



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.
- 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**..... **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 / Entry Fees.....	2
OC Fair Exhibitor Ticket.....	2
Photographing Your Work for Entry.....	2
How to Enter	3
Help Entering	4
Judges / First-Round Judging	4
Entry Delivery.....	5
Entry Pick Up.....	5
Judging.....	6
Awards / Awards Ceremony	7
How to Prepare.....	8
Adult Divisions.....	9
Youth Divisions.....	9



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.
 - Entries must follow the rules of the division and class.
 - 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. Adult Collections is a juried competition. Not all entries will be accepted.
7. All youth entries are accepted if rules are followed.
8. **A photo upload of each entry is required. If a photo is not received, the entry will not be accepted.**
9. **A collection is a minimum of five (5) items and a maximum of ten (10) items.**
 - Items such as pins, patches, buttons, matchbooks, etc. that are mounted in a shadow box, display case or other type of container may exceed the maximum of ten (10) items. The size of the case or container cannot exceed 24-by-18 inches and is limited to one (1). This counts as your whole collection.
 - Collections mounted on boards will not be accepted.
 - A matching pair is considered a single item.
 - Collections requiring more than 36 inches of display shelf require prior approval from the program coordinator.
 - Notify the program coordinator to request any special display needs.
10. Items made by the exhibitor are not considered collectibles for this show.
11. Entries may be limited or not displayed based on size, content, subject material or for any reason determined not in the best interest of OC Fair. Final acceptance of the entry will be left to the discretion of the program coordinator. Guns, artillery, drugs, obscene language or images, food items or live plants will not be accepted or displayed.
12. To safeguard exhibits, upon delivery, collections will be received at the door and set up by OC Fair staff for judging. Judging is not based on how it is displayed on the table or in the case.
13. 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.
14. **Hold harmless.** All entries will be displayed in locked cases provided by OC Fair, unless hung. 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. Every precaution will be taken in the handling and exhibiting of entries.
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

One (1) collection per exhibitor

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 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 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.

PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR WORK FOR ENTRY

Digital photo submission of your entry is required.

- NEW** Photo upload is limited to one per entry.
- Include a photo of the 5-10 items to be displayed.

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

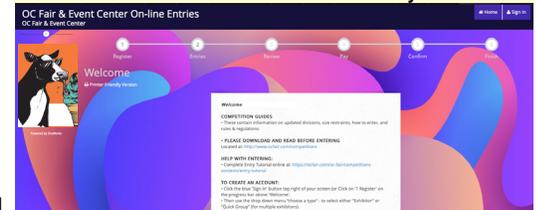
Online entry deadline: Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.

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.
- 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. A blue "UPLOAD FILES" button will also appear.

Step 6. Image upload

- Click on the "UPLOAD FILES" button to start uploading your image 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

JUDGES

Qualified judges are utilized to judge all exhibits and special contests. 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.

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.

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 "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.

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.....	\$100
Most Unusual.....	\$35
Most Diverse.....	\$35
Most Zany.....	\$35
Vintage Charm.....	\$35
First Place.....	\$25
Second Place.....	\$15
Third Place.....	\$10
Honorable Mention.....	Ribbon
Judges' Award.....	Rosette

Youth

Best of Show.....	\$50
Division Winner.....	\$25
Most Zany.....	\$25
Most Unusual.....	\$25
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 will be 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

Display card (required)

An attractive, large-print display card (not to exceed 5-by-7 inches) is required alongside the entry. The quality and completeness of the display card will be a consideration in judging. Frames will be supplied for the display card.

Please include the following information:

- When the collection was started.
- How the collection was done (how/why it was collected).
- Date(s) of the oldest item(s) in the collection, if known.
- Number of items in the entire collection.
- Any other interesting information about the collection.
- Exhibitor's name should not appear on the front of the display card.

Label your collection

- Each collection item must be labeled inconspicuously with a number indicating its place in the collection (i.e., "1 of 10," "2 of 10," etc.).
- Do not place numbers on the front of the articles.





Adult Divisions

Eligibility..... Open to Southern California residents ages 18 or older.
Entry limit One (1) collection per exhibitor.
Entry fee \$10 per entry.

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

DIVISION 915

Collections

- Class 01: Miniatures & figurines
- Class 02: Holidays
- Class 03: Movies, TV & entertainment
- Class 04: Toys, dolls, games & novelty items
- Class 05: Household, kitchen & dining
- Class 06: Books, magazines, paper & ephemera
- Class 07: Science & technology
- Class 08: American history, celebrating 250 years
- Class 09: All other, specify



Youth Divisions

Eligibility..... Open to youth ages 5-17 (by July 17) who live in Southern California.
Entry limit One (1) collection per exhibitor.
Entry fee \$6 per entry. No fee for Blue Ribbon Kids (ages 5-8).

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

DIVISION 106

Blue Ribbon Kids Collections, Ages 5-8

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

Class 01: Any, specify

DIVISION 362

Youth Collections, Ages 13-17

Class 01: Any, specify

DIVISION 361

Youth Collections, Ages 9-12

Class 01: Any, specify