

Woodcarving Competition Handbook

Adult

IMPORTANT DATES

Online or Paper Entry Form deadline	Friday, December 6, 2025
Late Entry Form Period	December 7 – 13, 2025
Deliver items to the Florida Center – located at the Florida State Fair. (see page 5)	Friday, January 10, 2025 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. through
	Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Shipping Information – (see page 5)	Alternative Delivery Dates (Due to the Punta Gorda Show) January 23 – 24, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Items exhibited	February 6 th – 17 th , 2025
Entry pickup	Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
	Saturday, February 22, 2025 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information, contact
The Creative Living Department



Phone: 813-734-2810

Email: CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com



Benefits of Competing?

The Florida State Fair is proud to showcase the bounty of talented people from around the state. Not only do we provide you the opportunity to win ribbons and prize money... it's also a great way to share your talent with a larger community. **In appreciation... all exhibitors receive a FREE ticket to attend the fair.**

Competition Overview

Entry Fee: Adult Divisions \$5 per entry
A late fee of \$10 per entry

Entry Fees are non-refundable

All information regarding Creative Living Competitive Exhibits can be found at www.floridastatefair.com >> **PARTICIPANTS** (top of page) >> **CREATIVE LIVING** (drop down)

How to enter online – page 5

General Rules – page 6

A paper entry form is available on the last page.

Exhibitors are encouraged to read this handbook in its entirety.

To enter items for a group or organization contact Creative Living office at 813-627-4309.

For Youth Woodcarving Competition see the Youth Arts & Craft Competition Handbook.

Eligibility

- **The Woodcarving Novice Division** is open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up who have entry-level skills in carving or wood burning. After entering the Florida State Fair for two (2) years at the novice level or having received two (2) 1st place awards or Best of Show in this division at Florida State Fair... the carver must advance and compete at the Intermediate level.
- **The Woodcarving Intermediate Division** is open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up whose skills consist of refined sculpting and painting techniques that are above entry level. Individual shows consistent techniques in carving/painting/burning. After entering the Florida State Fair for three (3) years at the intermediate level or having received three (3) 1st place award or Best of Show in this division at Florida State Fair... the carver must advance and compete at the advanced level.
- **The Woodcarving Advanced Division** is open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up who has achieved a mature level of skills in the woodcarving art and craft. Open to professional, semi-professional and amateur-status woodcarvers.
- **If you are younger than 18 years of age** and would like to compete with adults, please call the Creative Living Department at 813-734-2810 for approval.

Entry Rules

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

1. No more than six (6) items per person may be submitted for judging, however, exhibitors may enter only two (2) entries per class.

SIZE & PREPARATION GUIDELINES

2. Maximum size limits for a carving entered item are as follows: length 55", width 32", height 48". Except for walking sticks, which may be up to 75" in length. Carvings that exceed any of these dimensions will not be accepted, unless prior approval by the Competitive Exhibit Coordinator.
3. Carousel animals can be standard size.
4. Relief carvings must be submitted with a stand or ready to hang with strong hooks, loops, or wire. Entered items without a stand or not ready to hang will be disqualified.

WOODCARVING RULES

5. The definitions and class categories must be strictly observed.
6. Items submitted should match the division, class, and description listed on the entry form.
7. Entered items are to be made of wood. However, non-traditional Materials are allowed and must be carved using the same tools and subtractive techniques as traditional wood carvings. Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to golf balls, soapstone, antlers, and bones. Other materials may be used for habitat and structural purposes; however, they are to be hand-formed with the exception of eyes.
8. Identical items cannot be entered into more than one Division or State Fair competition.

GENERAL ENTRY RULES

9. Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) daily admission ticket to the Fair.
10. Entries previously exhibited in the Florida State Fair may not be submitted for competition. We photograph all pieces each year to catalog them.
11. Exhibited work must be completed within the last two (2) years.
12. Entries must have been prepared/made/ processed by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
13. Entries completed by two or more individuals are permitted but will be counted as one exhibitor (the individual who completed the entry form).
14. All entries will be displayed at the Fair whether they receive an award or not. In keeping with the Florida State Fair's family orientation, items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.

The Woodcarving Exhibition will be held in the Florida Center during the Florida State Fair. The exhibit will be open for your viewing pleasure.

Judging & Awards

The Fair ensures that the judges we employ are knowledgeable in the division in which they are judging and will be impartial. Judges reserve the right to reassign entries to a more appropriate division or class. Judging will be done using a scorecard to assist in keeping decisions as objective as possible. **The decision of the judge(s) is final.**

The Fair has the right to consolidate classes to sustain competition.

If, at the Judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the Judge shall give no award under any circumstance. This rule applies whether there is one or more exhibits in the Class.

Awards Information

Woodcarving – Novice & Intermediate Division

First Place – State Fair Ribbon \$20

Second Place – State Fair Ribbon \$15

Third Place – State Fair Ribbon \$10

Woodcarving – Advanced Division

First Place – State Fair Ribbon \$50

Second Place – State Fair Ribbon \$35

Third Place – State Fair Ribbon \$20

Best of Show (Novice) – State Fair Ribbon \$25

Best of Show (Intermediate) – State Fair Ribbon \$50

Best of Show (Advanced) – State Fair Ribbon \$75

Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first-place winners in each Class.

People's Choice Award – State Fair Ribbon \$35

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded, at the discretion of the judges.

Judging Criteria

Originality and Creativity

Design

Skill and Execution

Surface Finish

Final Presentation



Woodcarving – Division & Classes

Definitions

Carving is a general heading that embraces sculpture and carving.

Relief means carving with gouge, chisel, or power tool in order to decorate a generally flat surface, to give the illusion of depth and perspective. Frames are accepted but are not judged.

In-the-Round means shaping a freestanding three-dimensional form or forms.

Chip Carving refers to hand carving by cutting chips with a knife or other instruments usually in geometric designs.

Wood Burning is the process of burning a design with an electrically heated tool. Scene on a flat surface must have a stand or be ready to hang. Frames will not be judged.

Natural Finish means that the grain of the wood must show through the finish. Limited natural wood staining of a single color and/or limited wood burning is permitted.

Painted Finish means work with other than natural color wood stain, such as polychromes, acrylics or extensive wood burning, etc.

Realistic refers to a carving completed as an accurate presentation of the subject matter.

Stylized refers to a carving completed according to a style or stylistic pattern rather than strictly according to reality.

Caricature refers to a carving completed as a representation by exaggeration or distortion for humorous or satirical effect.

Bust refers to a carving of a person's head, shoulders, and chest.



Woodcarving – Novice Division 80.201

Woodcarving – Intermediate Division 80.601

Woodcarving – Advanced Division 80.101

Relief Carvings – carving with gouge, chisel, or power tool in order to decorate a generally flat surface.

Class Description

- 1 **Aquatic** – painted or natural finish
- 2 **Wood Spirits** – natural or painted
- 3 **Portraiture Relief** – single or group portrait of human face, head or head and shoulders, natural or painted finish
- 4 **Architectural Relief** – primary subject (i.e. buildings, bridges, agricultural scenes, etc. including crest, signs & emblems), natural or painted finish (gold leaf, etc.)
- 5 **Flowers and Plant Life Relief** – natural or painted finish
- 6 **Animal Relief (other than aquatic)** – all animals including wildlife, domestic or farm animals, natural or painted finish
- 7 **Religious Relief** – natural or painted finish
- 8 **Seascape/Nautical Relief** – natural or painted finish
- 9 **Fish Relief** – natural or painted finish



The 2024 Woodcarving Intermediate - Best of Show winner was Eddy Hebert.

The 2024 Woodcarving Novice - Best of Show was Elizabeth Torkington.

Woodcarving – Division & Classes ... *continued*

In-the-Round Carvings – shaping a freestanding three-dimensional form or forms.

Class Description

- 10 **Animals (Four-legged, other than horses)** – all four-legged animals include wildlife, domestic or farm animals, natural or painted finish
- 11 **Carousel Animals** – natural or painted finish, (May exceed maximum size limits for a carving)
- 12 **Horse(s)** – natural or painted finish
- 13 **Flowers and Plant Life** – natural or painted finish
- 14 **Aquatic and Marine Life** – natural finish
- 15 **Aquatic and Marine Life** – painted finish
- 16 **Decorative Birds (stylized),** – natural or painted finish
- 17 **Waterfowl, realistic** – natural or painted finish
- 18 **Shorebirds, realistic** – natural or painted finish
- 19 **Upland Game Birds, realistic** – natural or painted finish
- 20 **Birds of Prey, realistic** – natural or painted finish
- 21 **Song Birds, realistic** – natural or painted finish
- 22 **Animal Heads** – natural or painted finish
- 23 **Bust** – realistic single or several heads (includes shoulder and chest), natural or painted finish
- 24 **Full Figure** – natural or painted finish, realistic human figure
- 25 **Masks** – any finish
- 26 **Walking Sticks** – any finish
- 27 **Caricature** – natural or painted finish
- 28 **Fantasy** – the free play of creative imagination. (Fairies, Dragons, Wizards etc.)
- 29 **Holiday Caricature** – single or group caricature, natural or painted finish
- 30 **Miniatures** – (1½" x 1½" x 2½"), natural or painted finish
- 31 **Stylized/Abstract of Any Subject** – natural or painted finish
- 32 **Miscellaneous In-The-Round (including housewares)** – natural finish

33 **Miscellaneous In-The-Round (including housewares)** – painted finish

34 **Religious** – natural or painted finish

Chip Carving – hand carving by cutting chips with a knife or other instruments usually in geometric designs.

Class Description

35 **Flatwork** – natural or painted finish

36 **Dimensional work** – natural or painted finish

Wood Burning – the process of burning a design with an electrically heated tool. Scenes on a flat surface must have a stand or be ready to hang). Frames will not be judged.

Class Description

37 **Wood Burning** – natural finish

38 **Wood Burning** – painted finish

Non-Traditional Materials – All materials in this category must be carved using the same tools and subtractive techniques as traditional wood carvings. Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to golf balls, soapstone, antlers, and bones.

Class Description

39 **Miscellaneous – Non-Traditional Materials**



The 2024 Woodcarving Advanced - Best of Show was Jean Johnson.

How to Enter Online

We encourage you to enter online, using ShoWorks. The Florida State Fair has implemented ShoWorks, an online entry program. ShoWorks is an industry-standard used by over 50 fairs nationally. This user-friendly program can be trusted to accurately enter you into our competitions and allows for efficient communication via e-mail. We are excited to have ShoWorks to better facilitate entering Florida State Fair competitions.

- **Take a moment to look through this Competition Handbook to see which division and class your entry is eligible to compete in.** Then, follow the easy steps listed below to enter the competition you have chosen.
- **To Enter Online using ShoWorks.**
Go to www.floridastatefair.com and at the top of the home page select the **PARTICIPANTS** TAB and you will see in the dropdown list a link for **CREATIVE LIVING**. Select the [ENTER ONLINE](#) link on the left side of the page.
- **Everyone must register as a new exhibitor even if you have competed in the past.**
- **Note that sessions expire after 20 minutes** of inactivity, so “save the cart” if you plan on leaving the computer for more than 20 minutes.
- When registering, please verify that all information that you entered into ShoWorks is correct. Please pay special attention to capitalization, full names of cities/counties and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).
- If you [ENTER ONLINE](#) you will need to pay with a credit card at that time. You will not be able to delay payment as we were able to do in the past.

Mailing Paper Entry Forms

- **Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 6th, 2024**
Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification.

Late entries must be postmarked between December 7th-13th 2024 will incur an increased entry fee.

Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competitions – Woodcarving
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority

Delivery of Entries

- **All entries must be delivered to Florida State Fair Authority on either:**
Friday, January 10, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
through
Saturday, January 11, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Alternative Dates due to the Punta Gorda Show:
January 23 - 24, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **Deliver entries to:**
Florida State Fair Authority
Florida Center Bldg.
Enter off of Martin Luther King Blvd. thru the MLK entrance on the south side of the fairgrounds.
Map with directions to the Florida Center available on the [Creative Living webpage](#).
- Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after Delivery and Shipping Deadlines may be disqualified.

Shipping Information

- Shipped entries must arrive no later than **Tuesday, January 7, 2025.**
- Include a [Shipping Form](#), available at the bottom of the www.floridastatefair.com on the **Creative Living** webpage in [Maps, Forms & Schedule](#) link.
- **Shipped entries, with Shipping Form to:**
Florida State Fair Authority –
Woodcarving Competition
4800 US Hwy 301 North
Tampa, FL 33610.
- Entries are shipped back to exhibitors after the Fair in the same container. Use reusable shipping containers.
- Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.
- **Return shipping options:** Prepaid shipping label, UPS or FedEx account.

Retrieving Entries

- See the calendar for Pickup dates, times, and locations (page 1).
- Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for a special pick-up appointment by emailing CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com.
- All entries not claimed by April 1st of the same year will be recycled, disposed or donated through our program department.

General Rules

Disclaimer

Please be advised that competitive exhibits are entered at the exhibitor's risk. The Florida State Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries, even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors. If the exhibitor desires insurance coverage, this coverage should be secured from a personal insurance agent before entry, and the policy written to cover the period of exhibition and transportation. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits. Unauthorized persons are not permitted in the building after closing hours.

Division/Class Cancellation

The Florida State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

Entry Errors

Florida State Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for any and all errors that were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The Florida State Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post-audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the Florida State Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, a complete description of the entry, and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

Premium Payments

Premium Awards will be paid according to the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Premium checks will be void after 6 months from date on check. PLEASE CASH PREMIUM CHECKS IMMEDIATELY. After 6 months, all uncashed checks will be voided, and replacement checks will not be issued.**

Substitutions

Substitutions, if necessary, must be within the same department as the original entry. Substitutions must be completed by the last day of the entry delivery period. You cannot transfer your entry to another exhibitor.

Previously Entered Entry

Any entry that has been exhibited at a previous Florida State Fair is not eligible for entry in this year's Florida State Fair. This excludes Horticulture & Aquarium Beautiful entries.

Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the Florida State Fair has received submitted entry forms and fees must include a self-addressed/stamped envelope when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation code once entries are submitted.

Responsibility

The Florida State Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All still exhibits or display elements remaining on the Fairgrounds after the designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1st of the same year.

Removal of Entries

An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the Florida State Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the Fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the Florida State Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

Eligibility for Fair Employees

Florida State Fair Authority employees are eligible to compete in the Creative Living competitions except for those who directly work for the Creative Living Department.

Dishonored Checks

A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check in payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for penalty payment.

Design

The Florida State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of all exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the Florida State Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by Florida State Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

