



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANTON 26

2026 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR YOUTH STILL EXHIBITS ENTRY GUIDE

No Entry Fee!

Click [HERE](#) to enter!

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

For most categories. Please see the following page for details.

Each exhibitor who submits an image or 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



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANTON 26

2026 Youth Still Exhibits Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
			Entry Registration Deadline 5:00 p.m. for Crafts & Textiles			
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30
			DELIVER ENTRIES: Crafts & Textiles (By Appointment 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	DELIVER ENTRIES: Crafts & Textiles (By Appointment 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	DELIVER ENTRIES: Crafts & Textiles 11:00 am - 7:00 p.m.	DELIVER ENTRIES: Crafts & Textiles 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
Jun 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13
Entry Registration Deadline 5:00 p.m. for Preserved Foods & Table Settings					DELIVER ENTRIES: Preserved Foods & Table Settings (By Appt. Only)	DELIVER ENTRIES: Preserved Foods & Table Settings 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm
June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20
		Entry Registration for Period 1 Baked & Decorated Foods Deadline 5:00 p.m.		DELIVER ENTRIES: Baked/Decorated Food 7:00 - 10 am	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
Entry Registration Deadline 5:00 p.m. for Period 2 Baked Foods	Fair Closed	Fair Closed DELIVER ENTRIES: Period 2 Baked Food 7:00-10:00 am				
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		

email entries@alamedacountyfair.com | **phone** 925-426-7611 | 4501 Pleasanton Avenue | Pleasanton | California 94566

Click [HERE](#) to enter!



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Youth Still Exhibits Department Rules

The submission of an entry constitutes agreement to these rules.

1. Eligibility:
 - a. The competition is for youth residents of California aged 5+ years old as of January 1st.
 - b. 4-H exhibitors should enter the regular youth categories. The Youth Organization division is for non-4-H groups such as Scouts, YMCA, etc.
 - c. 4-H entries will be verified via county project lists. Only entries in related projects will be considered eligible for 4-H sponsored awards. Please indicate 4-H club and project in 4-H for eligible 4-H entries.
 - d. Special craft and baking competitions are open to all youth exhibitors aged five and older.
 - e. 5–8-year-old exhibitors have no entry fee, receive no premiums, receive participation ribbons, and may enter only in the designated 5–8-year-old categories. Special Competitions are the exception to this rule.
 - f. 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. Unless otherwise specified, there is no entry limit per division or class.
 - b. Exhibitors must prepare non-food entries within one year of the opening date of the Fair.
 - c. The Fair will provide an exhibit tag using the information provided upon registration.
 - d. 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.
 - e. **Only Virtually Displayed entries (including all creative writing) are required to have images uploaded upon registration.**
3. How to Enter All Entries:
 - a. Review the Youth Still Exhibits Department rules.
 - b. If an upload is required, save the digital images of your entry where you can access it during the entry process.
 - c. Go to: <https://alamed.fairwire.com/> and Register/Log-In (be sure the information is for the YOUTH exhibitor).
 - d. Select the “Create Entries” option.
 - e. Choose the Department/Division/Class for each entry.
 - f. Enter the title (and description, if desired).
 - g. **Virtually Displayed Entries only:** Complete required upload(s).
 - h. Entry Confirmation: An email confirmation will be sent and will serve as your receipt.
4. 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. While entries will be secure, most items will not be displayed behind glass or in cases.
 - d. Please be aware of all requirements including size, weight, and mounting instructions. Items that do not adhere to those requirements will not be selected for physical display.
 - e. 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.
 - f. Unclaimed entries and ribbons will be stored for one month after the closing date of the Fair. After that point, they will be discarded.
5. Judging & Awards:
 - a. Entries (not including Special Competitions) 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 (except 5-8- year-old categories, which will not receive a placing but will receive 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 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.
 - b. Qualified judges are selected by the Alameda County Fair. Judging decisions are final.
 - c. Cash awards: Best of Show (\$20); Best of Class (\$10). No premiums awarded for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.



- d. Sponsored awards will be awarded from eligible entries selected for physical display and delivered to the Fair. No special entry is required. Each entry may only win one sponsored award. Sponsored special premiums and awards as they are secured in good faith. Winners will be contacted via email prior to the closing date of the Fair. Sponsors will mail the award directly to the exhibitor after the close of the Fair.

Culinary Arts Rules

Submission of entry constitutes an agreement to these (and applicable Youth Still Exhibits Department) rules.

1. Entries:
 - a. Youth exhibitors do not need to specify entry period when registering.
 - b. If allowed, and entering more than one recipe per class, the recipes must be different. Within any year, each recipe may only be entered once.
 - c. Food entries do not need to be baked or preserved from an original recipe (unless otherwise specified), but must be handmade by the entrant from scratch and must not use any prepared mixes (with the exception of Tricks with a Mix).
 - d. All baked foods must be entered with a complete recipe at time of delivery. Recipes will not be shared and will be returned with the judge's comment card.
 - e. Enter: 1 whole loaf, cake, pie; 7 cupcakes, cookies, candies, muffins, pastries, rolls, etc. Multiple items should not be individually wrapped. Only a portion of the entry may be displayed.
 - f. Refrigeration is not guaranteed and will not be provided after judging has concluded.
2. Presentation & Display:
 - a. All Period 1 baked food items will be discarded prior to Period 2 delivery. Items may be discarded prior to that time if they become deteriorated; this is at the discretion of fair personnel. Results will be available via QR code posted in the building.
 - b. Baked food entries should be delivered in non-returnable, disposable containers, plates or wraps.
 - c. Baked goods will be displayed on plates provided by the fair. Unless otherwise specified, plate presentation has no effect on judging results.
3. Judging & Awards:
 - a. Judging Standards:
 - i. Baked Foods: 20% Appearance, 25% Texture, 45% Flavor, 10% Inclusion of Recipe.
 - ii. Decorated Food: 30% Appearance, 25% Icing, 25% Uniformity in Decorating, 10% Originality/Creativity, 10% Difficulty Factor.
 - iii. King Arthur Flour Baking Company: 25% Appearance/Creativity, 25% Texture, 50% Taste
 - iv. Table Settings: 25% Overall Appearance, 50% Functionality, 25% Creativity
 - v. All Other Categories: 20% Appearance, 25% Texture, 45% Flavor, 10% Recipe.
 - b. Ribbons, judge's comment cards, and recipes for baked, decorated, and preserved foods and table settings will be available for pick up during Fair hours beginning Sunday, July 5. Any desired ribbons, comment cards or recipes not picked up during the fair must be picked up on the exhibit release days. Ribbons, comment cards, and recipes will not be mailed. Unclaimed ribbons, comment cards and recipes will be held at the Exhibit Office for one month after the closing date of the Fair. At that point, they will be discarded.
 - c. Cash awards: Best of Show (\$20); Best of Class (\$10). No premiums awarded for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.



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	Registration Deadline (5:00 p.m.)	Deliver to Building C -- North Door (7:00-10:00 a.m.)
Period 1	June 16	June 18
Period 2	June 28	June 30

Baked Food

Enter 1 whole loaf/cake/pie. 7 cookies/muffins/candy/etc.

	Ages 5-8	Ages 9-12	Ages 13+
Ribbon Only. No Premiums.	01	Bread	11 Bread
Class: 01 Baked Food	02	Cakes & Cupcakes	12 Cakes & Cupcakes
	03	Cookies	13 Cookies
	04	Pies & Pastries	14 Pies & Pastries
	05	Confections	15 Confections

Special Baking Competitions (Period 1)

Entry Deadline: June 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deliver to Building C – North Door – Thursday, June 18, 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Enter one whole loaf/cake/pie. 7 cookies/cupcakes/muffins/etc.

Family Favorite Summer Treats

Enter your family's favorite summer treat.

Class: 01 Family Favorite Summer Treats

Mix it Up – Tricks with a Mix

Use a pre-packaged mix to make something new.

Class: 01 Mix it Up – Tricks with a Mix

Guittard Chocolate Contest

Enter any *original* creation using at least 10 oz. of any combination of Guittard Chocolate products.

Entries may not include any pre-packaged (cake/frosting/etc.) mixes.

Guittard packaging must accompany your entry at the time of delivery.

Entry must be the original entry of the exhibitor and may not have been entered and won in any other competition.

Adult and youth exhibitors will be judged together.

In each class, there will be one 1st place, one 2nd place, and one 3rd place prize awarded.

Judging Standards: 20% Appearance, 30% Texture, 40% Taste, 10% Creativity

Include your name, address, phone number, and email in the upper right-hand corner of your recipe.

All recipes become the property of the Guittard Chocolate Company.

Prizes are sponsored by Guittard Chocolate Company.

1st Place: \$40; 2nd Place: \$30; 3rd Place: \$20.

Class: 01 Cakes, Cupcakes, Pies
02 Bars, Cookies, Candies



Special Baking Competitions (Period 2)

Entry Deadline: June 28 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deliver to Building C – North Door – Tuesday, June 30, 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Enter one whole loaf/cake/pie. 7 cookies/cupcakes/muffins/etc.

Cereal Treat Bars

Create a bar using your favorite cereal.

Class: 01 Cereal Treat Bars

Featured Commodity (Carrot) Dessert

Cakes, muffins, cookies, etc. celebrating carrots

Class: 01 Carrot (cake, muffin, cookies, etc.)

Celebrating 250 Years of America Dessert Contest

Entry Limit: 2 Per Exhibitor

Celebrate 250 Years of America with your favorite All-American Dessert!

Class: 01 Celebrating 250 Years of America Dessert Contest

King Arthur Baking Company Cake Contest

Entry Limit: 2 Per Exhibitor

Entries must use only King Arthur Flour. Provide proof of purchase (packaging or receipt) upon delivery.

Exhibitors must use and submit a cake recipe found on the King Arthur Baking Company website at the following link:

[Cake | King Arthur Baking](#)

Prizes (Gift Cards) sponsored by King Arthur Baking Company.

1st Place: \$40; 2nd Place: \$25; 3rd Place: \$25

Class: 01 King Arthur Baking Company Cake Contest



Decorated Food

Entry Deadline: June 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deliver to Building C – North Door – Thursday, June 18, 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Enter one whole cake. 7 cookies/cupcakes.

Decorated Food Items may only be entered & delivered during the Period 1 Entry Period listed above.

A Styrofoam or cardboard form should be used, but all non-structural decorations must be edible.

Please deliver on a covered, firm surface with no more than 1 ½” beyond all edges of the entry.

Entries are judged on appearance only.

Ages 5-8 (ribbon only)

Class: 01 Decorated Food

Ages 9-12

01 Decorated Food

Ages 13+

12 Decorated Food

Preserved Food

Entry Deadline: June 7 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deliver to Building C – North Door

Friday, June 12 (Appt. Only) & Saturday, June 13, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Submit 1 Jar/bottle per entry.

1. Entries must be submitted in a standard canning jar with new screw bands and must be properly sealed. Unsealed jars and jars that are unable to be opened by the judges will be disqualified and may not be displayed.
2. Exhibitors must attach a label to the bottom of the jar with the product name, date prepared, preservation method, and any unusual ingredients.
3. Please have proper headspace. Judges use guidelines posted in the most recent version of the Ball Blue Book.
4. Vinegars & Liqueurs: Glass bottle or decanter. Dried foods: clear self-sealing bag or container.
5. Judging Standards:
 - a. Preserved: 10% Container, 15% Appearance, 25% Texture, 40% Flavor, 10% Proper Headspace.
 - b. Vinegars: 25% Appearance, 45% Flavor & Aroma, 15% Aftertaste, 15% Overall Impression.

Ages 5-8 (ribbon only)

Class: 01 Preserved Food

Ages 9+

01 Any Preserved Food Item

Table Settings

Entry Deadline: June 7 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deliver to Building C – North Door

Friday, June 12 (Appt. Only) & Saturday, June 13, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Entry Limit: 2 Per Exhibitor

Single table setting limited to 24”x 24” with a 15” height limit. Include menu and related centerpiece.

A 24”x 24” piece of sturdy cardboard, wood, or foam board covered with fabric or paper is required as the base of the setting. All components must be placed only on this board.

Use appropriate service & utensils and make sure the setting matches the items on the menu.

Nothing edible or alive may be a part of the display.

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Table Setting

Ages 13+

11 Table Setting



Fiber Arts Rules

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to these rules (& Youth Still Exhibits Department Rules).

1. Entries must be clean, neat, and ready for display.
2. Items that are soiled or showing wear will not be accepted, judged, or displayed.
3. All quilts and wall hangings must have a 4" sleeve to accommodate a cross pole for hanging. (Sleeve must be continuous across the width of the piece. Fold a 9" strip of fabric in half and sew with a ½" seam, making a long tube. Place seam against the back of the piece and baste or blind stitch the sleeve in place 1" below the top and ½" from each side, taking care not to sew through the front.)
4. Judging Standards:
 - a. Needlework: 25% Appearance, 50% Workmanship, 15% Difficulty Appropriate for Age, 10% Suitability
 - b. Quilting: 50% Art, 50% Construction
 - c. Sewing: 30% Appearance, 60% Workmanship, 10% Difficulty Appropriate for Age

Entry Deadline: May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

Deliver to the Alameda County Fair Receiving Office

Located to the Left of the Stable Cafe

(Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue)

Wednesday, May 27 & Thursday, May 28 (By Appointment: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

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

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

Needlework

Framed pieces must have the back neatly finished and be ready to hang with picture wire or have an appropriate stand. Glass and Plexiglass should be removed from any frames before delivery.

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Crochet or Knit Item
02 Any Other Needlework

Ages 13+

11 Crochet or Knit Item
12 Any Other Needlework

Quilting

In cases where someone other than the exhibitor completed the quilting, please specify the quilter's name in the entry description upon entry registration.

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Any Quilting

Ages 13+

11 Any Quilting

Sewing

When possible, please deliver clothing entries on a mannequin or dress form.

Hand Sewing

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Any Hand Sewing

Ages 13+

11 Any Hand Sewing

Machine Sewing

Ages 9-12

01 Any Machine Sewing

Ages 13+

11 Any Machine Sewing



Handcraft Rules

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to these rules (& Youth Still Exhibits Department Rules).

1. Painting and Drawing must be entered under a Painting & Drawing Division.
2. Items that are soiled or showing wear will not be accepted, judged, or displayed.
3. Spray adhesives, rubber cement, and masking tape do not reliably hold. Please use permanent adhesive when possible.
4. Entries with special competitions available must be entered in those competitions.
5. Jewelry items must be mounted for display on a board with no more than a 1” border beyond the edge of the item or in an appropriately sized box.
6. Exhibitors may use pre-cast and pre-stamped articles provided they complete all artistic and finishing work and indicate which portion was pre-made.
7. No unfired or unbaked clay items will be accepted.
8. Paper Crafts & Scrapbooking entries must be predominately made from paper with minimal non-paper items. Pre-cut kits are not allowed. Scrapbook pages should be submitted in a page protector with a maximum size of 12”x 12”.
9. Wood Working: Kits are not allowed. Painted wood items should be entered under Arts & Crafts.
10. Judging Standards:
 - a. Crafts: 25% Appearance, 50% Workmanship, 15% Suitability/Difficulty Factor, 10% Creativity.
 - b. Craft Special Competitions: 20% Appearance, 40% Workmanship, 15% Difficulty Factor, 15% Creativity, 10% Compliance.
 - c. Paper Crafts/Scrapbooking: 40% Appearance, 30% Workmanship, 20% Difficulty Factor, 10% Originality & Creativity.
11. Craft Special Competitions:
 - a. Open to youth ages 5 years and older as of January 1st.

Entry Deadline: May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Paper Crafts & Scrapbooking

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Any Paper Craft or Scrapbooking

Ages 13+

11 Any Paper Craft or Scrapbooking

Wood

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Any Woodworking

Ages 13+

11 Any Woodworking



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Friday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please indicate in the entry title if the entry is an original design.

Entry must be at least 2” in size, either freestanding or mounted so it is freestanding, with no more than 1” undecorated perimeter.

Beach crafts may include crafts with shells, sand, etc.

Nature Themed Crafts may include, but are not limited to pinecone art, flowerpot art, pressed flowers, etc.

Pet Themed Crafts may include pet toys, pet accessories, feeding supplies, etc.

Shoebox Craft entries must be made using a traditional cardboard shoebox.

Crafts

		Ages 9-12		Ages 13+
Class:	01	Ceramics	11	Ceramics
	02	Collage/Assemblage	12	Collage/Assemblage
	03	Holiday/Seasonal	13	Holiday or Seasonal
	04	Jewelry	14	Jewelry
	05	Any Other Craft	15	Any Other Craft

Craft Special Competitions

Class:	01	Beach Crafts	06	Perler Bead Craft
	02	Egg Carton Craft	07	Pet Themed Craft
	03	Literature Based Craft	08	Pipe Cleaner Craft
	04	Mason Jar Craft	09	Rock Painting
	05	Nature Themed Craft	10	Shoebox Craft

Fair Themed/Featured Commodity (Carrot) Craft Special Competition

Create an entry inspired by our Fair theme or featured commodity.

Class	01	Fair Themed Craft Special Competition
	02	Carrot Craft Special Competition

Celebrating 250 Years of America Special Competition

Show us your Crafting Tributes to America!

Class	01	Celebrating 250 Years of America Special Competition
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 Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cosplay Special Competition

Show us your Cosplay!
 Based on an existing character or intellectual property (IP).
 All assembly, painting, finishing, and detailing must be completed by the exhibitor.
 Please indicate which elements were completed by the exhibitor.
 Purchased or pre-made elements may not exceed 20% of the entry.

Class 01	Clothing
02	Props
03	Any Other (Armor, Masks, Wigs, etc.)

Costume or Fursona Special Competition

Create an original costume/Fursona and/or accessories!
 Entries must not be based on any existing character or intellectual property (IP).
 Purchased or pre-made elements may not exceed 20% of the entry.

Class 01	Clothing
02	Props
03	Any Other (Masks, Tails, etc.)

Mystery Craft Special Competition

Create a craft predominately featuring at least 4 of the following materials:
 Other general crafting materials (glue, tape, paint, etc.) may also be used.

Button	Googly Eyes	Pom Pom/Cotton Ball
Cardboard Tube	Jar Lid	Popsicle Stick
Cork	Milk/Juice Carton	Sequins
Feather	Plastic Bottle	

Class 01	Mystery Craft Special Competition
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Recycling/Upcycling Special Competition

Create a craft using common recyclable items or repurpose an item to create something new!

Class 01	Recycling
02	Upcycling



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

Painting & Drawing – Traditional & Digital

Flat art only. Please enter 3-D art pieces under Crafts.
 All entries must be mounted on mat board or heavy card stock. Professional matting is NOT required.

Maximum Size: 18" x 24".

Only canvas artwork may be framed and must be ready to hang with picture wire.

Any non-canvas artwork that is framed will be displayed virtually.

Spray adhesives, rubber cement, and masking tape do not reliably hold.

Please use dry mount or permanent adhesive when possible.

Charcoal, pastel, and pencil drawings should be protected for handling by spraying with inexpensive hair spray or other similar fixative.

Digital Painting & Drawing entries are created using Digital Art Software.

Judging Standards:

40% Technical Skill (use of media), 45% Originality & Creativity, 15% Entry Compliance (size, matting/framing)

Painting & Drawing

Ages 9-11

- 01 Drawing—Pencil
- 02 Drawing—Colored Pencil
- 03 Drawing—Pastel
- 04 Drawing—Other Media
- 05 Painting—Acrylic/Oil
- 06 Painting—Watercolor
- 07 Combination of Painting & Drawing
- 09 Any Other Medium
- 10 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Ages 12-14

- 11 Drawing—Pencil
- 12 Drawing—Colored Pencil
- 13 Drawing—Pastel
- 14 Drawing—Other Media
- 15 Painting—Acrylic/Oil
- 16 Painting—Watercolor
- 17 Combination of Painting & Drawing
- 18 Any Other Medium
- 19 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Ages 15+

- 21 Drawing—Pencil
- 22 Drawing—Colored Pencil
- 23 Drawing—Pastel
- 24 Drawing—Other Media
- 25 Painting—Acrylic/Oil
- 26 Painting—Watercolor
- 27 Combination of Painting & Drawing
- 28 Any Other Medium
- 29 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Digital Painting & Drawing

(Created with Digital Art Software)

Ages 9-12

- 01 Digital Art

Ages 13+

- 11 Digital Art



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

Photography

Photo size must be 8x10 and mounted on 11x14 mat board or heavy card stock.

Professional matting is NOT required.

Photos may not be framed. Any framed pieces will be displayed virtually.

Spray adhesives, rubber cement, and masking tape do not reliably hold.

Please use dry mount or permanent adhesive when possible.

Photos must have been taken by the exhibitor.

Photos may not be entered in more than one class.

Duplicate photos will be disqualified.

Minor edits to photos are allowed including cropping, red-eye removal, and brightness adjustment.

Judging Standards:

30% Technical (focus, lighting), 30% Composition (perspective, crop),

30% Originality & Creativity, 10% Compliance (size, matting).

Ages 9-11

- 01 Architectural & Urban
- 02 Fair/Commodity (Carrots) Theme
- 03 Landscape
- 04 Nature
- 05 People
- 06 Pets
- 07 Wildlife
- 08 Any Other
- 09 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Ages 12-14

- 11 Architectural & Urban
- 12 Fair/Commodity (Carrots) Theme
- 13 Landscape
- 14 Nature
- 15 People
- 16 Pets
- 17 Wildlife
- 18 Any Other
- 19 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Ages 15+

- 21 Architectural & Urban
- 22 Fair/Commodity (Carrots) Theme
- 23 Landscape
- 24 Nature
- 25 People
- 26 Pets
- 27 Wildlife
- 28 Any Other
- 29 Celebrating 250 Years of America



Entry Deadline: May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.
 Deliver to the Alameda County Fair Receiving Office
 Located to the Left of the Stable Cafe
 (Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue)
 Wednesday, May 27 & Thursday, May 28 (By Appointment: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
 Friday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous Exhibits

This division is for entries with no other provided category.
 Exhibits may include a poster board (minimum size: 18"x 22"; maximum size: 22"x 30") or educational displays
 (cardboard or foam board bi-fold or tri-fold), website, video, slides, etc.
 Written reports will not be accepted.
 Rockets may not have live engines.
 Judging Standards:
 20% Appearance, 30% Education, 25% Workmanship, 25% Accomplishes Purpose

Ages 9-12

Class: 01 Exhibits Emphasizing Activity & Learning
 02 Environmental Education/STEM/STEAM
 03 Rocketry
 04 Beeswax & Honey
 05 Any Other

Ages 13+

11 Exhibits Emphasizing Activity & Learning
 12 Environmental Education/STEM/STEAM
 13 Rocketry
 14 Beeswax & Honey
 15 Any Other

Group Projects

This division is for entries made by two or more youth exhibitors.
 Please see individual entry categories for specific rules and instructions.
 Group member names should be indicated on the project upon delivery.

Class: 01 Any Group Project



Virtually Displayed Categories

Entry & Upload Deadline: May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

Entries in this division will be judged and displayed virtually via QR code during the Fair.
Entries will receive comments from judges, award placings, and premiums.

All entries must have an image or PDF uploaded by Wednesday, May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.
Refunds will not be issued for failure to upload images.

After payment, select **UPLOAD MEDIA** and follow the prompts to upload the digital image files that correspond with the Title/Description. If you have multiple entries, please carefully look at the Title/Description in the top right-hand corner when uploading the digital images to ensure the images match the entry.

Digital Image Size:

For online entries, the ideal resolution in pixels is 800x800 (length x width).
Images that are larger than this need to be resampled (resized) to that size while still maintaining the original aspect ratio.
The maximum storage size limit is 8 MB.

Creative Writing

A PDF upload is required to complete the entry process. Only the first two pages will be judged.

Judging Standards: 40% Creativity, 20% Structure, 20% Language Use, 10% Mechanics (spelling, grammar, etc.), 10% “Wow” Factor

Ages 9-12

- 01 Poem
- 02 Short Story
- 03 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Ages 13+

- 11 Poem
- 12 Short Story
- 13 Celebrating 250 Years of America

Computer Science

Entries must be completed entirely by the exhibitor.

Please preview entries on multiple platforms to ensure entries will function properly at the Fair.
Follow all copyright laws in use of text, music, and images. Violations will result in disqualification.
All entries must be publicly viewable via the registered URL through the closing date of the Fair.

Ages 9-12

- 01 Computer Science

Ages 13+

- 11 Computer Science

Virtually Displayed Painting & Drawing

Ages 9-12

- 01 Virtually Displayed Painting & Drawing

Ages 13+

- 11 Virtually Displayed Painting & Drawing

Virtually Displayed Photography

Ages 9-12

- 01 Virtually Displayed Photography

Ages 13+

- 11 Virtually Displayed Photography



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANTON 26

Entry Deadline: May 20 @ 5:00 p.m.
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 Friday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Entries in these categories receive no premiums.

All entries will receive ribbons and judge comments.

Entries must be clean, neat, and ready for display.
 Items that are soiled or showing wear will not be accepted, judged, or displayed.
 Spray adhesives, rubber cement, and masking tape do not reliably hold.
 Please use permanent adhesive when possible.
 Entries must be mounted on mat board or heavy card stock.
 Maximum Size: 18" x 24" (length x width).
 Only canvas artwork may be framed and must be ready to hang with picture wire.
Any non-canvas artwork that is framed will be displayed virtually.
 Photo size must be 8x10 and mounted on 11x14 mat board or heavy card stock.
 Photos may not be framed.
 Professional matting is NOT required.

5-8-Year-Old Exhibitors

Participation Ribbons Only. For food entries, see individual categories.

Class: 01	Crafts	04	Sewing/Clothing/Needlework
02	Painting & Drawing	05	Any Other
03	Photography		

Intellectual, Developmental, & Physical Differences

This division is for exhibitors with intellectual, developmental, or physical differences.
 Please see individual entry categories for specific rules and instructions.

Class: 01 Any Entry by an Exhibitor with Intellectual, Development, or Physical Differences

Youth Organizations

This division is for entries created within Youth Organizations other than 4-H.
 (To enter 4-H entries, please see individual categories.)
 Please see individual entry categories for specific rules and instructions.

Class: 01	Painting & Drawing
02	Any Other



Youth Still Exhibits Sponsored Awards

We appreciate our generous sponsors for the awards for the 2026 Alameda County Fair!
 All eligible entries will automatically be considered. No special entry is required.
 Winners will be contacted via email prior to the closing date of the Fair.
 Sponsors will mail awards to the exhibitors after the close of the Fair.

Awards for Open Youth Exhibitors:

Alameda County Farm Bureau

Best Garden Produce \$20 (in each delivery period)

Ken Beebe & Laurel Seymour-Beebe

Alison Keift Memorial Award \$20

Best Baked Food Period 1 & Period 2 \$20

Best Decorated Food \$20

Charles Beebe Memorial Award \$20

Judy Huff Memorial Award \$20

Lorena Deckert Memorial Award \$20

Robert Beebe Memorial Award \$20

Sponsor's Favorite Award \$20

Livermore Art Association

Best Black & White Drawing (3 awards: ages 9-11, 12-14, & 15-17) \$20 each

Best Oil or Acrylic Painting (3 awards: ages 9-11, 12-14, & 15-17) \$20 each

Best Pastel Work (3 awards: ages 9-11, 12-14, & 15-17) \$20 each

Best Watercolor (3 awards: ages 9-11, 12-14, & 15-17) \$20 each

Micheli Family

Best Wildlife Photography \$20

PFLAG

Champion of Pride Award (celebrates LGBTQ+ pride, equality, and acceptance) \$20

Tri-Valley Writers CWC Tri-Valley Branch

Best Poetry (ages 9-12) \$20

Best Poetry (ages 13+) \$20

Best Short Story (ages 9-12) \$20

Best Short Story (ages 13+) \$20

The Center for Community Dispute Settlement

Champion of Peace Award (celebrates peace and/or conflict resolution) \$20

Awards for 4-H & Open Youth Exhibitors

Foscalina Family

Marilyn Foscalina Quilting Award \$75 Gift Card

Marilyn Foscalina Quilting Award \$25 Gift Card

Awards are secured in good faith. Awards are subject to change. The Fair does not guarantee sponsored awards.



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Awards for 4-H Members:

To be eligible, exhibitor must be a member of an Alameda County 4-H Club,
 enrolled in a related project, and at least 9 years old as of January 1st.

Alameda County 4-H Leadership Unit

Outstanding Creative Writing Award—Best Poem (ages 9-12) \$25

Outstanding Creative Writing Award—Best Poem (ages 13+) \$25

Outstanding Creative Writing Award—Best Short Story (ages 9-12) \$25

Outstanding Creative Writing Award—Best Short Story (ages 13+) \$25

Best Educational Entry \$25

Jody Thut Memorial Sweepstakes \$50 + Rosette

(member with 12+ entries receiving 1st or 2nd place in 5 or more youth stills divisions)

Ruth Ferreira Memorial Award \$50

(member with 6+ Fiber Arts entries receiving 1st or 2nd place including at least one needlework, quilting, & sewing entry)

Barbara Butko

Best Mini Garden \$20

Best Produce \$20 (in each delivery period)

Barbara & George Butko

Best Black & White Photo \$20

Best Portrait in Photography \$20

Best Urban Theme Photo \$20

Del Arroyo 4-H Club

Best Baked Food Period 1 \$25

Best Baked Food Period 2 \$25

Best Decorated Food \$25

Best Fair or Commodity (Carrot) Themed Arts & Crafts Entry \$25

Best Table Setting \$25

Most Creative Use of Recycling in Arts & Crafts \$25

Special Rocketry \$25

Outstanding Baking Award \$25

(members with 6+ entries receiving 1st or 2nd place in baking classes including at least one bread/muffins, cake/cupcake, & cookie entry)

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4-H Awards Continued:

To be eligible, exhibitor must be a member of an Alameda County 4-H Club, enrolled in a related project, and at least 9 years old as of January 1st.

East Hills 4-H Club

Best Environmental Stewardship Entry \$35
 Best Group or Project Entry \$35
 Best Nature Themed Entry \$35
 Best SET Entry \$35

Emeryville 4-H Club

Best 4-H Knitting or Crochet \$25
 Best Use of Color in a Painting \$25
 Most Creative Arts & Crafts \$25
 Most Creative Special Craft Competition \$25

Jeff Stone

Best Floriculture Entry \$25
 Best Nature Themed Painting or Drawing \$25
 Best Photography Entry \$25

Oak Town 4-H Club

Best 4-H Themed Arts & Crafts Entry \$25
 Best Animal Photo \$25
 Best Special Baking Competition Entry \$25
 Best Life Science Themed Entry \$25

Palomares 4-H Club

Best 4-H Science or Technology Entry \$25

Sharon & Kristen Clay

Best 1st Year Photography Entry \$25
 Best Camping & Outdoor Adventure Entry \$25

Shipps Family

Favorite 4-H Entry (ages 9-12) \$25
 Favorite 4-H Entry (ages 13+) \$25

Awards are secured in good faith. Awards are subject to change. The Fair does not guarantee sponsored awards.