



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Entry Registration

### **Who Can Enter?**

Residents of California (both amateur and professional) aged five years and older. Professional exhibitors are 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! Categories include animals, baking, crafts, flowers, paintings, drawings, photography, poetry, produce, and more. 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 not valid. Accounts are deleted each year for security purposes. Please create a new account. This account will be valid for all entries in the current year's Fair.

### **How Many Items Can I Enter?**

Please refer to individual Entry Guides for specific entry limits within each category.

### **How Much Does it Cost to Enter?**

Entry fees vary by category. Please see the cover page of each Entry Guide or view a comprehensive list of entry fees here [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 can find entry categories in the individual Entry Guides. For assistance, email [entries@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:entries@alamedacountyfair.com), call 925-426-7611, or visit one of our [Entry Help Days](#).

### **Registering a Youth Exhibitor**

If you are an adult registering on behalf of a youth exhibitor, **please enter the youth exhibitor's information** (name, birthdate, etc.), **not your own**.

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

Email [entries@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:entries@alamedacountyfair.com) with the child's full name, birthdate, and entry title for assistance.



### How Do I Upload an Image?

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

### Do I Need to Upload an Image for Every Entry?

Only certain categories require an upload.

- Adult Fine Arts Department: All entries require an image of PDF upload (except for the Plein Air Painting Contest).
- Youth Still Exhibits Department: Only virtually displayed categories require image uploads. Please see Entry Guide for details.

### How Many Images Are Required for My Entry?

Most categories requiring an upload only require one (1) image or PDF. Please see individual entry guides for details.

### What If I Need Help Registering or Uploading an Image?

Email [entries@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto: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?

Email [entries@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:entries@alamedacountyfair.com) with your original entry information and the requested change.

All changes must be submitted at least one week prior to the entry registration deadline.

### How Do I Know If My Entry Was Accepted?

Most entries are automatically accepted once registration is complete.

The **Adult Fine Arts Department** is juried, and exhibitors will be notified via email on **May 20** whether their entry advances to the second round of judging.

**Hobby Collections** are accepted on a space-available basis to ensure a balanced show. Exhibitors will be contacted on **May 20** if they have been selected for display. If not selected, exhibitors will be placed on a wait list and contacted if space becomes available.

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

Email [entries@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:entries@alamedacountyfair.com) to request a Teacher Entry Spreadsheet and receive detailed instructions.

## **Delivering Entries to the Fair**

### When & Where Do I Deliver My Entries?

Delivery dates vary by category. Please refer to the [Receiving Schedule](#) or your department's Entry Guide for details.

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

No early or late deliveries will be accepted. Anyone may deliver your entry on your behalf – please plan accordingly.

### Can Someone Else Deliver My Entry?

Yes, anyone can deliver an entry for another person.



### **I Did Not Turn in My Entry. Can I Get a Refund?**

No, we are unable to issue any refunds for not submitting an entry.

### **When & How Do I Receive my Free Admission Ticket for Entering?**

Each exhibitor receives one (1) general admission ticket (regardless of the number of entries). Tickets are emailed before the Fair opens to the address used during registration.

### **Do I Get One (1) Admission Ticket for Each Entry?**

No. Each exhibitor receives one ticket total, except in areas with separate entry periods (e.g., Gardening or Baked Foods). Exhibitors in those areas receive one ticket per entry period.

## **During the Fair**

### **Where Will My Entry Be Displayed?**

Adult & Youth Still Exhibits: Building C/Made by Hand.

Adult Fine Arts: Fine Arts Plaza/Fine Art Through the Artists Eyes

Collections, Gems & Minerals, Jewelry, & Woodcarving: Building O/Collectibles & Keepsakes

Flowers, Produce, Potted Plants, & Floral Arrangements: Building Q/Blooms, Vines, & Wines

School Projects: Building R/Inside our Schools (Grades TK-8); Building C/Made by Hand (Grades 9-12)

Ag Mechanics/Woodworking/Woodturning (School projects & Still Exhibits): Building O/Collectibles & Keepsakes

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

Ask any Fair staff member for assistance – they'll be happy to help you locate it.

### **Can I Change How My Entry is Displayed?**

No. The Fair retains full control of display arrangements to ensure safety, security, and overall presentation quality. If you have concerns, please speak with a staff member.

## **Judging, Ribbons, & Awards**

### **Who Are the Judges?**

Judges are selected based on expertise in their respective fields. Most judges remain anonymous, though certain categories (such as Adult Fine Arts) may publish judge names and bios in their Entry Guides.

### **Can I Be a Judge?**

If you are qualified and interested, email [entries@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:entries@alamedacountyfair.com) to share your credentials. Qualified applicants may be added to the future judges list.

### **How Are Entries Judged?**

- **Adult Entries:** Judged using the **American System** of Judging (entries compete against each other). One 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place may be awarded per class. Honorable Mentions are at the judges' discretion. Judges may omit any award that is believed to be without merit.
- **Adult Fine Arts:** Judged using the **American System** or Judging. Silver, Fair Theme, and Honorable Mentions are awarded.
- **Youth Entries:** Judged using the **Danish System** of Judging (entries compared to a scorecard). Multiple 1, 2, and 3 places may be awarded. All entries receive a ribbon. Judges may omit awards if no entries qualify.
- **5-8 Year Old Entries:** Receive Participation ribbons.



### **Can I Watch Judging?**

Most judging occurs before the Fair opens; others take place during the Fair and may be viewed.

### **How Do I Find Out If I Have Won?**

Use your exhibitor ticket to visit the Fair and see your entry on display! Award results are indicated on the entry card attached to your entry.

### **What Do I Win If I Am Awarded a Prize?**

Please see individual Entry Guides for details on awards and premiums.

### **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 organization. If you win one, a Sponsored Award sticker will be on the displayed entry card. Winners are also notified by email before the Fair closes.

### **When Do I Receive Any Ribbons That I Have Won?**

Ribbons are available during entry release. 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?**

Monetary award checks are distributed during entry release. Checks are made payable to the name and address listed on your entry registration.

## **After the Fair**

### **When Do I Pick Up My Entry After the Fair?**

Most entries may be picked up on:

- **Wednesday, July 15** – 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, July 16** – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pick up entries from the same building where they were displayed during the Fair.

### **Can I Pick Up My Entry Early or Late?**

No early pick-ups are allowed. Please arrange for someone else to pick up your entry if you are unavailable. Failure to pick up entries may affect eligibility for future Fairs.

### **Can Someone Else Pick Up My Entry?**

Yes. Provide your claim check to the person picking up your entry.

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

Yes. Bring a valid photo ID to claim your entry.