

Fiber Arts 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 six (6) items per Division for judging.** *Example: An exhibitor may enter up to 6 items in Crochet and up to 6 items in Basket Weaving.*
- **Entries may not exceed 48" in any direction and must weigh less than 40 lbs. This does not include Afghans, Shawls or weavings.**
- Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) daily admission ticket to the Fair.
- Items previously exhibited at the Florida State Fair are not eligible for competition.
- **All entries must have been completed within the past two (2) years.**
- Entries must be entirely prepared, created, or processed by the exhibitor listed on the entry form.
- Collaborative works created by two or more individuals are allowed but will be counted as one exhibitor entry (under the name of the individual who registered online).
- All entries will be displayed at the Fair, regardless of whether they receive an award. In keeping with the Florida State Fair's family-friendly environment, entries containing offensive, controversial, or otherwise inappropriate subject matter will not be accepted.

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

Divisions and Classes in this handbook will be judged by a combination of the following criteria:

General Appearance, Construction, Workmanship, Design in Relationship to Yarn/Thread, Degree of Difficulty or Presentation.

MATERIALS

Acceptable Fibers: Cotton, Silk, Rayon, Wool, Bamboo, Metallics and blended fibers.

Acceptable Fabrics:

Cotton- (for example, Aida, Hardanger, Muslin, etc.)

Evenweaves- (for example Jobelan, Lugana, Tula, Jazlyn, etc.)

Linen- (for example Cashel, Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, etc.)

Custom or Pre-made Articles or Garments- (for example, Doilies, Banners, Bibs, T-Shirts, Dish Towels, tablecloths, etc.)

NEEDLEWORK DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Needlework - Adult Division 30.101

Embroidery

Class 1 Traditional Embroidery

Class 2 Crewel Embroidery

Class 3 Hardanger

Class 4 Punch Needle (fine thread)

Class 5 Wool Applique

Class 6 Machine Embroidery

Class 7 Novice Embroidery – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)

Needlepoint

Class 8 Painted Canvas Needlepoint – Framed (all counts)

Class 9 Counted Canvas Needlepoint – Framed (all counts)

Class 10 Needlepoint (household article, clothing, etc. anything not framed)

Class 11 Bargello

Class 12 Plastic Canvas

Class 13 Novice Needlepoint – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)

Miscellaneous

Class 14 Handmade Lace

Class 15 Mixed Media

Class 16 Original Design Needlework (all fabrics, all counts) *

Class 17 Other Not Listed

COUNTED THREAD EMBROIDERY DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Counted Thread Embroidery - Adult Division 30.116

- Class 1 Cross Stitch (household article, clothing, etc. anything not framed)
- Class 2 Cross Stitch Framed - (all counts) – Full coverage – Aida
- Class 3 Cross Stitch Framed - (all counts) – Partial coverage – Aida
- Class 4 Cross Stitch Framed - (all counts) – Full coverage – Non Aida (Evenweave & Linen)
- Class 5 Cross Stitch Framed - (all counts) – Partial coverage – Non Aida (Evenweave & Linen)
- Class 6 Sampler (all counts)**
- Class 7 Black work
- Class 8 Multiple Stitch Types – Counted Thread & Pulled Thread (all fabric types, all counts)
- Class 9 Novice Counted Thread Embroidery – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)

KNITTING DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Knitting - Adult Division 30.105

- Class 1 Socks
- Class 2 Mittens, Hat, or Scarf
- Class 3 Afghan
- Class 4 Infants and Children's Wear & Sets
- Class 5 Sweater, Varied Knitted Stitches
- Class 6 Sweater, Varied Yarn Colors
- Class 7 Shawl, Poncho, Cape or Stole
- Class 8 Machine Knitted Article
- Class 9 Toy, Animal, Doll, or Doll Clothes
- Class 10 Household Items
- Class 11 Original Design
- Class 12 Novice Knitting – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)
- Class 13 Knitted from Llama & Alpaca Fibers*
- Class 14 Other Not Listed



CROCHET DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Crochet - Adult Division 30.106

- Class 1 Socks
- Class 2 Mittens, Hat, or Scarf
- Class 3 Doily (Individual)
- Class 4 Doilies (Sets)
- Class 5 Afghan, Single Yarn Colors
- Class 6 Afghan Varied Yarn Colors - Small: a quilt less than 40" on any one side
- Class 7 Medium: a quilt that is 40"-80" on any one side
- Class 8 Large: a quilt greater than 80" on any one side
- Class 9 Infant's and Child's Wear & Sets
- Class 10 Sweater
- Class 11 Shawl, Poncho, Cape or Stole
- Class 12 Toy, Animal, Doll, or Doll Clothes
- Class 13 Household Items (including table linens)
- Class 14 Original Design
- Class 15 Novice Crochet– Less than 2 years experience (any kind)
- Class 16 Crocheted from Llama & Alpaca Fibers*
- Class 17 Other Not Listed



HANDSPUN YARN DEFINITIONS

Handspun Yarn and garment must be the sole work of the exhibitor. All items constructed using handspun yarn must include a minimum of 6" sample of fiber or roving.

Non-animal fiber includes silk, flax/linen, hemp, etc.

Art Yarn defies everything we thought we knew about yarn. Art yarn wouldn't be suitable for normal patterns, even after making adjustments. It can be made from no more than 50% of non-handspun materials.

Synthetic Handspun Yarns are spun from man-made or manufactured fibers.

Any item made from Llama & Alpaca Fibers. Items must be made of at least 60% Llama (Llama, Alpaca, Paco-Vicuna, or Guanaco) and up to 40% of other natural fiber.

NOTE: Handspun Yarn should be wound neatly and tied in four places. They should be the weight indicated.

NOTE: Items Made from Handspun Yarn should be made from yarn that was handspun by the maker.

HANDSPUN YARN DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Handspun Yarn - Adult Division 30.107

Class 1 Wool, Lace – Weight: 1-oz. skein

Class 2 Wool, Worsted – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 3 Wool, Bulky – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 4 Other Animal Fiber, Lace – Weight: 1-oz. skein

Class 5 Other Animal Fiber, Worsted – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 6 Other Animal Fiber, Bulky – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 7 Non-Animal Fiber, Lace – Weight: 1-oz. skein

Class 8 Non-Animal Fiber, Worsted – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 9 Non-Animal Fiber, Bulky – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 10 Llama & Alpaca Fibers, Lace – Wt: 1-oz. skein

Class 11 Llama & Alpaca Fibers, Worsted – Wt: 2-oz. skein

Class 12 Llama & Alpaca Fibers, Bulky – Wt: 2-oz. skein

Class 13 Art Yarn – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 14 Synthetic Handspun – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 15 Novice Handspun: Less than 2 years' experience (any kind) – Weight: 2-oz. skein

Class 16 Other Not Listed

ITEMS MADE FROM HANDSPUN YARN DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Items Made From Handspun Yarn - Adult Division 30.108

Woven

Class 1 Woven: Scarf

Class 2 Woven: Shawl

Class 3 Woven: Clothing/Garment

Class 4 Woven: Toy, Animal, Doll or Doll Clothes

Class 5 Woven: Household Items

Class 6 Woven: Made from Llama & Alpaca Fibers*

Class 7 Woven: Original Design

Class 8 Woven: Other Not Listed

Knit

Class 9 Knit: Socks

Class 10 Knit: Hat, Scarf, Mittens

Class 11 Knit: Sweater

Class 12 Knit: Shawl

Class 13 Knit: Infant or Child Garments

Class 14 Knit: Toy, Animal, Doll, or Doll Clothes

Class 15 Knit: Household Items

Class 16 Knit: Made from Llama & Alpaca Fibers*

Class 17 Knit: Original Design

Class 18 Knit: Other Not Listed

Crochet

Class 19 Crochet: Socks

Class 20 Crochet: Hat, Scarf, Mittens

Class 21 Crochet: Sweater

Class 22 Crochet: Shawl

Class 23 Crochet: Infant or Child Garments

Class 24 Crochet: Toy, Animal, Doll or Doll Clothes

Class 25 Crochet: Household Items

Class 26 Crochet: Made from Llama & Alpaca Fibers*

Class 27 Crochet: Original Design

Class 28 Crochet: Other Not Listed

OTHER FIBER ARTS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Rug Making - Adult Division 30.109

Traditional Rug Hooking with Wool Fabric

- Class 1 Primitive, Floral
- Class 2 Primitive, Figural/Pictorial
- Class 3 Primitive, Original
- Class 4 Folk Art
- Class 5 Tapestry, Floral
- Class 6 Tapestry, Figural/Pictorial
- Class 7 Tapestry, Original
- Class 8 Geometric
- Class 9 Oriental
- Class 10 Seasonal
- Class 11 Novice Traditional Rug Hooking – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)

Other Rug-Making Techniques

- Class 12 Punch Needle with an Oxford Punch Needle
- Class 13 Braided
- Class 14 Latch Hooking
- Class 15 Rag Rug
- Class 16 Woven
- Class 17 Other Not Listed (including novelty items)

Felting - Adult Division 30.110

- Class 1 Wet Felted, Wearable Item
- Class 2 Wet Felted, Non-Wearable Item
- Class 3 Needle Felted, Wearable Item
- Class 4 Needle Felted, Non-Wearable Item
- Class 5 Felted from Llama & Alpaca Fibers, Wearable Item*
- Class 6 Felted from Llama & Alpaca Fibers, Non-Wearable Item*
- Class 7 Novice Felting – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)
- Class 8 Other Not Listed

Weaving - Adult Division 30.111

- Class 1 Woven Household Item
- Class 2 Wall Hanging
- Class 3 Apparel
- Class 4 Fashion Accessory
- Class 5 Hand controlled Weaving
- Class 6 Original Design
- Class 7 Novice Weaving – Less than 2 Years' Experience (any kind)
- Class 8 Woven Item: Made from Llama & Alpaca Fibers*
- Class 9 Other Not Listed

*** Any item made from Llama & Alpaca Fibers. Items must be made of at least 60% Llama (Llama, Alpaca, PacoVicuna, or Guanaco) and up to 40% of other natural fiber.**

BASKET WEAVING DEFINITIONS

Flat reed (includes Flat and Flat Oval): These baskets are predominately made from commercially processed reed from the Rattan vine. Oak handles and wood bases can be used, but the majority of the basket is flat or flat oval reed.

Hardwood Splint: Baskets made from white oak, black ash, hickory, maple, cedar, and chestnut. The weaving materials are the raw wood that has been manually processed to obtain or make the weavers, staves, and handles.

Florida Naturals: Baskets made from barks, vines (grape, kudzu, honeysuckle, etc.), roots, grasses, inflorescence, philodendron, pine needles, roots, seed pods, etc. - anything grown and gathered in Florida. Must have at least 80% Florida natural fibers.

Wicker: Baskets made from round reed or natural willow.

Coiling: Baskets formed in a continuous spiral made of pine needles, grasses, and cords.

Ribbed: Baskets are all woven (flat reed, round reed, naturals) around one round rim or two hoops and ribs made of reed spokes.

Mold Woven: Nantucket and Shaker baskets that are woven over a mold to create a uniform shape and size. Many have wood bottoms and staves are usually flat or flat oval reed, cane, ash, or cedar.

Miniature: Any style of basket that is 4" or less

Mixed Media: Any combination of reed, splint, wire, waxed linen, gourds, leather, fabric, paper, vines, beads, etc. – it is an "anything goes" category. If a gourd is part of your basket, at least 50% of the basket needs to be woven.

Wire or Textile: Any basket made from woven wire, waxed linen, waxed cotton, fabric, paper, rope, sisal, raffia, seagrass, leather, etc.

Kits and Patterns: baskets are constructed from any materials in a purchased project kit or woven from any materials based on another person's pattern or design. They would not be considered "original" work as the weaver is following instructions and using supplies provided or selected by the basket pattern's designer. This includes projects completed in a workshop environment.

Art Basket: any type of an original vessel that may be sculptural and not necessarily functional.

BASKET WEAVING DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Basket Weaving - Adult Division 30.112

- Class 1 Flat Reed
- Class 2 Hardwood Splint
- Class 3 Florida Naturals
- Class 4 Round/Wicker
- Class 5 Coiling
- Class 6 Rib
- Class 7 Mold Woven (Nantucket, Shaker)
- Class 8 Miniature (4" or less)
- Class 9 Mixed Media
- Class 10 Wire or Textile (made from one material)
- Class 11 Kits & Patterns
- Class 12 Novice Basket – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)
- Class 13 Art Basket



ART CLOTH & TEXTILE SURFACE DESIGN DEFINITIONS

Surface Design encompasses the coloring, patterning, and structuring of fiber and fabric. This involves creative exploration of processes such as dyeing, painting, printing, stitching, embellishing, quilting, weaving, knitting, felting, and papermaking.

Commercial Dyes consist of Fiber Reactive Dyes, Acid Dyes and Disperse Dyes

Natural Dyes consists of Cellulose and Protein Fibers only.

Thickened dye is simply a dye solution which has been thickened into a paste with the help of something like sodium alginate. Thickened dye is absorbed into the fibers, and when the excess dye and print paste is washed away, the fabric is just as soft as before.

Discharge is the removal of dye from fabric.

Resists block the application of dye, paint, or discharge chemicals.

Shibori is a Japanese manual resist dyeing technique, which produces patterns on fabric.

Mixed Methods: We realize that Surface Design may combine a variety of techniques but when choosing a division and class, choose one that best describes the majority of the technique used to create your piece. **If you cannot choose a division and class that works for your work please choose Mixed Methods.**

Cellulose Fibers: Cotton, Linen, Rayon, Bamboo

Protein Fibers: Silk, Wool

Synthetic Fibers: Polyester, Nylon, Acrylic, Acetate

ART CLOTH & TEXTILE SURFACE DESIGN DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Art Cloth & Textile Surface Design - Adult Division 30.113

- Class 1 Dyeing using Commercial Dyes - Low Water Immersion Dyeing, Vat Dyeing, & Direct Application on Cellulose, Protein, and Synthetic fibers
- Class 2 Dyeing using Natural Dyes - Low Water Immersion Dyeing, Vat Dyeing Eco Dyeing, Rust Dyeing, & Indigo Vat Dyeing ... on natural cellulose and protein fibers
- Class 3 Ice Dyeing - Commercial dyes ... on Cellulose, Protein, and Synthetic fibers
- Class 4 Thickened Dye - Screen Printing, Deconstructed Screen Printing, Stenciling & Direct Application
- Class 5 Discharge - Screen Printing, Stenciling, & Direct Application
- Class 6 Fabric Painting - Screen Printing, Stenciling, & Direct Application
- Class 7 Resists - Wax (Batik), Shibori, Paste Resists, Guttas, Glues, Freezer Paper, & Tape
- Class 8 Fabric Printing & Transfers - Sun Printing, Mono Printing, Stamping and Block Printing, Image Transfer, Direct Printing, Transfer Mediums, Commercial Image Transfer Methods & Heat Transfer
- Class 9 Distressing Techniques Chemical, Heat, & Dimensional Fabric Manipulation
- Class 10 Stitching & Embellishment Machine Stitching, Hand Stitching, Embroidery, Beading, Appliqué (fused or stitched), Metal, & Natural Materials
- Class 11 Mixed Methods Any combination of the above methods and any new or additional methods

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 and Textile Surface Design)

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

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

2026 Florida State Fair

Fiber Arts Competition Entry Form

OFFICE USE ONLY

Exhibitor # _____

Late Entry ☐ YES ☐ NO _____

Total Fee _____

Paid ☐ YES ☐ NO _____

Type ☐ Cash ☐ MO ☐ Check _____

Check No. _____

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.

Please print legibly

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|---|
| Exhibitors Name (First, Last) | | | |
| Mailing Address | | County | |
| City | State | Zip Code | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 six (6) entries for judging per division, no limit of pieces per class.

Late Entry

☐ YES ☐ NO

| # | DIVISION # | CLASS # | Entered Item Description | FEE |
|------------------|------------|---------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 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 – Fiber Arts
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority