

FLORIDA GATEWAY FAIR

Arts & CRAFTS GUIDE

2025



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FLORIDA GATEWAY FAIR

2025 Arts & Crafts Guide

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Find entry forms on our website at www.fgfair.org

Where to Begin...

Calling all crafters & artists!

We invite you to participate in Arts & Crafts Contest at the Florida Gateway Fair! Whether you like to sew, paint, take pictures or bake, we have a craft for everyone. In this guide you will find more information about the Arts & Crafts Contest including how to enter, important dates, and rules and details on each category. If you have any questions please contact the fairgrounds office. Get creative and be part of this year's competition!

FLORIDA GATEWAY FAIRGROUNDS



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📍 164 SW Mary Ethel Lane
Lake City, FL 32025
☎ 386-752-8822

Entering is as easy as...

- 1 REVIEW THE ARTS & CRAFTS GUIDE**
Make sure to read through this guide for important dates, rules and additional information.
- 2 PICK A CATEGORY**
Select which category or categories that you would like to enter and read through the rules.
- 3 FILL OUT THE ENTRY FORM**
Find the entry form on our website and fill it out. An example is provided for you on the first line.
- 4 DROP OFF YOUR ENTRIES**
Make sure to review the important dates for the information on the date, time and location to drop off and check in your entry.

Who can enter?

FAIR FANS OF ALL AGES

and all skill levels can enter the Arts & Crafts Contest. Make sure to check the categories for divisions eligibility. Entries will be judged within their own age divisions.

WHAT IS THE ENTRY FEE?

There is a \$5 entry fee per item that is entered into the Arts & Crafts Contest. All items entered in the contest will be awarded a ribbon, accompanied by a premium.



Age Divisions

ADULT AMATEUR

18 + YEARS OF AGE

Open to all non-professionals 18 years and older. Must engage in the contests subject matter as a hobby.

YOUTH

17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

Open to all youth 17 years and younger. The fair has designated special categories for the youth division.

PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER

Open to individuals whose skill level is beyond that of an amateur. Designated "Professional and Teacher" categories are for individuals who list and sell items (related to the subject matter of the contest) on a personal website, global marketing platform, physical store or social media site. Additionally anyone who teaches, and/or instructs a particular craft or skill (related to the subject matter of the contest) should enter this category.

Categories



The Florida Gateway Fair Arts and Crafts Contest offers 7 different categories for crafters at every skill level. The list below outlines each category and the types of art that are accepted within the category.

Make sure to download your entry form on our website, www.fgfair.org and feel free to contact us with any questions.

1 CANNED GOODS

Adult Amateur, Professional & Teacher

Butters, Relish, Pickles, Vegetables, Fruits, etc.

2 BAKED GOODS

All Divisions

Cakes, cookies, brownies, pies, breads, etc.

3 PHOTOGRAPHY

All Divisions

Black & white and color photography

4 CREATIVE HAND CRAFTS

All Divisions

Paintings, drawings, wood working, creative writing, etc.

5 NEEDLE & SEWING CRAFTS

All Divisions

Crocheted articles, knitting, rugs, quilting, cross stitch, embroidery, general sewing, punch work, weaving

6 HORTICULTURE

All Divisions

Foliage plants, flowering plants, herb plants, vegetable & fruiting, etc.

7 LEGO® PRE-BUILD

YOUTH ONLY

Create a scene out of Legos®

Awards

Awards for Lego® Pre-Build differ from all other categories. Please see page 13 for specific rules and awards for this category.

BEST OF CLASS

Chosen from the blue-ribbon winners in each class, accompanied by a \$25.00 premium.

BEST OF SHOW

From best of class in each division, a best of show will be chosen, accompanied by a \$50.00 premium.

BEST OVERALL

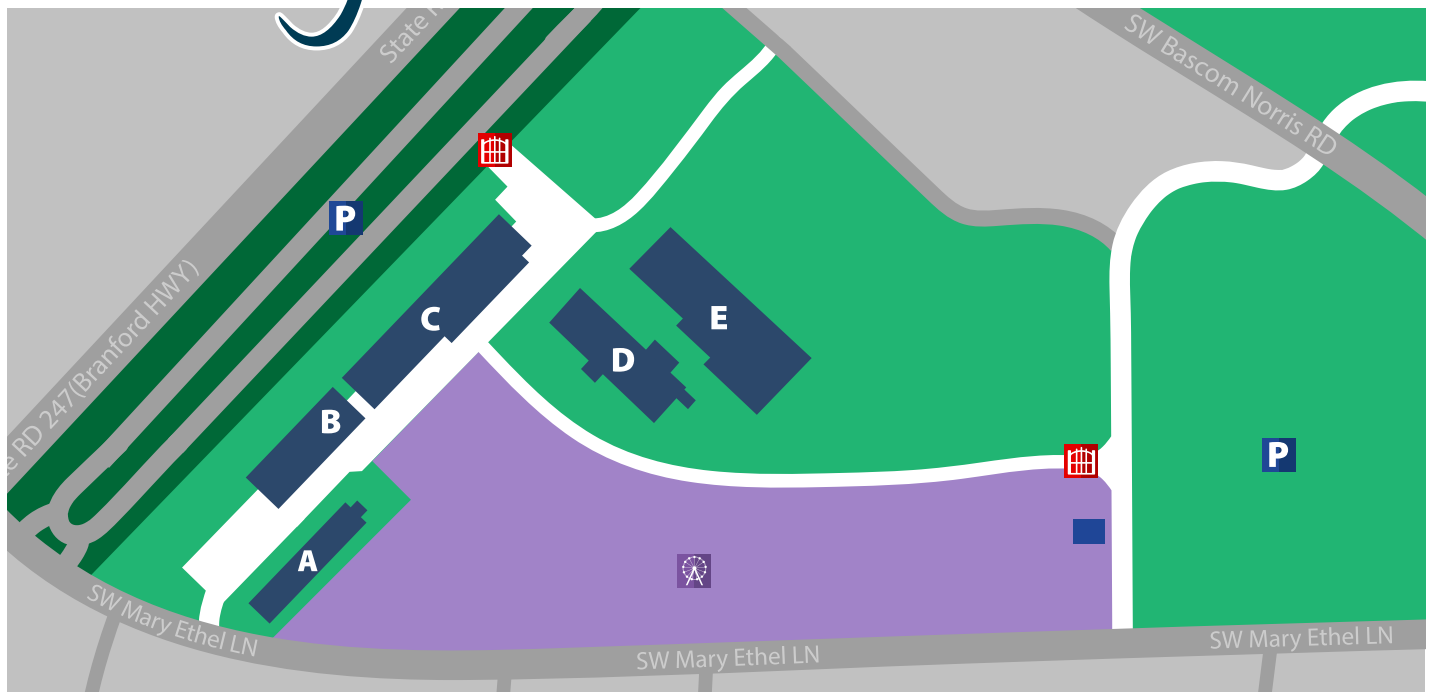
From the Best of Show winners, one (1) Best Overall will be chosen accompanied by a \$100.00 premium.

RIBBONS

All entries will be awarded with a Blue, Red or White ribbon and accompanied by a premium. Blue ribbon entries will receive a \$15 premium, Red will receive a \$10 premium and White will receive a \$5 premium. No person will be allowed more than one premium in connection with the same item.

Premiums will not be paid without all correct information filled in on ALL registration forms. All checks for premium monies awarded in connection with the fair shall be negotiated by the recipient/payee within 60 days from the date of the check time being of essence. If the recipient/payee fails to timely negotiate said check, all monies due recipient/payee shall be deemed to have made an unconditional and irrevocable gift of said monies to the fair.

Things to Know



A Fair Office

B Exhibit Building B

C Exhibit Building C

D Banquet Hall

E Livestock Barn



GATE



PARKING



RIDES/MIDWAY

Security

Entries will be on display for the full 10 days of the Florida Gateway Fair. Security is present during the hours of the fair. Exhibit buildings, which contain the arts and crafts, are closed and locked before the fair closes. See exhibit building hours for more information.

Submitting Your Entry

The fair will accept entries for two days during a specific time. Please see the dates for drop off and pick up. Entries must be dropped off and picked up on the given dates. Any article not claimed by Tuesday, November 4th at 5:00pm will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair Board. Florida Gateway Fairgrounds is not responsible for any missing or damaged items.

Exhibitors must visit the Fair office (building A) to be directed to the Arts & Crafts check in and pick up location.

Important Dates

REGISTRATION: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
3:00PM TO 5:00PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20
3:00PM TO 5:00PM

Baked Goods can only be dropped off and registered on Monday, October 20th. Items for the baked goods category will not be accepted before or after this date.

PICK UP: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3
9:00AM TO 12:00PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
2:00PM TO 5:00PM

Any article not claimed by November 4th at 5:00pm will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair Board.

EXHIBIT BUILDING HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY: 5:00PM TO 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 2:00PM TO 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 12 NOON TO 6:00PM

ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FAIR DATES: OCTOBER 24, 2025
THROUGH
NOVEMBER 2, 2025

General Rules

1. Judging will take place on October 21st and October 22nd using the Modified Danish System.
2. In case of one (1) entry, the judge will award suitable ribbon and/or premium.
3. Competent judges will be provided, and their decision will be final.
4. All items MUST have Name, Address, Phone Number, and Item description securely attached.
5. All participants must pay a \$5 entry fee per item that is entered. All items entered in the contest will be awarded a ribbon, accompanied by a premium.
6. The Florida Gateway Fairgrounds **will not be responsible for loss or damage to items entered. No item can require electricity.** Fragile items must be placed on a sturdy solid base.
7. Florida Gateway Fair has the right to deny any entry. All entries must be appropriate for family viewing at the fair. Florida Gateway Fair will not accept soiled, damaged, or broken items. All items must be clean, in good condition and be the work of the exhibitor. Unsuitable exhibits or exhibits of poor quality will be refused.
8. Only one (1) entry, per class per individual will be accepted.
9. Divisions are considered OPEN CLASS unless otherwise noted and exhibitors need not be residents of Columbia County.
10. Premiums will not be paid without all correct information filled in on ALL registration forms.
11. No person will be allowed more than one premium in connection with the same article.
12. All checks for premium monies awarded in connection with the fair shall be negotiated by the recipient/payee within 60 days from the date of the check, time being of essence. If the recipient/payee fails to timely negotiate said check, all monies due recipient/payee shall be deemed to have made an unconditional and irrevocable gift of said monies to the fair.
13. Awards: A BEST OF CLASS will be chosen from the blue-ribbon winners in each class, accompanied by a \$25.00 premium. From the BEST OF CLASS in each given category a BEST OF SHOW will be chosen, accompanied by a \$50.00 premium. From all the BEST OF SHOW winners – one (1) BEST OVERALL will be chosen, accompanied by a \$100.00 premium. All entries will be awarded with a Blue, Red or White ribbon and accompanied by a premium. Blue ribbon entries will receive a \$15 premium, Red will receive a \$10 premium and White will receive a \$5 premium. No person will be allowed more than one premium in connection with the same item.
14. All dates are final. **Entries will only be accepted on October 17th and October 20th, between the hours of 3:00pm and 5:00pm. Baked goods will only be accepted on October 20th between 3:00pm and 5:00pm. Entries must be picked up November 3rd between 9:00am to 12:00pm (noon) or November 4th 2:00pm to 5:00pm, NO EXCEPTIONS. Any article not claimed by November 4th at 5:00pm will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair Board.**

*General rules apply to all categories.

2025 Arts & Crafts

IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTRATION: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
3:00PM TO 5:00PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20
3:00PM TO 5:00PM

Baked Goods can only be dropped off and registered on Monday, October 20th. Items for the baked goods category will not be accepted before or after this date.

PICK UP: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3
9:00AM TO 12:00PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
2:00PM TO 5:00PM

Any article not claimed by November 4th at 5:00pm will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair Board.

EXHIBIT BUILDING HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY: 5:00PM TO 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 2:00PM TO 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 12 NOON TO 6:00PM

ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FAIR DATES: OCTOBER 24, 2025
THROUGH
NOVEMBER 2, 2025

CANNED GOODS

Category 1

RULES

- All entries in this category must have been canned within the past twelve (12) months and must be the work of the exhibitor.
- USDA Guidelines must be followed as to proper canning methods and use of proper jars.
- Jar tops must be new and free from rust. Rings must be removed by the exhibitor.
- Exhibit item must be labeled, and MUST have name, address, phone number and item description securely attached.
- All articles must be clean and in good condition.
- Submissions must be home made (not store bought).
- Please do not submit anything that requires refrigeration.
- All submissions will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair.
- No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.
- NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
- Only one (1) entry, per class, per individual will be accepted.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Product in jar should be uniform in size and color.
2. Product should be essentially free of air bubbles.
3. The proper amount of headspace should be allowed:
 - a. Vegetables/Meats/Soups/Broth – 1 Inch
 - b. Fruits/Tomatoes – ½ inch
 - c. Jelly/Honey/Conserves/Butters/Marmalades/Jams – ¼ inch
4. Paraffin wax SHOULD NOT be used to seal product in jar or as a substitute for the water bath or pressure canner process.

The Education Committee wants to encourage all entrants to enter their canning and food preservation items in the county fair. It is our hope that the above guidelines will assist you in producing a quality product. For a copy of the USDA guidelines or for more information, please contact the Florida Gateway Fairgrounds.

DIVISIONS

• **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE

• **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

Classes

A. BUTTERS

Apple Butter, Plum Butter, Pumpkin Butter, etc.

B. RELISH & PICKLES

Corn, tomato, pepper, dilled, kosher, okra, etc.

C. VEGETABLES

Butter beans, carrots, corn, peas, okra, squash, etc.

D. FRUIT

Apples, citrus, peaches, pears, strawberries, spiced fruit, etc.

E. JELLY & JAM

Apple, grape, mayhaw, peach, strawberry, combo of two, etc.

F. SALSA & SAUCES

Chili sauce, pear/apple sauce, tomato sauce, tomato catsup, etc.

BAKED GOODS

Category 2

RULES

- Baked goods must be dropped off and registered on Monday, October 20, 2025. Baked goods will not be accepted before or after this date.
- Baked goods must be prepared and cooked no more than 48 hours before the entry due date.
- Baked goods must be on disposable bases.
- Exhibit item must be labeled, and recipe attached to bottom. All items MUST have name, address, phone number and item description securely attached.
- Any person employed in a bake shop and wishing to exhibit articles will be judged in a separate division (Professional & Teacher Division).
- All articles must be clean and in good condition.
- Submissions must be home cooked (not store bought).
- Please do not submit anything that requires refrigeration.
- All submissions will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair.
- No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.
- NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
- Only one (1) entry, per class, per individual will be accepted.
- Smaller items such as cupcakes, cookies, rolls, etc. must submit 1/2 dozen of the item.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. General Appearance
2. Frosting or crust
3. Lightness
4. Texture
5. Flavor

DIVISIONS

- **ADULT AMATEUR**
18+ YEARS OF AGE
- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER
- **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

Classes

G. CAKES

Decorated/non-decorated, cupcake (1/2 dozen), pound cake, carrot, etc.

H. COOKIES

1/2 Dozen - chocolate chip, peanut butter, etc.

I. BROWNIES & BARS

J. PIES

Chiffon, cream, fruit, nut, custard, lemon/lime, etc.

K. BREADS

Banana bread, muffins, coffee cake, loaf, cornbread, etc.

L. MISCELLANEOUS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Category 3

RULES

- All photos must have been taken within the last 12 months.
- Each photo must be a minimum of 5"x7" to a maximum of 8"x10"
- Must be appropriate for family viewing; nudity or items of an offensive, controversial or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.
- Photos can be of any subject as long as it is appropriate.
- Photo must be in a frame with a hook to hang the picture and stand.
- No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.
- NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
- Only one (1) entry, per class, per individual will be accepted.

JUDGING STANDARDS

- 1.Impact, First Impression
- 2.Composition.
- 3.Presentation Mounting
- 4.General Acceptance

NOTE: General Acceptance encompasses such things as points covered under "Types of Pictures", good camera techniques, shadow and light used effectively, creation of depth through the use of perspective and proportion, and whether the photograph is generally pleasing to the viewer.

DIVISIONS

- **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE
- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER
- **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

EXAMPLES OF FRAMES WITH A HOOK AND STAND

*Type of hanger does not matter
as long as the photo can be hung
or placed on a table.*



Classes

M. COLOR PHOTO

N. BLACK & WHITE PHOTO

CREATIVE HAND CRAFTS

Category 4

RULES

- Artwork must be appropriate for family viewing.
- Artwork must be completely dry.
- All entries must be original, no copies, tracings, paint by number or ceramic items poured from commercial molds.
- No digital art.
- Free standing three-dimensional art items must be accompanied by a suitable display stand or base.
- All entries must have a hanger and be ready for hanging. No larger than 24"x36".
- All entries in this category must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months and must be the work of the exhibitor.
- All articles must be clean and in good condition.
- NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
- No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Overall general appearance of item.
2. Use of compatible materials.
3. Attention to detail and craftsmanship.
4. Suitable finish consistent with technique.
5. Appropriate presentation of item.

DIVISIONS

- **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE
- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER
- **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

Classes

O. PAINTINGS

Oil, acrylic, watercolors, pastels

P. DRAWINGS

Pencil, black/white, color crayon, markers, colored pencils, charcoal, pen & ink

Q. WOOD WORKING

Toys, models, plaques (carved & burned), etc.

R. CREATIVE WRITING

S. MISCELLANEOUS

Ceramics, flower arrangements, handmade toys, macrame, leather, decoupage

NEEDLE & SEWING CRAFTS

Category 5

RULES

- Please provide a hanger if piece is an article of clothing. Hangers will not be provided.
- No item that is soiled, stained, dirty or shows signs of use may be entered. All articles must be clean and in good condition.
- Items must be sewn, constructed, and/or quilted by entrant.
- All items within this category must be crocheted, knitted, quilted,
- All framed items must be wired for hanging. Size should not exceed 16"x20" for framed articles.
- All entries in this category must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months and must be the work of the exhibitor.
- NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
- No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Overall general appearance of item.
2. Use of compatible materials.
3. Attention to detail and craftsmanship.
4. Suitable finish consistent with technique.
5. Appropriate presentation of item.

DIVISIONS

- **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE
- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER
- **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**



Classes

T. CROCHETED ARTICLES

Afghan, center piece, table runner, wall hanging, toy, etc.

V. QUILTING

Machine or hand sewed

U. KNITTING

Afghan, center piece, table runner, wall hanging, toy, etc.

W. MISCELLANEOUS

Cross Stitch, embroidered, general sewing, punch work, weaving, rugs

HORTICULTURE

Category 6

RULES

- All plants must have been grown by exhibitor for at least three (3) months and be of exhibition quality. They must be cleaned groomed and free of disease.
- Creative presentation and appearance of container will affect final scores.
- All plant entries must include a waterproof tray or pot liner.
- All plants will be on display inside the exhibit building. While most plants should do fine for the short period of the show, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to make provisions for watering special need plants as required while on exhibit.
- Plant materials must have been grown or collected by the exhibitor and displayed neatly, arranged, and presented in a container such as a basket, tray, plate, etc. Potentially perishable entries (fresh fruit, pumpkins, etc.) must include a waterproof tray or pot liner.
- Entries in all divisions and classes must fit within the maximum surface area of 36" x 36". There is no height limitation up to approximately 10 feet. No obscene or illegal materials will be permitted in the designs or displays.
- All entries must be in good condition, free from dirt, disease, and insects.
- Perishables: The show committee reserves the right to remove and/or dispose of exhibit materials that deteriorate beyond show quality during the duration of the show.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Uniform size shape and color. Consistent growth patterns. Matching characteristics based on plant species or variety.
2. Condition of plant including burising, cuts, discoloration, proper ripeness and firmness or tenderness as per the type of plant.
3. Healthy foliage, free from spots, holes or abnormal discoloration. Overall vitality, absence of disease, pests or signs of stress.
4. Attractive overall appearance, vibrant and natural coloration, and cleanliness of absence of foreign substances or debris.

DIVISIONS

- **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE
- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER
- **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

Classes

X. FOLIAGE PLANTS

Ferns, palms, house plants

Y. FLOWERING PLANTS

Z. HERB PLANTS

Culinary or medicinal

AA. VEGETABLE & FRUITING

BB. MISCELLANEOUS

Succulents, living arrangements, container gardens, bonsai, terrariums, hydroponics, etc.

LEGO® PRE-BUILD

Category 7

RULES

- Pieces will be judged by using the Modified Danish System. A Best of Show winner will be chosen based on scoring, accompanied by a \$25.00 premium.
- All entries will be awarded with a blue, red, or white ribbon and accompanied by a premium. Blue ribbon entries will receive a \$15 premium, red will receive a \$10 premium and white will receive a \$5 premium.
- Tie breaker, if necessary, will be based on participant's score of General Appearance/Neatness and Creativity.
- All articles must be clean and in good condition.
- NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
- The exhibits will be displayed in the designated hall for the duration of the fair.
- **Only LEGO® or Duplo® blocks may be used.** Your build must consist of
 - LEGOS® only. No Megablocks, Knex, Tinkertoys, boxes, paper, etc. No painting LEGO® bricks.
 - Exhibits must be your **own creation, not a LEGO® designed kit, or project found online, in a magazine, etc.**
 - Exhibits must not exceed 16"x16"x16". Exhibit must be mounted on a sturdy base.
 - Use your imagination and be creative.
- **One entry per participant.**
- Include a 3x5 index card that explains your idea inspiration for your build. Do not put your name on the card. Attach name and phone number to bottom or back of your creation.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Overall general appearance and neatness.
2. Creativity
3. Building Skill
4. Appropriate presentation of item.

DIVISIONS

- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

