

2026 Florida State Fair Creative Living Competitions

# Fine Handcrafted Furniture

## Competition Handbook

### ADULT

### IMPORTANT DATES

## QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US!

BY PHONE AT

(813) 621-7021

BY EMAIL AT

CREATIVELIVING@FLORIDASTATEFAIR.COM

**Entry Deadline:** Friday, December 5, 2025

**Late Entry Deadline:** Friday, December 12, 2025

**Item Delivery:** Friday, January 30, 2026 - 9:30am-6:00pm  
Saturday, January 31, 2026 - 9:30am-2:00pm

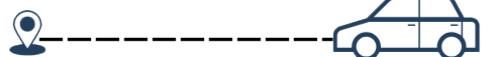
**Judges Talk:** Sunday, February 1, 2026 - 10:00am-12:00pm

**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**

ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

**Late Entry: \$10 Per Entry**

## GUIDELINES

- **Only two (2) entries per Class may be entered by any one individual.**
- No kits or commercially assembled or Computer Generated (CNC) units accepted.
- No toys, miniature items, carvings, or woodturnings will be accepted.
- Entries with more than 25% scroll work will not be permitted.
- Entered items must fit the classification of furniture and must be that of the crafter making the submission.
- Furniture sets may be shown separately.
- During the entry period, the assigned receivers will verify correctness of classification and adherence to rules. They will reclassify and/or disqualify fairly and to the best of their ability, and with oversight of the Creative Living Team (to avoid violating State Fair policies).
- Entered items may be offered for sale at the option of the exhibitor, however, all entered items must remain on exhibition until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.
- 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.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- **The Fine Handcrafted Furniture Basic Divisions** are open to all Florida Residents Age 18 and Up.
- **The Fine Handcrafted Furniture Advanced Divisions** are open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up, who have previously won a 1st place or Best of Show in the Basic Division, receive a major portion of your income from the sale of your craft, or teach fine handcrafted furniture classes. **You must compete in the Advanced Division.**

## **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:

**Workmanship, Material Selected, Design, Finish and Complexity.**

## **FURNITURE DEFINITIONS**

**Fine wood furniture** starts with hardwood (like cherry, maple, walnut and oak) as opposed to soft wood (like pine and other coniferous woods).

**Advanced Exhibitor Adult** is a person who has previously won a 1st place ribbon or Best of Show in the Basic Division, receives a major portion of your income from the sale of your craft, or teach fine handcrafted furniture classes. **You must compete in the Advanced Division. (Age 18 or over)**

**NOTE:** If you have recently moved to Florida and feel that your skill level qualifies you to compete in the Advanced Divisions you may do so.

**Basic Exhibitor Adult** is a person who has not previously won a 1st place ribbon or Best of Show in Furniture or Accessory. (Age 18 or over)

**Furniture:** An object that normally rests on the floor.

**Accessory:** An object that normally rests on a piece of furniture or is hung on a wall.



## **FURNITURE BASIC DIVISIONS & CLASSES**

### **Furniture Basic - Adult Division 40.101**

Class 1 Bed, Cradle  
Class 2 Chair  
Class 3 Bench or Stool  
Class 4 Bookcase  
Class 5 Quilt Rack  
Class 6 Display Cabinet, Curio Cabinet  
Class 7 China Cabinet, Hutch  
Class 8 Buffet  
Class 9 Armoire  
Class 10 Entertainment Center  
Class 11 Chest  
Class 12 Chest of Drawers  
Class 13 Desk  
Class 14 Table  
Class 15 Dining Table  
Class 16 Clock  
Class 17 Jewelry Box  
Class 18 Furniture Set (related pieces to the whole)  
Class 19 Novice Furniture – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)  
Class 20 Other Not Listed

### **Accessory Basic - Adult Division 40.102**

Class 1 Humidor  
Class 2 Jewelry Box  
Class 3 Clock (Wall or Table)  
Class 4 Box/Container  
Class 5 Table Lamp  
Class 6 Chest  
Class 7 Cabinet (Wall or Table)  
Class 8 Mirror/Picture Frame  
Class 9 Cutting Board  
Class 10 Novice Accessory – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)  
Class 11 Other Not Listed

## **FURNITURE ADVANCED DIVISIONS & CLASSES**

### **Furniture Advanced - Adult Division 40.201**

Class 1 Bed, Cradle  
Class 2 Chair  
Class 3 Bench or Stool  
Class 4 Bookcase  
Class 5 Quilt Rack  
Class 6 Display Cabinet, Curio Cabinet  
Class 7 China Cabinet, Hutch  
Class 8 Buffet  
Class 9 Armoire  
Class 10 Entertainment Center  
Class 11 Chest  
Class 12 Chest of Drawers  
Class 13 Desk  
Class 14 Table  
Class 15 Dining Table  
Class 16 Clock  
Class 17 Jewelry Box  
Class 18 Furniture Set (related pieces to the whole)  
Class 19 Other Not Listed

### **Accessory Advanced - Adult Division 40.202**

Class 1 Humidor  
Class 2 Jewelry Box  
Class 3 Clock (Wall or Table)  
Class 4 Box/Container  
Class 5 Table Lamp  
Class 6 Chest  
Class 7 Cabinet (Wall or Table)  
Class 8 Mirror/Picture Frame  
Class 9 Cutting Board  
Class 10 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  
Fine Handcrafted Furniture  
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  
Fine Handcrafted Furniture  
4800 US HWY 301 North  
Tampa, FL 33680

## **RETRIVING 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](mailto: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**

### **Fine Handcrafted Furniture - Basic Division**

**First Place** - State Fair Ribbon **\$50**  
**Second Place** - State Fair Ribbon **\$40**  
**Third Place** - State Fair Ribbon **\$30**

**Best of Show (Furniture)** - State Fair Ribbon **\$75**  
**Best of Show (Accessory)** - State Fair Ribbon **\$50**

### **Fine Handcrafted Furniture - Advanced Division**

**First Place** - State Fair Ribbon **\$75**  
**Second Place** - State Fair Ribbon **\$65**  
**Third Place** - State Fair Ribbon **\$55**

**Best of Show (Furniture)** - State Fair Ribbon **\$150**  
**Best of Show (Accessory)** - State Fair Ribbon **\$100**

Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first place winners of each division in basic and Advanced.

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

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

2026 Florida State Fair

# Fine Handcrafted Furniture 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 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 Address

County

City

State

Zip Code

Check if you are  
a new exhibitor

Phone ( )

Email

**Please indicate Age Group:**  Novice Adult (18 +)  Basic Adult (18 +)  Advanced Adult (18 +)

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

Only two (2) entries per Class may be entered by any one individual.

**Late Entry**  
 YES  NO

#	DIVISION #	CLASS #	Entered Item Description	Type of Wood	FEE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
<b>Total Amount Due</b>					<b>\$</b>

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 to 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.

## Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competition – Fine Handcrafted  
Furniture  
Florida State Fair  
P.O. Box 11766  
Tampa, FL 33680

Signature of exhibitor

Date

**Make checks payable to:** Florida State Fair Authority