

SEWING

Competition Handbook

ADULT

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US!



BY PHONE AT
(813)621-7821

BY EMAIL AT
CREATIVELIVING@FLORIDASTATEFAIR.COM

IMPORTANT DATES

Entry Deadline: Friday, December 5, 2025

Late Entry Deadline: Friday, December 12, 2025

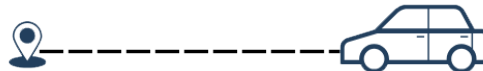
Item Delivery: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Friday, January 9, 2026 - 11:00am-6:00pm
Saturday, January 10, 2026 - 10:00am-4:00pm

Item Pickup: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Thursday, February 19, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Friday, February 20, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Saturday, February 21, 2026 - 10:00am-2:00pm

ENTRY DELIVERY & PICK-UP

Enter off of Orient Road through the Service Entrance on the west side of the fairgrounds.

A map with directions to the Florida Center is available on the Creative Living Website



ENTRY FEES

Adult Divisions (Ages 18+): \$5 Per Entry

Late Entry: \$10 Per Entry

ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

GUIDELINES

- **Each exhibitor may submit up to eight (8) items per Division for judging.**
- *Work must be of the artist exhibiting, no teacher-assisted work.*
- We have a limited supply of mannequins, if you can supply your own dress form or mannequin we would appreciate it.
- All entries that have been worn before submission must be clean.
- Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) daily admission ticket to the Fair.
- Entries previously exhibited in the Florida State Fair may not be submitted for competition.
- Exhibited work must be completed within the last two (2) years.
- Entries must have been made by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
- Entries completed by two or more individuals are permitted but will be counted as one exhibitor (the individual who completed the entry form).
- 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.
- Recycled fashions must be made of at least 75% recycled or reused materials that otherwise would be thrown away or recycled.

JUDGING & AWARDS

- The Fair selects judges who are experienced and knowledgeable in the categories they are assigned. Judges are expected to be fair and unbiased. They may reassign an entry to a different division or class if they feel it's a better fit.
- All entries will be judged using a scorecard to help ensure fairness and consistency. Judges' decisions are final.
- If the judge feels that an entry does not meet the standards for an award, no ribbon or prize will be given, even if it is the only entry in the class.
- Winners and final displays will be announced during the Fair.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Construction (50%)	Presentation Quality (10%)	General Appearance (15%)	Degree of Difficulty (25%)
Workmanship, Uniformity, Technique & Finishing	Suitability of fabric to the pattern, Appropriate in quality, size, color, finish, and design	Design, Originality, Color Combinations, Texture Combinations, Cleanliness	

SEWING DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Sewing: Adult Apparel - Adult Division 65.101

Class 1 Dress (daytime)
Class 2 Shirt, Blouse, or Skirt (or combination)
Class 3 Pants (Women or Men)
Class 4 Sportswear (Women or Men)
Class 5 Tailored Suit or Jacket (Women or Men)
Class 6 Sleeping Wear or Robe (Women or Men)
Class 7 Coat, Cape or Jacket (Women or Men)

Sewing: Children's Apparel - Adult Division 65.102

Class 1 Baby's Apparel (up to 36 months)
Class 2 Child's Apparel (3-12 years)
Class 3 Child's Sleeping Garment or Robe

Sewing: Recycled Fashion - Adult Division 65.106

Class 1 Dress – Daytime (Women)
Class 2 Dress – Daytime (Children)
Class 3 Formal & Party Wear (Women)
Class 4 Formal & Party Wear (Men)
Class 5 Formal & Party Wear (Children)
Class 6 Gowns – Wedding or Evening (Women)
Class 7 Gowns – Wedding or Evening (Children)
Class 8 Coat, Cape or Jacket (Women or Men)
Class 9 Hats & Headpieces
Class 10 Shoes
Class 11 Other Not Listed

Sewing: Special Occasion Apparel - Adult Division 65.103

Class 1 Wedding Gown
Class 2 Bridal Wear (bridesmaids, flower girl, mother of bride or groom dress)
Class 3 Wedding Accessories, must be sewn (no flowers)
Class 4 Formal/Party & Prom Dress (Women, Men, or Children)

Sewing: Home Decor & Accessories - Adult Division 65.104

Class 1 Hat, Scarf, Tie or Bow tie
Class 2 Purse or Bag
Class 3 Apron
Class 4 Pillow
Class 5 Table Linen
Class 6 Doll Clothes
Class 7 Other Not Listed

Sewing: Cosplay Apparel - Adult Division 65.105

Class 1 Science Fiction Character
Class 2 Anime or Manga Characters
Class 3 Fantasy Character
Class 4 Comic Book Characters
Class 5 Movie Character
Class 6 Historical or Renaissance Character
Class 7 Steampunk
Class 8 Holiday or Seasonal Costume
Class 9 Other Not Listed

GENERAL RULES

DISCLAIMER

All entries are submitted at the exhibitor's own risk. The Florida State Fair is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of exhibits even if caused by staff, volunteers, contractors, or visitors. If you want insurance for your entry, you must arrange it through your personal insurance provider before the Fair. Reasonable care will be taken to protect exhibits. No unauthorized people are allowed in the building after closing hours.

DIVISION OR CLASS CANCELLATION

The Florida State Fair may cancel any division or class if there are not enough entries to ensure fair competition. Any affected entries will be returned.

ENTRY ERRORS

Exhibitors are responsible for making sure their entries are correct. This includes online forms and summary sheets. The Fair is not responsible for correcting mistakes, and no awards will be given for entries disqualified due to exhibitor error. If an award is later found to be ineligible, it will be withheld or recovered. You may appeal a disqualification in writing within 90 days of being notified. Include your name, address, full entry details, and your reason for requesting a review.

PREMIUM PAYMENTS

Prizes will be awarded based on the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Prize checks are void 6 months after the date on the check. No replacement checks will be issued after that, so please cash them promptly.**

SUBSTITUTIONS

If needed, substitutions must be made within the same department as the original entry. They must be completed by the last day of the entry delivery period. You may not transfer your entry to another person.

PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ITEMS

Entries that have been shown at past Florida State Fairs are not allowed, except for entries in Horticulture and Aquarium Beautiful.

VERIFICATION OF ENTRY

To confirm that your mailed entry form and fees were received, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Online entries will receive a confirmation code after submitting.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXHIBITS

The Fair is not responsible for exhibits left behind after the scheduled pick-up time. **Anything left after that time will be treated as abandoned and discarded by April 1st of the same year.**

ENTRY REMOVAL

Once accepted, entries cannot be removed until the official release date listed in the Competition Handbook. Early removal is only allowed in cases like serious illness, emergencies, or at the Fair's discretion.

RETURNED OR BOUNCED CHECKS

A \$25 fee applies to any returned checks. This must be paid with cash, a certified check, or a money order.

MAILING PAPER ENTRY FORMS

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 5, 2025. Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification. Late entries must be postmarked before December 12, 2025. If you're submitting a late entry form, you must include the extra \$5 per entry fee. **Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority**

Mail Entry Form to:

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

SHIPPING ENTRIES

Shipped entries must arrive no later than January 6, 2026. **Packages MUST include Shipping form and prepaid shipping label.** Entries will be shipped back to the exhibitors after the fair in the same container. Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.

Ship Entry Form to:

Florida State Fair Authority
Fiber Arts Competition
4800 US HWY 301 North
Tampa, FL 33680

RETRIEVING ENTRIES

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

EXHIBIT DESIGN & SET UP

The Florida State Fair controls how exhibits are displayed. If your entry is meant to be hung but isn't ready to hang, the Fair will display it as they see fit. No changes can be made once items are on display. Exhibitors cannot handle their entries after drop-off. Fair staff will handle final placement and assembly, using any instructions you provide. If your item needs assembly or disassembly, include clear instructions and diagrams. The Fair may use pins or other tools to secure your exhibit for display. Online entries will receive a confirmation code after submitting.

AWARD PREMIUMS

First Place - State Fair Ribbon **\$15**

Second Place - State Fair Ribbon **\$10**

Third Place - State Fair Ribbon **\$5**

Best of Show - State Fair Ribbon **\$50**

Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first place winners in each Main Fiber Arts Adult Division. (Needlework, Counted Thread Embroidery, Knitting, Crochet, Handspun Yarn, Items made from Handspun Yarn, Rug Making, Felting, Weaving, Basket Weaving, Art Cloth & Textile Surface Design)

Director's Choice Award - State Fair Ribbon **\$35**

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the judge(s).

Sewing Competition Entry Form

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 5, 2025.

Late Entry Period: December 6 – 12, 2025 (Double Entry Fees)

Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Exhibitor #

Late Entry ☐ YES ☐ NO

Total Fee

Paid ☐ YES ☐ NO

Type ☐ Cash ☐ MO ☐ Check

Check No.

Please print legibly

Exhibitors Name (First, Last)

Mailing AddressCounty

CityStateZip Code☐ Check if you are a new exhibitor

Phone ()Email

Entry Fee: Adult Division \$5 per entry | Late entry \$10 per entry

Exhibitors may enter up to eight (8) entries for judging, however, there is no limit to the number of pieces per class.

Late Entry

☐ YES ☐ NO

#	DIVISION #	CLASS #	Entered Item Description	FEE
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
Total Amount Due				\$

I hereby certify that I have read the Florida State Fair General Rules for the Competitive Exhibits Program and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the Florida State Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in the Competitive Exhibits Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation.

I understand that the 2026 Creative Living Competitions & Exhibits are held in conjunction with the 2026 Florida State Fair and agree that the Florida State Fair is not liable or responsible for any delay, change of dates or cancellation of the 2026 Florida State Fair due the following unforeseeable circumstances: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake; or (c) other potential disaster(s) or catastrophe(s), such as epidemics, pandemics, or explosion.

Signature of exhibitor

Date

Mail Entry Form to:
Creative Living Competition – Sewing
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority