



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANTON 26

2026 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

YOUTH COLLECTIONS & WOODCARVING ENTRY GUIDE

No Entry Fee!

Click [HERE](#) to enter!

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, May 13 @ 5:00 p.m.

Each exhibitor who submits an entry for judging will receive an e-ticket (one per exhibitor regardless of the number of entries) good for one admission to the 2026 Alameda County Fair.

Tickets will be sent to the e-mail on file prior to the opening date of the fair.
Tickets are good for any day the Fair is open.

For Questions, please contact:
entries@alamedacountyfair.com
or call 925-426-7611 to leave a message



2026 Youth Collections & Woodcarving Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
			Entry Registration Deadline 5:00 p.m.			
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
			Final Hobby Collection Exhibitor Notification			
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30
			DELIVER ENTRIES: (By Appointment 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)	DELIVER ENTRIES: (By Appointment 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)	DELIVER ENTRIES: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm	DELIVER ENTRIES: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13
June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20
					Opening Day	
June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed				
June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed				
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed				
July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18
Last Day of Fair			Release of All Entries 3:00 pm-7:00 pm	Release of All Entries 9:00 am -1:00 pm		



Youth Collections & Woodcarving Department Rules

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to these rules.

1. Eligibility:
 - a. The competition is for youth residents of California ages 9 and up as of January 1st.
 - b. With submission of entry registration, the exhibitor confirms their ability to deliver their entry to the fair on the posted delivery date(s) and time(s). Late entries will not be accepted.
2. Entries:
 - a. The Fair will provide an exhibit tag using the information provided during registration.
 - b. Exhibit tags will be printed as entered. Any changes to the entry title or category must be emailed prior to the posted registration deadline. Once the deadline has passed, no changes may be made to the title or category entered and the entry will be judged as entered.
3. Display, Handling, Presentation, & Release of Entries:
 - a. The Fair Association reserves the right to refuse any entry or refuse to display any entry considered not to be in the best interest of the Fair. No entry will be accepted where an exhibitor prescribes conditions under which they will exhibit. Once submitted, all exhibits are under the direct control of the Fair Association and cannot be removed until the specified release day.
 - b. Greatest care will be exercised in handling exhibits, but the Fair Management, Alameda County Fair Association, and the County of Alameda will not be held liable for loss, theft, or damage of any kind from any cause.
 - c. Upon submitting an entry for physical display at the Fair, the exhibitor agrees to pick up the entry on the posted release date. Failure to pick up the entry may affect selection for display at future Alameda County Fairs.
 - d. Any unclaimed entries or ribbons will be stored for one month after the closing date of the Fair. After that point, they will be discarded.
4. Judging & Awards:
 - a. Entries are judged using the Danish System of Judging where exhibits are judged against a scorecard. Multiple 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards may be given. Every entry will receive a placing and a ribbon.
 - i. 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 the Best of Show. Judges may choose to omit these awards if there are no qualifying entries.
 - b. Qualified judges are selected by the Alameda County Fair. Judging decisions are final.
 - c. The Fair does not guarantee the payment of Sponsored special premiums and awards as they are secured in good faith.
5. How to Enter:
 - a. Review the Youth Collections & Wood Carving Department rules.
 - b. Go to: <https://alamed.fairwire.com> and Register/Log-In.
 - c. Select the “Create Entries” option.
 - d. Choose the Department/Division/Class for each entry.
 - e. Enter the Title (and description, if desired).
 - f. Entry Confirmation: An email confirmation will be sent and will serve as your receipt.



Hobby Collections

Entry Deadline: May 13 @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27 & Thursday, May 28

Deliver to Building O

(Appt. only 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Friday, May 29 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

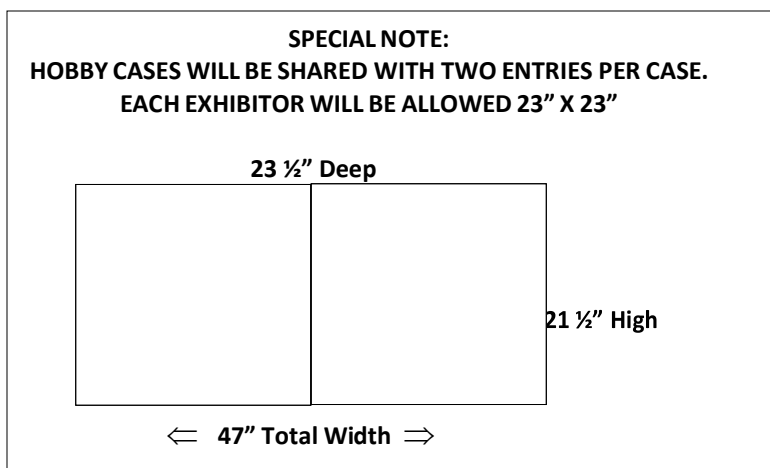
Delivery Location: Alameda County Fair Receiving Office

Located to the Left of the Stable Café

(Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue)

1. Entry Limit: 1 Per Exhibitor.
 - a. Fair cases are limited. Entries are accepted on a space-available basis and to balance the show. Collections previously entered in the Alameda County Fair will be disqualified.
 - b. Exhibitors who have been selected to display a collection will be contacted via email no later than the end of the day on Wednesday, May 20.
2. **Exhibitors who make an appointment on Wednesday, May 27 or Thursday, May 28 will deliver their entry directly to Building O. Exhibitors who deliver their entry on Friday, May 29 or Saturday, May 30 will check in at the ACF Receiving Office and be shuttled to Building O.**
3. Articles for entry must be entirely collected, done, and displayed by the youth exhibitor.
4. The Fair will provide cases and locks. The case itself is raw, unpainted plywood, so plan to cover the sides and bottom with paper or fabric. This can be stapled with a light duty staple gun to be removed after the Fair.
5. Please neatly label items with name and something interesting and appropriate (age, source, etc.). Labels should be neat, legible, and accurate. Using a 14–16-point font (depending on style) typically makes labels easily readable. Tell the public something interesting about your hobby: why you collect or make it, what is unique, where to find more information, how you make it, etc. Encourage the public to study your case. **Judges shall show preference for those displays that are most educational.** Your name should not appear in the case. After judging is complete, fair staff will attach an exhibit tag with your name.
6. **Spray adhesives, rubber cement, and masking tape do not reliably hold. Please use permanent adhesive when possible to secure labels onto cardstock or mat board.**
7. Please do not place anything on the outside of the cases. No extra electricity may be added either inside or outside of the case. You may choose to supply battery powered additions. It is your responsibility to take out any staples and/or tape put in the case on tear down day.
8. Judging Standards: 5% Quality, 10% Education, 10% Labeling (correctness and spelling), 10% Explanation (How did you start your collection?), 15% Variety of Material, 50% Showmanship (total effect of background, lighting, arrangement, neatness, suitability).
9. Cash awards: Best of Show (\$20); Best of Class (\$10). No premiums awarded for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.

Division 310	Hobby Collections
Class: 01	9–11-Year-Old Exhibitors
02	12–14-Year-Old Exhibitors
03	15–17-Year-Old Exhibitors





Woodcarving

Entry Deadline: May 13 @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27 & Thursday, May 28

Deliver to Building O

(Appt. only 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Friday, May 29 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Delivery Location: Alameda County Fair Receiving Office

Located to the Left of the Stable Café

(Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue)

1. No entry fees!
2. **Exhibitors who make an appointment on Wednesday, May 27 or Thursday, May 28 will deliver their entry directly to Building O. Exhibitors who deliver their entry on Friday, May 29 or Saturday, May 30 will deliver their entry to the ACF Receiving Office.**
3. Exhibitors must complete the project within one year of the opening date of the Fair.
4. At time of entry, please include title or subject and type of wood.
5. Wood carvings must be less than 3 ½ feet long and weigh less than 50 pounds.
6. The subject of the carving may be anything from realistic to fantasy using any style of carving (abstract, stylized, or realistic). Carving may be 3-D or relief. No kits are allowed.
7. Judging Standards: 10% Suitability to Purpose, 20% Originality, 25% Appearance & Artistry, 45% Craftsmanship (skillfulness, neatness, & finishing).
8. Sponsored Awards:
 - California Carvers Guild: 1st Place: \$10.00, 2nd Place: \$8.00, 3rd Place: \$5.00

Division 314 Woodcarving

Class:	01	9–11-Year-Old Exhibitors
	02	12–14-Year-Old Exhibitors
	03	15–17-Year-Old Exhibitors