

FLORIDA GATEWAY FAIR

Makers & GROWERS

ARTS & CRAFTS GUIDE

2026



164 SW Mary Ethel Lane, Lake City, Florida 32025
386-752-8822 | info@floridagatewayfairgrounds.org | www.fgfair.org

FLORIDA GATEWAY FAIR

2026 Arts & Crafts Guide

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

Where to Begin...

CALLING ALL

crafters, artists, growers and makers!

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



✉ info@floridagatewayfairgrounds.org
📍 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 ENTER ONLINE

Find the entry link on our website and enter through the showman app.

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 9 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 PRESERVED FOODS

Adult Amateur, Professional & Teacher

Home-canned jams, jellies, pickles, vegetables, fruits, honey, dehydrated foods, and more.

2 BAKED GOODS

All Divisions

Homemade cakes, pies, breads, cookies, candies, pastries, and other baked treats.

3 FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

All Divisions

Photography, paintings, drawings, mixed media, and creative writing.

4 CREATIVE HAND CRAFTS

All Divisions

Woodworking, pottery, jewelry, wreaths, pumpkin decorating, and other handmade creations.

5 NEEDLE & SEWING CRAFTS

All Divisions

Quilting, crochet, knitting, embroidery, sewing, weaving, and other needlecrafts.

6 LEGO® PRE-BUILD

YOUTH ONLY

Create an original LEGO® build based on your own imagination or the annual fair theme.

7 DIGITAL SCIENCE & AG TECH

Adult Amateur, Professional & Teacher

3D printing, digital fabrication, CAD design, and technology-inspired creations.

8 HORTICULTURE & PLANT SCIENCE

All Divisions

Potted plants, houseplants, cut flowers, floral arrangements, and seasonal plant displays.

9 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

All Divisions

Fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, field crops, grains, and homegrown produce displays.

Awards

Awards for Lego® Pre-Build differ from all other categories. Please see page 16 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

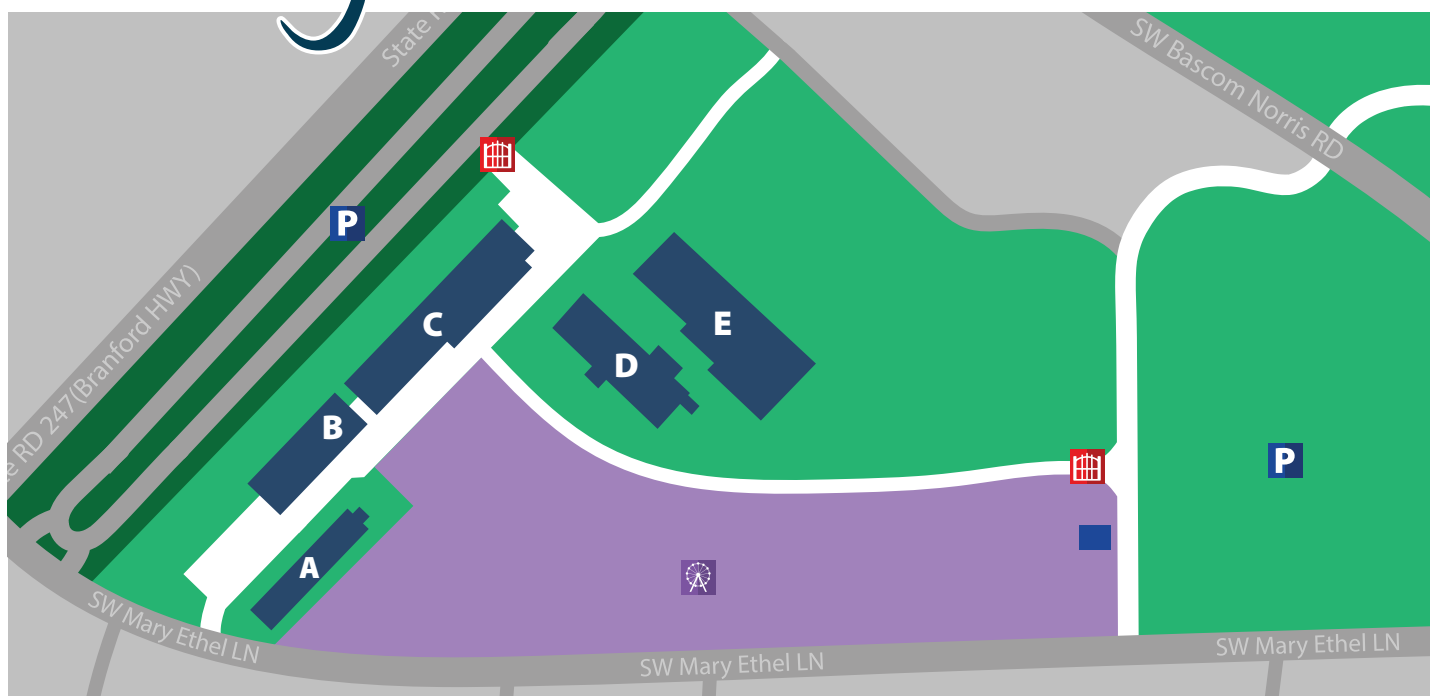
From the Best of Show winners, one (1) Best Overall will be chosen accompanied by a \$100.00 premium.

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 Florida Gateway Fair uses the Showman online entry system for exhibit registration. Exhibitors are encouraged to complete their entries online before arriving to help expedite the check-in process. A link to the online entry system is available on the Florida Gateway Fair website, www.fgfair.org. Entries may also be registered at the fairgrounds during the scheduled drop-off period. Please refer to the Important Dates section for drop-off and pick-up times.

Exhibitors must first visit the Fair Office (Building A) for check-in and directions to the Arts & Crafts exhibit drop-off location.

Important Dates

DROP OFF: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
9:00AM TO 5:00PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
9:00AM TO 5:00PM

Baked Goods can only be dropped off on Monday, October 26th. Items for the baked goods category will not be accepted before or after this date.

PICK UP: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
10:00AM TO 5:00PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
9:00AM TO 5:00PM

Any article not claimed by November 10th 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 30, 2026
THROUGH
NOVEMBER 8, 2026

General Rules

1. Judging will take place on October 27th and October 28th 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 lot per individual will be accepted.** Excluding Lego Pre-Build, one (1) entry will be accepted for the category.
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 to the 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/award in connection with the same item.
14. All dates are final. **Entries will only be accepted on October 23rd and October 26th, between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. Baked goods will only be accepted on October 26th between 9:00am and 5:00pm. Entries must be picked up November 9th between 10:00am to 5:00pm or November 10th 9:00am to 5:00pm, NO EXCEPTIONS. Any article not claimed by November 10th at 5:00pm will become property of the Florida Gateway Fair Board.**

*General rules apply to all categories.

2026 Arts & Crafts IMPORTANT DATES

DROP OFF: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
9:00AM TO 5:00PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
9:00AM TO 5:00PM

*Baked Goods can only be dropped off
on Monday, October 26th. Items for
the baked goods category will not be
accepted before or after this date.*

PICK UP: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
10:00AM TO 5:00PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
9:00AM TO 5:00PM

*Any article not claimed by November
10th 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 30, 2026
THROUGH
NOVEMBER 8, 2026

PRESERVED FOODS

Category 1

RULES

1. All entries in this category must have been canned within the past twelve (12) months and must be the work of the exhibitor.
2. All entries must be prepared using current USDA-approved home canning methods and approved canning jars.
3. Entries must be properly processed and sealed using current USDA-approved home canning methods.
4. Jar lids must be new, clean, and free of rust. Screw bands (rings) must be removed before judging by the exhibitor.
5. No squat or decorative shaped jar. Should be clear with straight, regular sides. Examples below.
6. Each entry must be labeled with the exhibitor's name, address, phone number, and recipe securely attached to the jar.
7. Recipes may be retained by the Florida Gateway Fair for judging and recordkeeping purposes.
8. All articles must be clean and in good condition.
9. Submissions must be home made (not store bought).
10. Entries requiring refrigeration will not be accepted.
11. For food safety reasons, the judge may disqualify any entry that shows signs of spoilage, improper sealing, leakage, mold, or unsafe canning practices.
12. The fair committee reserves the right to remove and dispose of entries that deteriorate beyond acceptable show quality during the fair.
13. No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.
14. NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
15. Only one (1) entry, per lot, per individual will be accepted.

EXAMPLES OF STANDARD CANNING JARS



8 oz.



8 oz.



16 oz.

PRESERVED FOODS

Category 1

CLASSES & LOTS

A. SWEET PRESERVES

01. Preserves and chutney
02. Marmalades
03. Jams
04. Butters
05. Jelly

B. DEHYDRATED FOOD

01. Vegetables
02. Fruit
03. Spices
04. Other

C. PICKLES & PRESERVES

01. Sweet
02. Dill
03. Bread and Butter
04. Vegetables
05. Fruit
06. Fermented Foods
07. Other

D. CANNED GOODS

01. Fruit
02. Vegetables
03. Tomato Products (sauces, ketchups, salsa)
04. Other (beans, meat, poultry, seafood, soups)

E. HONEY

01. Extracted White
02. Extracted Light
03. Extracted Amber
04. Extracted Dark
05. Cut Comb
06. Flavor-infused

JUDGING STANDARDS

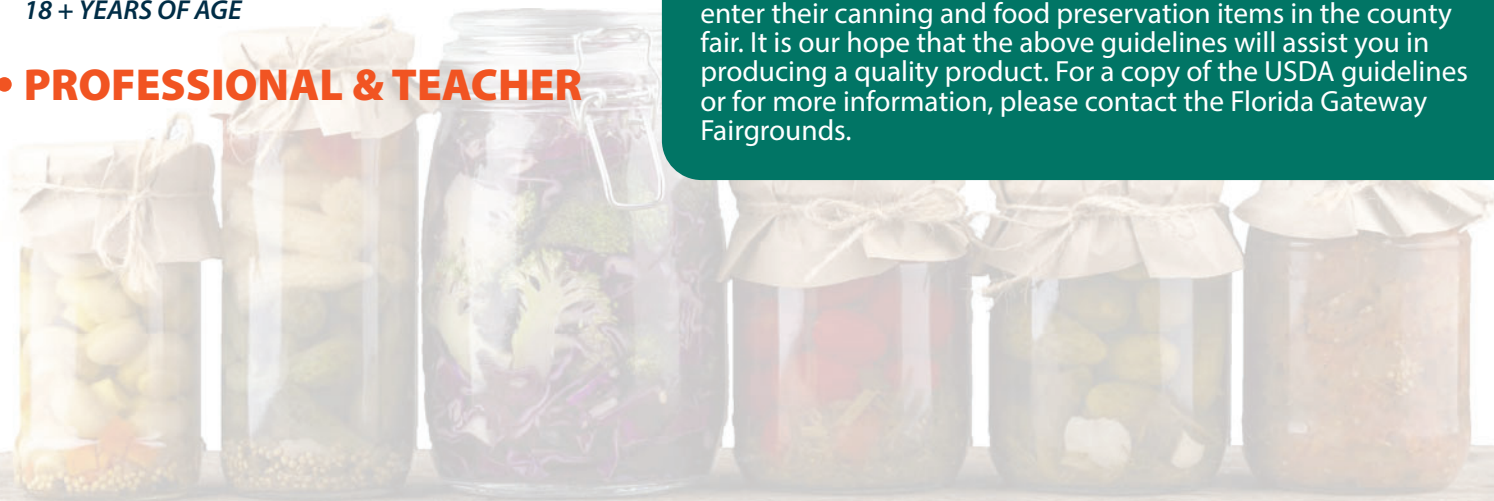
1. Product in jar should be uniform in size and color.
2. Product should be essentially free of air bubbles.
3. The proper amount of headspace should be allowed:
 - Vegetables/Meats/Soups/Broth – 1 Inch
 - Fruits/Tomatoes – ½ inch
 - Jelly/Honey/Conserves/Butters/Marmalades/Jams – ¼ inch
4. Paraffin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



BAKED GOODS & CULINARY

Category 2

RULES

1. Baked goods must be registered and delivered on Monday, October 26, 2025. Entries will not be accepted before or after this date.
2. Baked goods must be prepared no more than 48 hours prior to the entry deadline.
3. Entries must be submitted on disposable bases or plates. Decorated cakes must be displayed on a sturdy cake board or base that extends no more than 2 inches beyond the edge of the cake. The Florida Gateway Fair is not responsible for the return, loss, damage, or disposal of any non-disposable containers or display items submitted with an entry.
4. Each entry must be labeled with the exhibitor's name, address, phone number, and item description securely attached to the entry. A recipe or list of ingredients must be provided with entry and will not be displayed.
5. Decorated cake entries are limited to a maximum of two (2) cake layers. Multi-tiered, stacked, or support-column cakes will not be accepted.
6. Cookie, brownie, cupcake, muffin, biscuit, roll, and similar entries must consist of six (6) identical pieces unless otherwise specified in the lot description.
7. Entries prepared by individuals employed by or operating a commercial bakery may only compete in the Professional & Teacher Division.
8. Recipes may be retained by the Florida Gateway Fair for judging and recordkeeping purposes.
9. All articles must be clean and in good condition.
10. Submissions must be home cooked (not store bought).
11. Entries must be completely cooled before being packaged or submitted for judging.
12. Only edible decorations are permitted unless otherwise specified in the lot description.
13. Perishable Exhibit Photo Policy: To preserve the quality of perishable entries while allowing fair guests to view award-winning exhibits, a 5" x 7" photograph will be displayed in place of the original entry after judging. Exhibitors may provide a printed 5" x 7" photograph at check-in or email a high-resolution digital image to the Fair Office prior to judging. If no photograph is provided, the Florida Gateway Fair will photograph the entry. The photograph will be displayed with the exhibitor's ribbon and award information in the Arts & Crafts Exhibit.

BAKED GOODS & CULINARY

Category 2

CLASSES & LOTS

F. CAKES

01. Layer Cakes
02. Loaf, Bundt or Tube Cakes
03. Decorated Cakes (May not exceed two (2) layers. Tiered or stacked cakes are not permitted.)
04. Cupcakes (submit 4 count)

G. COOKIES (6 COUNT)

01. Drop Cookies (chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter)
02. Rolled or Sliced Cookies (sugar cookies, shortbread, gingerbread, pinwheels)
03. Bar cookies or Brownies (traditional brownies, blondies, lemon bars)
04. Decorated Cookies (Sugar or shortbread base. Evaluated on royal icing technique, fondant work or theme decoration)
05. Other (macarons, pizzelles, etc.)

H. PIES

01. Fruit Pies - Double Crust or Lattice Top (Shelf-stable: strawberry, apple, peach, blackberry)
02. Fruit Pies - Single Crust or Crumble Top (Shelf-stable: dutch apple, blueberry-pecan crumble)
03. Custard & Cream Pies (Pumpkin, sweet potato, lemon meringue, coconut cream)
04. Cheesecakes & Cream Pastries (Perishable: subject to Fresh-Judged Photo Policy: Traditional New York Cheesecake, Fruit-topped Cheesecake, Cream Puffs)

I. BREADS & ROLLS

01. Yeast Bread (Standard loaf)
02. Yeast Dinner rolls (Submit a plate of 4)
03. Quick Bread (banana, zucchini, etc; standard loaf)
04. Sweet Yeast Dough/Specialty (Cinnamon rolls, bagels, etc. Submit 4 pieces or full ring)
05. Biscuits & Muffins (submit plate of 4)

J. CANDIES

01. Fudge
02. Divinity & Meringues
03. Brittles & Barks

JUDGING STANDARDS

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

DIVISIONS

• **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE

• **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

• **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

All items subject to Perishable Exhibit Photo Policy.

FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Category 3

RULES

1. All photos must have been taken within the last 12 months.
2. Each photography entry must be a minimum of 5"x7" to a maximum of 8"x10". Photographs must be framed and equipped with a secure hanger and stand.
3. Photos can be of any subject as long as it is appropriate.
4. Paintings and drawings must not exceed 24"x36". Paintings and drawings must be ready for display with either a secure hanger or a sturdy display stand.
5. Artwork must be completely dry.
6. Creative writing entries must be displayed or written on a 8.5"x11" sheet of paper.
7. All entries must be the original work of the exhibitor. Copies, tracings, paint-by-number artwork, or similar reproductions will not be accepted.
8. Digital artwork created by the exhibitor using graphic design or illustration software is permitted. Artwork generated primarily through artificial intelligence (AI) is not eligible for competition.
9. Entries generated primarily through artificial intelligence (AI), including artwork and photographs, are not eligible for competition.
10. Must be appropriate for family viewing; nudity or items of an offensive, controversial or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.
11. Entries generated primarily through artificial intelligence (AI) are not eligible for competition.
12. No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.
13. NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
14. Only one (1) entry, per lot, per individual will be accepted.

FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Category 3

CLASSES & LOTS

K. PHOTOGRAPHY

- 01. Color
- 02. Black and White

L. PAINTING & DRAWINGS

- 01. Oil & Acrylic
- 02. Watercolor and Gouache
- 03. Pencil, Charcoal & Pastel Sketches
- 04. Mixed Media & Digital Art Illustration

M. CREATIVE WRITING

- 01. Poetry
- 02. Short Story/Essay

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.



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 Works," mastery of medium and technique (including camera techniques or artistic craftsmanship), effective use of shadow and light, creation of depth through perspective and proportion, and whether the artwork or photograph is overall aesthetically engaging to the viewer.

CREATIVE HAND CRAFTS

Category 4

RULES

1. Artwork must be appropriate for family viewing.
2. Artwork must be completely dry.
3. All entries must be original, no copies, ceramic items poured from commercial molds, etc.
4. Free standing three-dimensional art items must be accompanied by a suitable display stand or base.
5. Wreath entries must have a hanger and be ready for hanging.
6. Entries must fit within a maximum display space of 24" W × 36" L × 24" H.
7. All entries in this category must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months and must be the work of the exhibitor excluding pumpkin decorating if using a fresh pumpkin.
8. Pumpkin Decorating: Pumpkins may be decorated using paint, glue, and other non-invasive embellishments. No cutting, carving, drilling, or piercing of fresh pumpkin is permitted. The decorated pumpkin must be securely displayed on a sturdy base measuring no more than 8" × 10". The pumpkin must fit within the dimensions of the base and may not exceed 15 lbs. Fresh or artificial pumpkins may be used.
9. All articles must be clean and in good condition.
10. NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
11. No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.



CREATIVE HAND CRAFTS

Category 4

CLASSES & LOTS

N. WOODWORKING & CARVING

01. Custom & Small Woodworking (Built/assembled items: shelves, birdhouses, small furniture, boxes, cutting boards)
02. Wood Turning (Lathe-spun items: bowls, pens, vases, spindles, candlesticks)
03. Wood Carving & Whittling (Freehand sculpted items: figurines, relief carvings, hand-carved spoons/utensils)

O. POTTERY & CERAMICS

01. Hand-built pottery
02. Wheel-thrown ceramics

P. WREATHS & SEASONAL DECOR

01. Seasonal mesh or deco ribbon wreath
02. Natural element wreath
03. Holiday table centerpiece

Q. PUMPKIN DECORATING

No cutting, carving, drilling, or piercing of the pumpkin is permitted. See rules for additional details.

01. Pumpkin in Disguise (Costume or Character Theme)
02. Fair Theme Pumpkin (Celebrating 250 Years of Agriculture in America)
03. Traditional Fall/Harvest Decor
04. Glitter, Glam, & Painted Pumpkin

R. JEWELRY MAKING & WEARABLE ARTS

01. Handmade Jewelry (Beaded, Metal, or Wire-wrapped)
02. Fabric Painting & Embellished Wearables

S. LEATHERWORK & TOOLING

01. Tooled Leather Small Items (Belts, wallets)
02. Tooled Leather Large Items (Holsters, sheaths, bags)
03. Non-tooled/Assembled Leather Items

T. UPCYCLED & ECO-FRIENDLY CRAFTS

01. Trash-to-Treasure Craft (Recycled plastics, tin, metal)
02. Altered or Decorated Glass

U. GENERAL HOBBY & MISCELLANEOUS CRAFTS

01. Resin & Plastic Casting
02. Paper Crafts & Paper Mache
03. Diamond Painting & Paint-by-Number
04. Decoupage & Scrapbooking

DIVISIONS

• **ADULT AMATEUR**
18 + YEARS OF AGE

• **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

• **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

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.

NEEDLE & SEWING CRAFTS

Category 5

RULES

1. Wearable items must be submitted on a hanger. Hangers will not be provided. Items may also be displayed on a mannequin if one is provided by the exhibitor.
2. Entries must be clean, free of stains, odors, excessive wear, or visible damage, and in good condition.
3. Entries must be the original work of the exhibitor and created through sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or other accepted needlecraft techniques. Commercially manufactured or purchased items are not eligible unless specifically permitted by the class description.
4. Framed entries must be equipped with a secure wire hanger and may not exceed 16" x 20".
5. All entries in this category must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months and must be the work of the exhibitor.
6. NO premium will be awarded when exhibit is regarded as unworthy.
7. No item will be accepted for judging that has previously been exhibited at the Florida Gateway Fair.

CLASSES & LOTS

V. QUILTING

01. Hand Quilted
02. Machine Quilted - Home Machine (Pieced and quilted on standard machine)
03. Machine Quilted - Longarm (Pieced by exhibitor; specify if commercially quilted.)

W. CROCHET & KNITTING

01. Afghans & blankets
02. Garments & wearable items
03. Home decor & accessories

X. GENERAL SEWING & EMBROIDERY

01. Clothing construction
02. Hand/machine embroidery
03. Counted cross stitch & punch work
04. Rugs & hand weaving

DIVISIONS

• ADULT AMATEUR

18 + YEARS OF AGE

• YOUTH

17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

• PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Overall appearance
2. Quality of construction
3. Attention to detail and craftsmanship
4. Appropriate use of materials
5. Suitable finish consistent with technique

LEGO® PRE-BUILD

Category 6

RULES

1. Pieces will be judged using the Modified Danish System. A Best of Show winner will be chosen based on scoring from the Best of Class winners. Best of Show will be accompanied by a \$50 premium and Best of Class will be accompanied by a \$25 premium.
2. 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.
3. Tie breaker, if necessary, will be based on participant's score of General Appearance/Neatness and Creativity.
4. All articles must be clean and in good condition.
5. No premium will be awarded to an exhibit deemed unworthy by the judge.
6. Entries will remain on display for the duration of the fair.
7. Entries must be completed prior to arrival at the fair. Assembly or construction during check-in is not permitted.
8. Entries should be constructed securely enough to withstand normal handling during judging and display.
9. Entries must be constructed entirely of genuine LEGO® or DUPLO® bricks and elements. Mega Bloks®, K'NEX®, Tinkertoys®, boxes, paper, paint, stickers, or other non-LEGO materials are not permitted. LEGO® bricks may not be painted or otherwise modified.
10. Entries must be the exhibitor's original design. Official LEGO® sets, instructions, or builds copied from books, magazines, websites, or other sources are not eligible.
11. Exhibits must not exceed 16"x16"x16". Exhibit must be mounted on a sturdy base.
12. Include a 3" x 5" index card describing the inspiration or story behind your build. Do not include your name on the card. Attach the exhibitor's name and phone number to the bottom or back of the display base.
13. Use your imagination and be creative.
14. One entry per participant.
15. Entries are displayed at the exhibitor's own risk. Every reasonable effort will be made to safeguard entries; however, the Florida Gateway Fair assumes no responsibility for accidental damage, breakage, loss, theft, or pieces becoming detached during judging, handling, display, or public viewing.

LEGO® PRE-BUILD

Category 6

CLASSES & LOTS

Y. CREATIVE BUILD

01. Open-ended imagination

Create an original LEGO® build based on any subject or idea. Judges will evaluate creativity, building skill, and overall presentation.

Z. THEME BUILD

01. 2026 Florida Gateway Fair Theme
"Celebrating 250 Years of Agriculture in America"

Create an original LEGO® build inspired by the official 2026 Florida Gateway Fair theme. Your build may represent any aspect of agriculture, history, rural life, farming, livestock, or the impact of agriculture in America.



DIVISIONS

- **YOUTH**
17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. Creativity & Originality
2. Building Skill & Technique
3. Concept & Theme Interpretation
(How well the build represents the exhibitor's written description or assigned theme.)
4. Overall Appearance & Presentation



DIGITAL SCIENCE & AG TECH

Category 7

RULES

1. **Installation Ready & Stability:** All 3D artwork must be received installation-ready and fully cured/finished. Provide a stable base if necessary for structural support. Artwork containing loose, unattached materials will not be accepted.
2. **Unified Assembly:** Separate pieces submitted as a single entry are not allowed unless permanently attached/-fastened into a single unified object or mounted to a single display base.
3. **Originality & Design Attribution:**
 - A. Each entry must be the work and print execution of the entrant.
 - B. Entries generated from downloaded 3D files (STLs) are acceptable, but must include an attribution tag detailing the file source. Custom CAD designs modeled entirely by the exhibitor will be evaluated higher in technical complexity.
 - C. **Note on Kits:** Pre-assembled commercial 3D printer kits or off-the-shelf plastic toys do not qualify.
4. **Copyright & Plagiarism:** Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Downloading and printing copyrighted characters, logos, or trademarked intellectual property (e.g., movie/video game characters) is strictly prohibited.
 - A. **Exception:** Trademarked logos/products are only permitted if they are incidental to a broader original work (e.g., a 3D-printed scale model of a real-world city street featuring an incidental storefront logo).
5. **Generative & Algorithmic Art Requirements:** Artwork generated via computer algorithms or code (Fractal, Algorithmic, Generative) must be rendered and presented on a physical, finished medium (e.g., printed on canvas, high-quality photo paper, or mounted board) ready for hanging or tabletop display.

DIVISIONS

• ADULT AMATEUR

18 + YEARS OF AGE

• YOUTH

17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

• PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER

CLASSES & LOTS

AA. 3D PRINTING & DIGITAL FABRICATION

01. Functional Prints (Mechanical components, tools, brackets)
02. Artistic & Sculptural Prints (Articulated models, dioramas)
03. Annual Fair Theme Challenge - "Celebrating 250 Years of Agriculture in America"

JUDGING STANDARDS

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

HORTICULTURE & PLANT SCIENCE

Category 8

RULES

1. Plant entries must have been grown and cared for by the exhibitor for at least three (3) months and be of exhibition quality. Entries must be clean, well-groomed, and free of disease and insects.
2. Creative presentation and appearance of container will affect final scores.
3. Potted plant entries must include a waterproof tray, saucer, or pot liner to protect display surfaces.
4. 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.
5. Plant materials must have been grown or collected by the exhibitor and displayed neatly in an appropriate container. Perishable entries must include a waterproof tray or liner to protect display surfaces.
6. Entries and displays must fit within a maximum display area of 36" x 36" with a maximum height of approximately 10 feet.
7. Exhibits containing obscene, illegal, or hazardous materials will not be accepted.
8. All entries must be in good condition, free from dirt, disease, and insects.
9. Containers should be clean and in good condition. Decorative containers are permitted but should complement, not overshadow, the exhibit.
10. Artificial flowers, foliage, or plant materials are not permitted unless specifically allowed within the class description.
11. Perishables: The fair committee reserves the right to remove and/or dispose of exhibit materials that deteriorate beyond show quality during the duration of the fair.



HORTICULTURE & PLANT SCIENCE

Category 8

CLASSES & LOTS

BB. POTTED PLANTS & HOUSEPLANTS

01. Foliage Plants (Ferns, ivy, pothos, philodendron)
02. Flowering Plants in Bloom (African violets, begonias, orchids)
03. Succulents & Cacti (Single specimen or mixed landscape dish)

CC. FLORAL ARTS & CUT FLOWERS

01. Cut Specimen - Annual or Perennial (Single stem in clear vase; zinnia, marigold, rose.)
02. Home Garden Floral Arrangement (Arrangement featuring homegrown flowers displayed in a vase.)

DD. NOVELTY & SEASONAL AGRICULTURE

01. Strangest Shape or Unusual Produce (Naturally occurring in unusual growth shapes)
02. Best Fall Harvest Basket or Bounty Display (Curated arrangement of homegrown fruits/vegetables)



DIVISIONS

• ADULT AMATEUR 18 + YEARS OF AGE

• YOUTH 17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

• PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER

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. Presentation & Appearance, Attractive presentation, cleanliness, and overall visual appeal.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Category 9

RULES

1. All produce must have been grown by the exhibitor and be of exhibition quality. Entries must be clean, fresh, free of disease, insects, and excessive dirt.
2. Entries must consist of the quantity specified in each lot description. Only one entry per lot, per exhibitor, is permitted.
3. Entries must be displayed in an appropriate container, basket, tray, plate, or other suitable display item provided by the exhibitor. Loose produce will not be accepted.
4. Produce should be mature, typical of its variety, and of good market quality.
5. Creative presentation and the overall appearance of the display container may be considered during judging.
6. Containers and display items should complement the exhibit and should not distract from or obscure the produce being judged.
7. Potentially perishable entries (such as berries, fruits, vegetables, and pumpkins, etc.) must be displayed in a waterproof tray, plate, basket liner, or other suitable container to protect display surfaces.
8. Display containers should be appropriately sized for the entry and should not occupy excessive display space. The show committee reserves the right to refuse oversized displays.
9. Perishables: The fair committee reserves the right to remove and/or dispose of exhibit materials that deteriorate beyond show quality during the duration of the fair.
10. Perishable exhibits may remain on display while they maintain acceptable show quality. Once an exhibit begins to deteriorate, it may be removed from display. At the discretion of the Florida Gateway Fair, a photograph of the exhibit may be displayed with the exhibitor's ribbon and award information.

DIVISIONS

- **ADULT AMATEUR**

18 + YEARS OF AGE

- **YOUTH**

17 YEARS AND YOUNGER

- **PROFESSIONAL & TEACHER**

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. **Uniformity & Variety:** Uniform size, shape, color, and characteristics typical of the variety.
2. **Quality & Maturity:** Proper maturity, freshness, firmness, ripeness, and market quality.
3. **Condition:** Free of disease, insects, bruises, cuts, blemishes, decay, and excessive dirt.
4. **Presentation:** Neat, attractive display with clean produce in an appropriate container.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Category 9

CLASSES & LOTS

EE. FRESH VEGETABLES

01. Root Crops (Submit 3 pieces: Potatoes, Carrots, Radishes, etc.)
02. Leafy Greens & Cole Crops (1 Bunch/Head: Collards, kale, cabbage, mustard greens, etc.)
03. Peppers (Submit 4 pieces: Bell, Jalapeno, datil, banana, etc.)
04. Squash & Pumpkins (1 Large or 3 Small: Zucchini, Yellow Butternut, Field Pumpkins, etc.)
05. Tomatoes (3 Pieces or 1 Truss: Standard, Plumb, Cherry varieties, etc.)
06. Legumes (1 Pint Container: Green Beans, Field Peas, Lima Beans, etc.)
07. Other (Submit Standard Plate Count)

FF. FRESH FRUITS & BERRIES

01. Citrus (Submit 3 Pieces: Satsumas, lemons, oranges, etc.)
02. Melons (1 Piece: Watermelon, cantalope, honeydew, etc.)
03. Soft Fruits & Berries (1 Pint Container: Blueberries, blackberries, muscadine grapes, etc.)
04. Tree Fruits (Submit 3 Pieces: Persimmons, figs, pears, peaches)
05. Other Fruits or Berries Not Listed

GG. FIELD CROPS & GRAINS

01. Corn (Submit 3 Ears, Husked Back: Sweet or field corn)
02. Peanuts (1 Quart Container: Dried or green)
03. Forage Crops & Hay (Bale slide wrapped in clear plastic, bermuda, bahia, alfalfa)
04. Sugarcane (submit 3 stalks, trimmed to 3-foot lengths)

HH. FRESH HERBS

01. Culinary Herbs - Bunch (1 Bunch in Water Jar: Basil, parsley, cilantro, etc.)
02. Potted Herbs (Living single-variety culinary or medicinal herb plant)

