



TABLE SETTINGS COMPETITION GUIDE



2025 Entry Timeline

Entry deadline.....	Friday, May 23, by 6 p.m.
Entry delivery.....	Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Award judging results.....	Viewable in person. Posted online by the second week of Fair.
Fair dates.....	July 18 - Aug. 17 (<i>closed Mondays and Tuesdays</i>)
Entry pick up.....	Thursday, Aug. 21, 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). <i>Fees are non-refundable.</i>
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
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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.**
 - 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 completed by 2:15 p.m. on entry delivery day.
 - 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.
 - After 2:15 p.m., exhibitors may not touch their own completed entry 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.



TABLE SETTINGS COMPETITION GUIDE



ELIGIBILITY

Adult divisions:

Open to Southern California residents ages 18 and older.

Youth divisions:

Open to youth ages 7-17 (by July 18) 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 will be accepted.

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 23, 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 120 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.

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 WITH 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: Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Entry delivery

- Enter Gate 1 and follow the directional signs.
- Drop off is located on the west side of the Anaheim Building/Hobbies & Handcrafts Gallery (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. 21, 2025, 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

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 awards.
- 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	\$50
Most Creative	\$30
Most Correct Components	\$30
Judges' Award	Rosette
Best Napkin Folds	Rosette
Best Menu Presentation	Rosette
Best Use of Color	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 2025 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 the 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 inquires daily.**

AWARDS CEREMONY

Sunday, Aug. 17, at noon.

- Hosted on the OC Promenade Main Stage.
- Best of Show award recipients will be invited to attend, 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.





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.
- Faux food items may be used as props only.
- All decorations must be on 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.



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: "Find Your Happy"

Charm your guests by sharing what brings a smile to your face. This is a chance for silliness and mirth. Highlight a favorite hobby or a joyful occasion from years ago. Relive the trip of a lifetime and dine on your favorite foods. You can take inspiration from a personal philosophy or a sentimental keepsake, a collection of treasured items or treasured memories, vibrant places or spirited people. We're looking for good vibes, light hearts and delightful table settings.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 802

A Table for the Gods

Delve into the vibrant colors and symbolic designs of Aztec or Egyptian mythology. Explore the Greek and Roman pantheons, the deities of Native American tribes and the supernatural beings of African legends. Use their larger-than-life tales, tempestuous personalities, epic battles, love affairs and, above all, the stunning artwork left behind that tells their immortal stories to inspire your own extraordinary design.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 803

Steampunk

Get your gears turning as we travel to this alternate reality where steam power reigns and Victorian aesthetics merge with retrofuturistic creations. Blend the functional with the fashionable, old technologies with imaginative innovations. It's a world of science and style, airships and analog computers, corsets and gun holsters, where technology and art blend seamlessly. Don't forget your goggles and parasol!

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 804

Murder Mystery

Whodunnit? Get in touch with your inner Sherlock Holmes and create a scintillating story of mayhem. Or take inspiration from historic villainy. The scene of the crime may be in any time period or follow any theme. This is an opportunity for roleplay and should immerse your guests in the narrative as they investigate clues, uncover secrets, eliminate suspects and strive to identify the culprit.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table

DIVISION 805

Tropical Paradise

Add a touch of summer to any occasion with the vibrant colors, bold patterns and serene atmosphere of a tropical paradise. Pull up a wicker chair for a meal of comfort, relaxation and luxury under the banana trees. Evoke images of palm-fringed white sandy beaches and lush landscapes. Accentuate the natural world to create a warm and beautiful climate for your guests.

Class 01: Round table

Class 02: Rectangle table



Youth Divisions

Eligibility Open to youth ages 7-17 (by July 18) 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

Where's Waldo?- Youth, Ages 7-17

Spend a day at the beach with Waldo or hit the local zoo. His adventures have taken him to crowded ski slopes, castles, an airport, camping, through time, and even to space! There's no limit to your design options, but we have to see those familiar stripes somewhere.

Class 01: Round table

