

2026 Florida State Fair Creative Living Competitions

Home & Holiday Seasonal Crafts 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

- **No more than four (4) items per person in each Division may be submitted for judging.** Example: An exhibitor can enter up to 4 items in Home Craft and up to 4 items in Holiday Craft.
- **Items cannot exceed 48" in any direction, and must weigh less than 40 lbs.**
- All two-dimensional artwork must be received installation-ready. Framed items should use strong screw eyes and wire.
- All three-dimensional artwork must be received installation-ready. Provide a base if necessary for structural support.
- Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) admission ticket to the Fair.
- Entries previously exhibited in the Florida State Fair may not be submitted for competition.
- Entries must have been made by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered under.
- 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:
Originality, Execution, General Appearance and Degree of Difficulty.

HOLIDAY & SEASONAL CRAFTS DEFINITIONS

Holiday can be any nationally, religiously, or culturally observed day(s) of contemplation or celebration, or the events themselves. These include: religious & non-religious holidays, federal holidays & cultural or special community celebrations like Gasparilla in the Tampa Bay Area. Also, included are Halloween, Mother's Day, etc.

Seasonal crafts & décor that are made to celebrate the seasonal changes throughout the year.

Decorative Art is a diverse art form using a variety of techniques and mediums to decorate functional and non-functional surfaces. The designs can be original or copied patterns painted on a variety of surfaces from paper, wood items, canvas, clay pots, furniture, boxes, and many more. Mediums are anything from oil, acrylic, watercolor, colored pencils, alcohol inks, pastels, etc.

2D Décor include items like needlework, table linens, wall hanging, paper crafts, etc.

3D Décor include items like table centerpieces, dolls, toys, wood-crafted items, home accessories, etc.



Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with your creativity in Class 5: America 250 (Patriotic Themed Art). Showcase your red, white, and blue pride through painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, or any artistic medium that honors our nation. The 1st Place winner in each age division will receive a Fair Ticket Package that includes 2 Admission Tickets and 2 Unlimited Ride Armbands (valid any one day of the Florida State Fair!)

HOLIDAY & SEASONAL CRAFTS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Holiday & Seasonal Crafts - Adult **Division 20.101**

Holiday (Non-Christmas) Crafts

Class 1 Holiday 2D Décor - see definition

Class 2 Holiday 3D Décor - see definition

Class 3 Holiday Wreaths

Class 4 Holiday Decorative Art - see definition
(2D or 3D in any medium)

Class 5 America 250 (Patriotic Themed Crafts)

Seasonal Crafts

Class 6 Seasonal 2D Décor - see definition

Class 7 Seasonal 3D Décor - see definition

Class 8 Seasonal Wreaths

Class 9 Seasonal Decorative Art - see definition
(2D or 3D in any medium)

Christmas Specific Crafts

Class 10 Christmas 2D Décor - see definition

Class 11 Christmas 3D Décor - see definition

Class 12 Christmas Wreath

Class 13 Christmas Stocking

Class 14 Christmas Tree Skirt

Class 15 Christmas Toy

Class 16 Christmas Tree (Handmade)

Class 17 Christmas Tree Ornament

Class 18 Nativity Scene & Religious Decoration

Class 19 Christmas Specific Decorative Art
(2D or 3D in any medium)

Class 20 Other Not Listed (Any Holiday or Season)

HOME CRAFTS DEFINITIONS

Paper crafts: is the collection of art forms employing paper or card as the primary artistic medium for the creation of two or three-dimensional objects. This include card making, scrapbooking, Paper Mache, paper clay, quilling, etc. Home Décor & Accessories includes wall-hangings, signs, or any item that decorates your living or work area.

Repurposed (recycled art) Items are transformed or modified to use for a purpose other than its originally intended use, for example, a coffee pot made into a birdhouse. Items should be made from at least 80% recycled materials.

Scale Model Building involves the creation of physical models either from kits or from materials and components acquired by the builder. A model is generally considered physical representations of an object and maintains accurate relationships between all of its aspects.

HOME CRAFTS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Home Crafts - Adult **Division 20.102**

Home Crafts

Class 1 2D Paper Crafts

Class 2 3D Paper Crafts

Class 3 Polymer Clay

Class 4 Doll Making

Class 5 Macramé

Class 6 Applique Craft (includes beads, studs and rhinestones)

Class 7 Beadwork (non-jewelry)

Home Décor & Accessories

Class 8 Home Décor – see definition

Class 9 Flower Arranging (dried or artificial)

Class 10 Painting on glass

Class 11 Wreaths (Non-holiday or seasonal)

Class 12 Whimsical Stitchery

Garden Art

Class 13 Birdhouses

Class 14 Planters and Containers

Class 15 Yard Art Sculptures

Recycled Art (Made from at least 80% recycled materials)

Class 16 Repurposed Items

Class 17 Recycled Garden Art

Class 18 Scale Model Building

Class 19 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
Home & Holiday Crafts
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
Home & Holiday Crafts
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 **\$30**

Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first place winners of each division.

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

Home & Holiday/Seasonal Crafts 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 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Total Fee _____	
Paid <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Type <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> MO <input type="checkbox"/> Check	
Check No. _____	

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 four (4) entries per division for judging. For example:

An exhibitor can enter up to 4 items in Home Crafts and up to 4 items in Holiday Crafts.

Late Entry
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Progra 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
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Mail Entry Form to:
Creative Living Competition – Home & Holiday/Seasonal Crafts
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority