

Spirit of The Fair Photo Contest

at the 2026 Florida State Fair



The Florida State Fair is looking for talented photographers to spend the day documenting the exciting activities at the annual Fair.

Why Compete?

- ✓ **FREE** to Enter
- ✓ Win cash prizes
- ✓ Have your images posted on the Florida State Fair website, Facebook and Instagram
- ✓ Contest images may be used in Florida State Fair marketing materials in the future
- ✓ **FREE** Fair ticket to all contestants
- ✓ Prearranged guided after-hours special access
- ✓ Easy Online Entry Form!

Who Can Enter?

- ✓ All Florida residents, ages 18 and older
- ✓ Open to professional, semi-professional and amateur-status photographers
- ✓ The contest is limited to 100 participants

Contest Timeline

JAN 31, 2026	Entry Form Deadline (either online or paper form)
FEB 5-16, 2026	Photography Contest shoot days
FEB 17, 2026	All images must be uploaded to the designated Contest Web Page
MAR 1, 2026	Winners will be announced

Categories

- A. Agriculture (animals) & Horticulture (plants)
- B. Food (still life or people)
- C. Rides & Midway
- D. The Fair at Night
- E. Exhibits & Entertainment
- F. Fairscape, General, Other

Awards in each category

1st Place	\$50
2nd Place	\$35
3rd place	\$20

Spirit of the Fair Award \$100

The photo that most exemplifies the traditions and spirit of the Florida State Fair.

Contact The Creative Living Department at CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com

Entry Rules

1. **No Entry Fee!**
2. **Contestants must submit an entry form by Jan 31, 2026 (or until we have 100 participants).**
3. The first 100 photographers to send in their entry forms can participate. All others will be wait listed.
4. The registered photographer must have taken images during the dates of **FEB 5 – 16, 2026.**
5. All photographers accepted for the competition will receive information on how to submit their fair photographs on **February 1, 2026.**
6. **A maximum of 10 images can be submitted for jurying,** distributed by category in any way they choose. No category limits.
7. Judges reserve the right to reassign photos to another, more appropriate, category if deemed necessary.
8. The Florida State Fair may use any submitted images in future marketing materials.

How it all works

If you are one of the first 100 to submit an entry form, an email will be sent informing you are in the contest. We will mail you one fair ticket with parking instructions. We will direct you where to register the day you are going to photograph. If you want to be here more than one day you can request 1 additional fair ticket when you check in at the Creative Living Competitions Office.

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.

- **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 each year.**
- **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, and full names of cities/counties, and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).
- Your fee to enter is \$0.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be a professional photographer to participate?

No, all levels and experience are welcome.

What kind of Camera do I need? *You can use any camera as long as you can provide a digital file for your work.*

Where do I upload my work for Judging? *A link will be emailed out to participants no sooner than 1 week before the contest start date.*

How old do you need to be to participate? *At least 18 years of age or older.*

Can I submit other images I have from prior years? *No. You can only submit images that were taken with the contest dates of February 5-16, 2026.*

Do I get paid for my work?

No, Photographers are not paid for the images that the Florida State Fair may decide to use in their marketing materials.

Will I retain the right to use my photos for other purposes?

The photographer retains the right to use all submitted images for other purposes. The Florida State Fair may choose to utilize images to promote the Fair in the future. The Florida State Fair will not sell or make money from your photographs. You have the sole right to sell and use your photographs in any way, subject to the Florida State Fair's right to utilize the photographs, as described in this paragraph.

Do I have to get model releases? *The Florida State Fair does not require model releases.*

2026 Florida State Fair Spirit of the Fair Photo Contest **Entry Form**

Office Use

☐ Entered into
ShoWorks

☐ Date Received

Entry Forms must be postmarked by January 30, 2026.

Online Entry Form (see page 2 for instructions).

Please print legibly

Name (First, Last)			
Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you are a new exhibitor
Cell Phone while at the Fair ()			
Email			

Agreement

I hereby certify that I have read the Florida State Fair Rules for the Spirit of the Fair Photo Contest. I also agree that the Florida State Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to the photographic images I submit for jurying or photographic images I uploaded to Instagram), for use in marketing materials, 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 Contestant

Date

Scan/Email to: CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com

OR

Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competitions – Spirit of the Fair Photo Contest
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680