ages 7-17

The school year is over. Take advantage of the extra daylight and break from routine to relax, spend time with friends and family or host a summer-themed party. Share your favorite camping story or daydream about your ideal getaway. Try new foods or new hobbies. Explore new places or revisit old favorites. Fill your days with adventure or relish not having to do anything at all. Whether you reminisce about a fond memory or dream about the perfect getaway, your design should allow your guests to share in the fun.

Class 01: Round table





Second Show - Adult Divisions

Eligibility Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older

Entry limit One (1) per exhibitor

Entry fee \$10 per entry

Tables are limited to the following sizes:

Round table dimensions are 36 inches round by 30 inches tall.

Rectangle table dimensions are 30 inches wide by 48 inches long and 30 inches tall

- Create a tablescape and menu according to the theme of the division.
- Use the table settings guidelines to assist you.
- Select the class of the table shape you prefer, but please note tables are limited and your preference may run out. If this is the case, you will be assigned the other shape and notified within 72 hours after you submit your entry.
- Due to limited space, online entry will be disabled when capacity has been reached.

DIVISION 805

OC Fair Theme: "Your Adventure Awaits"

Pack your gear, it's time for a trip down the road less traveled. Take the scenic route and tap into the excitement of novel experiences and unfamiliar territory. Leap out of your comfort zone and veer off the map: you never know what's around that bend. Climb that mountain. Sail the seven seas. Face the dragon. Whether you create your own adventure or relive a thrilling tale, your concept should be bold, exhilarating and take your guests off the beaten path.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 806

Fiesta

August is Chicano Heritage Month at the OC Fair and we invite everyone to celebrate with us! Fiestas commemorate milestones and give opportunities to strengthen community ties and pass on timeless traditions. Take inspiration from the rich Mexican-American heritage and blend the old with modern. Revel in vibrant colors, regional folklore, flowing skirts, intricate embroidery and beautiful flowers. Paired with exceptional cuisine and great company, your design should feel as rich and vibrant as the culture it celebrates.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 807

Ready Player Two

Spawn into your favorite video game, whether it's a beloved retro or a modern MMORPG. Level up your table with a world-building centerpiece, clever characters and hidden Easter eggs. You're welcome to use mods or offer side quests, use strategy or cheat codes. Make sure your party builds up XP and HP before taking on the final boss together. Your AAA table should offer a brief escape from reality to entertain your fellow players or it'll be GAME OVER.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 808

Easter Brunch

Hippity hoppity, the Easter Bunny is on his way! While the kids are out hunting eggs, host a garden party in honor of spring. The holiday features bright colors and adorable fluffy animals, but we still want joyful, charming and sophisticated looks. Don't be afraid to use seasonal florals, delightful décor and the lure of sweet treats to bring company and a particular floppy-eared visitor to your yard. We'll be expecting egg-ceptional tablescapes.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table