



Frequently Asked Questions

Entry Registration

Who Can Enter?

Residents of California (both amateur and professional) aged five years and older. Professional exhibitors (defined as those who have sold more than half of the items made in any year within the entry category, have taught classes for payment, or are employed in the industry). Please see individual entry guides for specific entry guidelines.

What Can I Enter?

If you can make it, grow it, or show it, we have an entry category for it! We have categories for animals, baking, crafts, flowers, paintings, drawings, photography, poetry, and produce. Please see individual entry guides for details.

How Do I Enter?

Please see [Entry Instructions](#) for details.

My Password From Last Year Is Not Working. What Should I Do?

Passwords from previous Fairs are no longer valid. Previous accounts have been deleted for security purposes. Please sign up as a new exhibitor. This new account will be valid for all entries in the current year's Fair.

How Many Items Can I Enter?

Exhibitors may enter items in as many categories as they wish. Please see individual entry guides for specific entry limits in each category.

How Much Does it Cost to Enter?

Entry fees vary by category. Please see the front page of the individual entry guides for entry fees.

How Do I Determine the Correct Age Category to Enter?

5–8-Year-Old exhibitors are those who are between the ages of 5 & 8 as of January 1st.

Youth exhibitors are those who are 9 years of age or older as of January 1st.

Adult exhibitors are those who are 18 years of age and older as of January 1st.

Senior exhibitors are those who are 62 years of age or older as of January 1st.

I Don't Know What Division and Class My Entry Falls Under. How Do I Find Out?

You will find entry categories in the individual entry guides. Please email entries@alamedacountyfair.com, leave a message at 925-426-7611, or come to one of our Entry Help Days if you need further assistance.

[Entry Help Days](#)

What Should I Do if I Entered My Child's Work Under My Name?

Please email entries@alamedacountyfair.com for assistance. You will need to provide the child's full name, birthdate, and entry title.



How Do I Upload an Image?

Please see [Entry Instructions](#) for details.

Do I Need to Upload an Image For Every Entry?

Not all categories require an image to be uploaded. In the Adult Fine Arts Department, all entries require an image or PDF to be uploaded. In the Adult Still Exhibits Department, only quilting entries require images to be uploaded. In the Youth Still Exhibits Department, only photography entries and entries in virtual display categories require images to be uploaded. Please see individual entry guides for details.

How Many Images Are Required For My Entry?

Most categories only require one (1) image. Please see individual entry guides for details.

What If I Need Help Registering or Uploading an Image?

There are a few options for help:

Email entries@alamedacountyfair.com

Call 925-426-7611 and leave a message. You will receive a return call within 2 business days.

Come to one of our Entry Help Days. [Entry Help Days](#)

How Do I Make a Change to My Entry?

Please email entries@alamedacountyfair.com for assistance. You will need to provide the information on the original entry and what changes you would like to be made. All changes must be requested before the entry deadline.

How Do I Know If My Entry Was Accepted?

Entries in most departments are automatically accepted for display at the completion of entry registration, and you will not receive any confirmation aside from your entry receipt.

The Adult Fine Arts Department is an exception as it is a juried competition. Entries will be judged from the uploaded images, and exhibitors will be notified whether or not their entry has been moved on to the second round of judging via email on May 22nd.

Other categories such as Hobby Collections and Table Settings have a limited number of spots available. Exhibitors will be contacted after entering those categories.

I Am a Teacher and Want to Enter Work From My Students. What Should I Do?

Please email entries@alamedacountyfair.com to request a Teacher Entry Spreadsheet, and to receive details about entering school projects.

Delivering Entries to the Fair

When & Where Do I Deliver My Entries?

Entry fees vary by category. Please see the individual entry guides for delivery instructions. These may be found on the calendar on page 2 and on the individual category pages within the entry guides.

I Will Be Out of Town for Entry Delivery. Can I Deliver My Entry Early or Late?

We do not accept early or late delivery of entries. Anyone may deliver your entry to the Fair. Please make arrangements with family, friends, or neighbors to deliver your entry during the delivery period.



I Did Not Turn In My Entry. Can I Get a Refund?

Sorry, but we are unable to issue any refunds for not submitting an entry.

Can Someone Else Deliver My Entry?

Yes, anyone can deliver an entry for another person.

When & How Do I Receive my Free Admission Ticket For Entering?

An admission ticket (one per exhibitor, regardless of the number of entries) will be sent to the email given during registration no later than June 5th for most categories.

Do I Get One (1) Admission Ticket For Each Entry?

Each exhibitor receives one (1) admission ticket regardless of the number of entries submitted. The exception to this is when entering areas such as gardening and baked food where there are different entry periods. Exhibitors will receive one (1) admission ticket for each entry period entered.

During the Fair

Where Will My Entry Be Displayed?

Adult & Youth Still Exhibits: Building C: Made By Hand
 Adult Fine Arts: Plaza del Arte: Fine Art Through the Artists Eyes
 Collections, Gems & Minerals, Jewelry, & Woodcarving: Building O: Collectibles & Keepsakes
 Flowers, Produce, Potted Plants, & Floral Arrangements: Building P: Blooms, Vines, & Wines
 School Projects: Building R: Inside our Schools

What If I Can't Find My Entry During the Fair?

If you need assistance locating your entry during the Fair, please ask any of the Fair staff for assistance. They will be happy to help you find your entry and answer any questions you may have.

Can I Change How My Entry is Displayed?

The Fair maintains total control of the display of the entries. Consideration is given to design aesthetic, space allotment, safety, and security of entries, with the main goal being to show all entries in the best way possible. No entry may be moved or altered. If you have any concerns regarding the display of your entry, please speak with a staff member.

Judging, Ribbons, & Awards

Who Are the Judges?

All judges at the Alameda County Fair are selected based on their expertise in the category they are judging. While most judges remain anonymous, a few categories (such as Adult Fine Arts), post the names and bios of the judges in the entry guide.

Can I Be a Judge?

If you are interested in being a judge and have the proper credentials and qualifications in a given area, please email entries@alamedacountyfair.com to share your credentials. If your credentials meet our needs, you may be added to a list of potential future judges.



How Are Entries Judged?

With some exceptions, adult entries are judged using the American System of Judging where exhibits are judged against each other. There is the availability of one 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each category. Honorable Mention may be awarded at the discretion of the judge(s). All 1st place winners in a division will compete against each other for the Best of Show. Judges may choose to omit any placing that is believed to be without merit.

Adult Fine Art entries are also judged against each other. Awards will be given if, in the opinion of the judges, the items entered have sufficient merit. Silver, Fair Theme, and Honorable Mention awards may be awarded in each class at the discretion of the judge(s). Most Divisions will also have a Best of Class awarded in each class, and a Best of Show awarded for the best item in any given division.

Youth Entries (with the exception of special competitions as noted in the entry guide), are judged using the Danish System of Judging where entries are judged against a scorecard. There is the availability of multiple 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. Every entry will receive a placing (with the exception of 5-8- year-old categories which will not receive a placing but will receive a ribbon). All 1st place winners in a class will compete against each other for the Best of Class. All Best of Class winners within a division will then compete against each other for Best of Show (4-H & Open Youth entries will be considered separately). Judges may choose to omit these awards if there are no qualifying entries.

Can I Watch the Judging?

Entries in most categories are judged prior to the opening of the Fair. Some categories (livestock and small animals, flowers, baked and decorated food, Beef Is King, Dutch Oven, etc.) are judged while the Fair is open, and judging may be viewed. Please see individual entry guides for details.

How Do I Find Out If I Have Won An Award?

Use the free admission ticket you received upon entering and come to the Fair to see your entry on display! If you have received an award, it will be indicated on the entry card displayed with your entry.

What Do I Win If I Am Awarded a Prize?

Please see individual entry guides for award and premium information.

What is a Sponsored Award and How Do I Know If I Have Won One?

A Sponsored Award is a special prize that is sponsored by a particular individual or group. If you have won a Sponsored Award, with a few exceptions (such as in gardening), you will see a Sponsored Award sticker on the entry card displayed with your entry. There may also be a ribbon or placard indicating that the entry is a Sponsored Award Winner. In many cases, Sponsored Award winners will be contacted via email in late June. For more information on Sponsored Awards, please see individual entry guides.

When Do I Receive Any Ribbons That I Have Won?

Ribbons are available on the entry release day. Live competitions may hand ribbons out upon conclusion of judging. Some categories (such as gardening and baked/decorated/preserved foods) have ribbons available for pick up during the Fair. Please see individual entry guides for details.

When Do I Receive My Premium Check?

Exhibitors who have won monetary awards will receive a premium check within 30 days of the closing date of the Fair. Checks are made payable to the name and address provided upon entry registration.



After the Fair

When Do I Pick Up My Entry After The Fair?

Release of most entries is Tuesday, July 9th from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entries will be picked up from the location where they were displayed during the Fair. Please see individual entry guides for locations.

I Will Be Out of Town for Entry Release. Can I Pick Up My Entry Early or Late?

We do not accept early pick up of entries. Please make arrangements with family, friends, or neighbors to pick up your entry on the release date. Entries not picked up on the release date will be moved to the exhibits office and charged a storage fee. Failure to pick up entries on the release date may affect eligibility in future Alameda County Fairs.

Can Someone Else Pick Up My Entry?

Yes, anyone can pick up an entry for another person on the release day. Please give the claim check received at entry drop off to the person picking up your entry.

I Lost My Claim Check. Can I Still Pick Up My Entry?

Yes. Fair staff will request to see your photo ID when you pick up your entry.