

HOME ARTS AND GARDENS

THE STATE FAIR OF

WEST VIRGINIA

Summer's
Best

AUGUST 13-22

2026

Exhibitor's Guide

Premiums

1. Premiums will not be awarded simply because the item is the best of its kind exhibited. The judge retains the right to refuse to award a premium of any kind.
 2. **Premiums will be paid according to the records turned in to the Fair office by superintendents, not by ribbons presented.**
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General Rules and Regulations

1. All exhibitors will be charged a \$5 entry fee. Please make checks payable to the State Fair of West Virginia
 2. Exhibits will not be accepted or released outside of normal check-in and check-out times. No exceptions will be made to this rule.
 3. All limited classes MUST be entered by paper.
 4. Fair officials will take reasonable precaution for the safekeeping of exhibits after their final arrival and arrangement in the building but will NOT be responsible for any damage or loss that may occur.
 5. Fair officials reserve the right to dispose of any decomposing or deteriorating exhibits. Ribbons will be available during check-out time.
 6. The Judge maintains the right to dismiss exhibits that do not conform to the class description.
 7. All exhibits must be the product of July 2025 - August 2026, unless otherwise stated.
 8. Entry tags must be securely attached to exhibits prior to arrival.
 9. No professional exhibitors shall be allowed to exhibit. If discovered that an exhibitor receives more than 10% of their income from practicing the craft they enter, all premiums will be withheld, and the exhibitor will no longer be able to exhibit at the State Fair of West Virginia.
 10. Exhibitors are limited to ONE (1) entry per class unless otherwise noted.
 11. Fair officials retain the right to reclass exhibits based on size and class description.
 12. No checked-in exhibits will be available to be picked up until the designated check-out time for that department.
 13. A request can be made to have ribbons mailed after the fair. Ribbons will not be mailed unless a request is made.
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DEADLINES

Paper entries are due by 12 Noon Wednesday, July 15th

Online entries are due by 11:59 pm Wednesday, July 15th

Entry forms will be accepted beginning May 27th. Any entry forms received before May 27th or after July 15th will not be processed. No exception will be made.

The Fair office will accept paper entry forms from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon on July 15th.

Online entries will be accepted at www.statefairfowv.com until 11:59 pm on July 15th.

Department J – Fine Arts & Crafts

Vickey Neel, Superintendent, Lewisburg, WV

Gloria Tuckwiller, Superintendent, Christiansburg, VA

Jenna Knisely, Superintendent, Lewisburg, WV

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, August 8th – 1 pm – 4 pm Dept. J Check-In

**4 pm – 6 pm – Christmas Tree Decorating

Sunday, August 9th – 4 pm – 8 pm Dept. J Judging

Thursday, August 13th – 9 am Fair Opens

Saturday, August 22nd – 8 pm – 9 pm Dept. J Partial Check-Out

No cars will be permitted on grounds for this check out. Wall hanging items may not be available for pickup until Sunday Check-Out.

Sunday, August 23rd - 11 am – 3 pm Dept. J Check-Out

Please Note:

For Mailed Exhibits:

Department J accepts mailed in exhibits. Exhibits sent parcel post MUST be addressed to:

**Competitive Exhibits Department PO
Drawer 986
Lewisburg, WV 24901**

No exhibits will be accepted before July 15, 2026. All exhibits must be received by July 31, 2026. A money order or check MUST be included to cover return postage and insurance of the exhibit.

Additionally:

All articles must be the handiwork of the exhibitor and **must be clean**. Articles must have been made within the last two (2) years, unless otherwise stated, and be in good condition. Previously entered items will not be accepted.

Premiums for Divisions 1-21

1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$6.00 3rd - \$5.00 Best of Show - \$10

Division 1 – Amateur Art -Junior

All Artwork Must be original. Number pictures are not accepted, unless otherwise specified. Please cover any visible artist signatures. Artwork not to exceed 30" in any direction.

Juniors (Under 9 years of age)

1. Drawing – Pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil, charcoal
2. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor
3. Paint by number from a kit

Juniors (9-13 years of age)

4. Drawing – Pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil, charcoal
5. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor
6. Paint by number from a kit

Juniors (14-17 years of age)

7. Drawing – Pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil, charcoal
8. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor
9. Paint by number from a kit

10. Best of Show Amateur Art – Junior (Classes 1-9) (Do Not Enter)

Division 2 – Creative Painting – Any Media

Painting materials are exhibitors' choice. Artwork not to exceed 30" in any direction.

1. Creative Painting – juniors, 9-13 years of age
2. Creative painting – juniors 14-17 years of age
3. Creative painting – 18 years and older
- 4. Best of Creative Painting (Classes 1-3) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 3 – Amateur Woodwork – Adult

1. Wood burning of any sort, not to exceed 12" in any direction
2. Household good made from wood, not to exceed 20" in any direction
3. Decorative item made from wood, not to exceed 20" in any direction
4. Cane, not to exceed 48" in height
- 5. Best of Amateur Woodwork – Adult (Classes 1-3) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 4 – Amateur Woodwork – Junior

1. Wood burning of any sort, not to exceed 12" in any direction
2. Household good made from wood, not to exceed 20" in any direction
3. Decorative item made from wood, not to exceed 20" in any direction
4. Cane, not to exceed 48" in height
- 5. Best of Amateur Woodwork – Adult (Classes 1-3) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 5 – Adult Amateur Photography – Black and White

1. People: Candid, black & white
2. People: Children, infants to 12 years old
3. People: Action
4. People: Human Interest
5. People: with domestic animals, i.e., dogs, cats, etc.
6. Nature: Flowers, plants, fruits, and vegetables
7. Scenic: Landscape or seascape
8. Scenic: Architectural design/feature, i.e., monuments, bridges, vehicles, trains, etc.
9. Scenic: Nightscapes
10. Animals : Domestic, i.e. dogs, cats, etc.
11. Animals: Wildlife, no pets
12. Still life
13. Best of Adult Amateur Photography – Black and White
(Classes 1-12) (Do Not Enter)

Division 6 – Adult Amateur Photography – Natural Color

1. People: Candid
2. People: Children, infants to 12 years old
3. People: Action
4. People: Human Interest
5. People: with domestic animals, i.e., dogs, cats, etc.
6. Nature: Flowers, plants, fruits, and vegetables
7. Nature: Sunsets
8. Nature: Birds, insects
9. Scenic: Landscape or seascape
10. Scenic: Architectural design/feature, i.e., monuments, bridges, vehicles, trains, etc.
11. Scenic: Nightscapes
12. Animals : Domestic, i.e. dogs, cats, etc.
13. Animals: Wildlife, no pets
14. Still life
15. Selfies at the Fair

**16. Best of Adult Amateur Photography – Natural Color
(Classes 1-15) (Do Not Enter)**



Division 7 – Amateur Photography – Junior

Juniors (12 years of age and under)

1. People
2. Nature
3. Scenic
4. Animals
- 5. Best of Show (Classes 1-4) (Do Not Enter)**

Juniors (13 – 17 years of age)

6. People
7. Nature
8. Scenic
9. Animals
- 10. Best of Show (Classes 6-9) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 8 – Ceramics, Pottery, and Sculpting

1. Cast Ceramics – fired
2. Hand-built piece, no larger than 12 inches in any direction
3. Wheel thrown piece, no larger than 12 inches in any direction
4. Polymer/Dry Clay

5. Best of Amateur Ceramics (Classes 1-4) (Do Not Enter)

Division 9 – Dolls

Dolls may be no taller than 24"

1. Dolls, any material, i.e., apple, felt, wood, etc.
2. Dolls, any material, not sewn

3. Best of Show Dolls (Classes 1-2) (Do Not Enter)

Division 10 – Christmas Crafts

1. Christmas tree ornaments, limit three (3), up to 4 inches
2. Christmas tree ornaments, limit three (3), no smaller than 5", no larger than 8"
3. Holidays Around the World Ornaments, limit three (3)
4. Christmas packages, no larger than 10"x15"x3"
5. Christmas Wreath, not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with a hook for hanging
6. Holiday Around the World Wreath, not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with a hook for hanging
7. Christmas Door Decorations OTHER than Wreaths, not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
8. Christmas Tree, no larger than 24" tall, any material
9. Decorated Christmas Gift Bag, made of paper
10. Decorated Christmas Gift Bag, made of fabric
11. Christmas Tree Topper

12. Best of Christmas Crafts (Classes 1-11) (Do Not Enter)

Division 11 – Recycled Materials

All items must be handmade from recycled materials, not to exceed 20" in any direction. Items may include jewelry.

1. Metal
2. Plastic
3. Glass
4. Other

5. Best of Recycled Materials (Classes 1-4) (Do Not Enter)

Division 12 – Decorated Clothing and Accessories (Adult)

All clothing must be free of stains, odor free, and include a hanger for display.

1. Painted Designs on Shirts or Sweatshirts
2. Decorated Garment (Vinyl, bedazzled, glued items)
3. Decorated Tote Bag (decorated or painted)
4. Tie-Dyed T-Shirt
5. Decorated Aprons (Vinyl, bedazzled, glued items, or painted)
6. Decorated Hats (Vinyl, bedazzles, glued items or painted)

7. Best of Decorated Clothing and Accessories (Classes 1-6) (Do Not Enter)

Division 13 – Decorated Clothing and Accessories (Junior)

All clothing must be free of stains, odor free, and include a hanger for display.

1. Painted Designs on Shirts or Sweatshirts
2. Decorated Garment (Vinyl, bedazzled, glued items)
3. Decorated Tote Bag (decorated or painted)
4. Tie-Dyed T-Shirt
5. Decorated Aprons (Vinyl, bedazzled, glued items, or painted)
6. Decorated Hats (Vinyl, bedazzles, glued items or painted)

7. Best of Decorated Clothing and Accessories (Classes 1-6) (Do Not Enter)

Division 14 – Decorated Gourds – Adult

1. Painted Dried Gourds
2. Birdhouse Gourds
3. Wildlife Inspired Gourd, examples include bird, reptile, animal, insect, etc.

4. Best of Decorated Gourds – Adult (Classes 1-3) (Do Not Enter)

Division 15 – Decorated Gourds – Junior

Gourds can be decorated using any material.

1. Decorated Gourds, ages 6-10
2. Decorate Gourds, ages 11-15

3. Best of Decorated Gourds – Junior (Classes 1-2) (Do Not Enter)

Division 16 – Home Décor and Accessories

1. Hand-made Flowers; silk, fabric, shell, glass, etc.
2. Candles, original
3. Painted brick Doorstop
4. Wreaths, Spring/Summer. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
5. Wreaths, Fall/Winter. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
6. Wreaths, Holiday Theme, NOT Christmas. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
7. Wreaths, natural materials. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
8. Wreaths, vintage style. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
9. Any other wreath. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging
10. . Barnwood Decorations. Any item made of recycled wood, not to exceed 3' in any direction.
11. . Wall Plaque, any material. Not to exceed 15" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging.
12. Handmade Soap
13. Mason Jar Crafts – Any craft using one (1) mason jar
14. Miniatures
15. Mosaic
16. **Best of Home Décor and Accessories (Classes 1-15) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 17 – Outdoor Décor

1. Decorated Wooden Birdhouse (no larger than 12" in any direction)
2. Painted Patio Rock, not to weigh more than 1 lb.
3. Painted Garden Stepping Stone, no larger than 12" in any direction
4. Decorated Clay Flowerpot (no larger than 12" in diameter)
5. Painted Wooden Garden/Yard Sign, not to exceed 12"x22", mounted on stake no taller than 36"
6. Metal Yard Art/Welding, no larger than 3'
7. **Best of Outdoor Décor (Classes 1-6) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 18 – Paper Crafts

1. Paper Collage, pasted together to make a picture, not to exceed 18"x22" (follow frame exhibit guidelines on page 45)
2. Greeting Card
3. Rubber Stamp Art
4. Quilling, not to exceed 15" in any direction
5. Origami, not to exceed 15" in any direction
6. Paper Mache, not to exceed 15" in any direction
7. All Other Paper Crafts, not to exceed 15" in any direction
8. State Fair Scrapbook, old or new
9. **Best of Paper Crafts (Classes 1-8) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 19 – Decorative Painting and Glass Collage

1. Reverse Glass Collage, not to exceed 18"x22"
2. Reverse Glass Painting, not to exceed 18"x22"
3. Decoupage, any size
4. Tole Painting, metal, any size
5. Stenciled Article, household, any size, excludes furniture
6. Stenciled Article, apparel, and jewelry
7. Mosaic, any size
8. Diamond Painting, not from kit, any size
9. **Best of Decorative Painting and Glass Collage (Classes 1-8) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 20 – Miscellaneous Crafts, Adult

1. Best Display of State Fair of WV Ribbons
2. Basketry
3. Costume Jewelry
4. Miscellaneous Metalcraft, any metal
5. Handmade Duct Tape Item, not to exceed 24" in any direction
6. Leather, Stamping
7. Leather, carving
8. Leather, kit item
9. Any other Leathercraft
10. **Best of Show (Classes 1-9) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 21 – Lego Crafts

All Lego's must be on a foam board base, no larger than 12"x12"x14".

1. Junior Lego Construction, completely original, ages 6-9
2. Junior Lego Construction, from kit or pattern, ages 6-9
3. Junior Lego Construction, completely original, ages 10-14
4. Junior Lego Construction, from kit or pattern, ages 10-14
5. Lego Construction, completely original, ages 15 and older
6. . **Best of Show (Classes 1-4) (Do Not Enter)**
7. **Best of Show (Class 5) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 22 – Jewelry

All Lego's must be on a foam board base, no larger than 12"x12"x14".

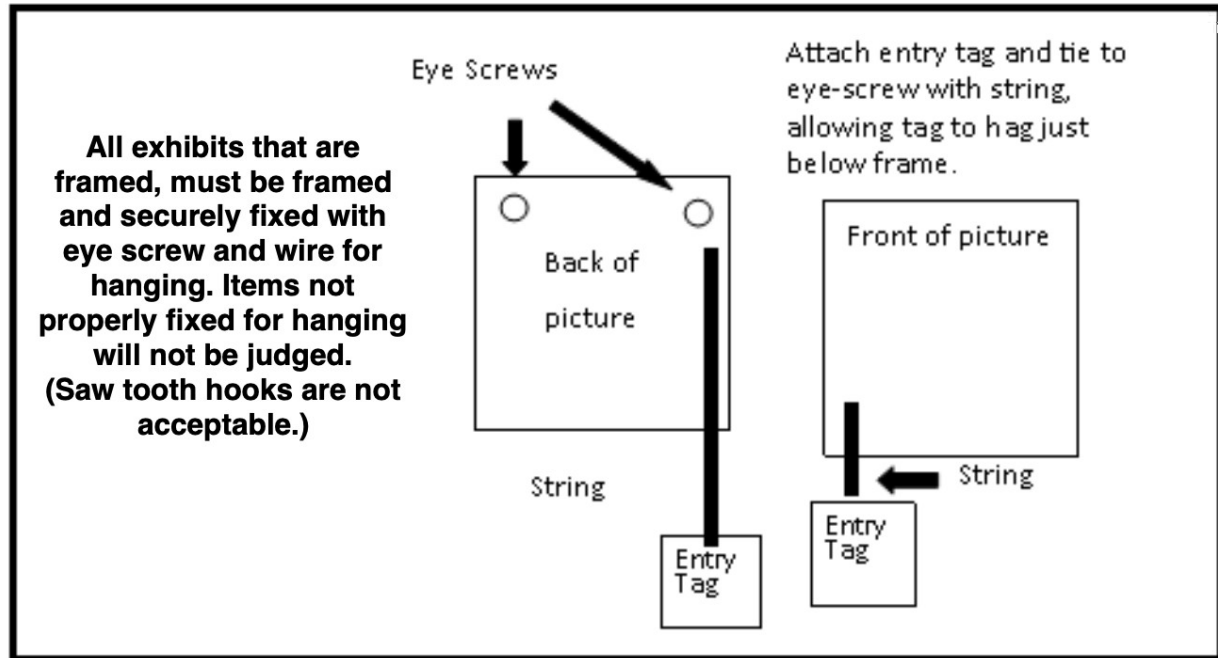
1. Earrings
2. Bracelet
3. Necklace

Division 23 - Miscellaneous Crafts – Junior

1. Handmade Duct Tape Item, not to exceed 24" in any direction
2. Hand-Formed or Molded Ceramics
3. Collage, any material, fixed to hang, not to exceed 18"x22"
4. Origami, not to exceed 15" in any direction
5. Paper Mache, not to exceed 15" in any direction
6. Jewelry Made with Purchased Items, beads, charms, etc.
7. **Best of Show (Classes 1-6) (Do Not Enter)**

Premiums for Division 24-25

1st - \$10.00 2nd - \$8.00 3rd - \$7.00 Best of Show - \$10



Division 24 – Amateur Framed Art - Adult

All Artwork Must be original. Number pictures are not accepted, unless otherwise specified. Please cover any visible artist signatures for judging. Artwork not to exceed 30" in any direction.

1. Drawing – Pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, colored pencil
2. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (People)
3. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (Animals)
4. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (Still Life)
5. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (Scenic)
6. Pastel – Portraits (People)
7. Pastel – Portraits (Animals)
8. Pastel – Still Life
9. Pastel – Scenic

10. Best Of Show Framed Art – Adult (Classes 1-10) (Do Not Enter)

Division 25– Amateur Unframed Canvas Art - Adult

All Artwork Must be original. Number pictures are not accepted, unless otherwise specified. Please cover any visible artist signatures for judging. Artwork not to exceed 30" in any direction. Includes thin board. Artwork must be on canvas, ready to hang, but does not need to be framed.

1. Drawing – Pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, colored pencil
2. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (People)
3. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (Animals)
4. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (Still Life)
5. Painting – Oil, acrylic, watercolor (Scenic)
6. Pastel – Portraits (People)
7. Pastel – Portraits (Animals)
8. Pastel – Still Life
9. Pastel – Scenic

10. Best Of Show Canvas Art – Adult (Classes 1-10) (Do Not Enter)

Division 26– America 250

All crafts in this category are America/Patriotic themed.

1. Home Décor & Accessories- wreath, Americana. Not to exceed 30" in any direction, must be securely fixed with hook for hanging.
2. Christmas Crafts- Christmas tree ornaments, limit 3, up to 4 inches
3. Christmas Crafts- Christmas tree ornaments, limit 3, no less than 5 inches, no larger than 8 inches
4. Recycled Material- Denim

Additional Guidelines

Photography

1. Exhibitors are limited to ONE (1) ENTRY PER CLASS AND **THREE (3) TOTAL** photographs per exhibitor.
 2. Judging will be done by the usual standards of subject matter, composition, and photographic excellence. Composition and exposure must be the work of exhibitor, however the developing and finishing may be done by anyone.
 3. Photos must be 5"x7" inches and matted on a **BLACK 8"x10" RECTANGLE MAT BOARD**. No staples on mats.
 4. If photo or mat does not meet requirements, the photo will not be judged. Mat must be made like the example provided.
 5. Failure to mount prints will result in disqualification.
 6. Mats will be sold at check in for \$4.00 each.
 7. Photos may be taken with a 35mm camera or a digital camera.
- NO FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS ACCEPTED**

PEOPLE: Adults, children, babies, portraits and character studies or entire figures, alone or in a group where the main subject is the person or persons rather than the environment, close-ups or as a part of a larger composition.

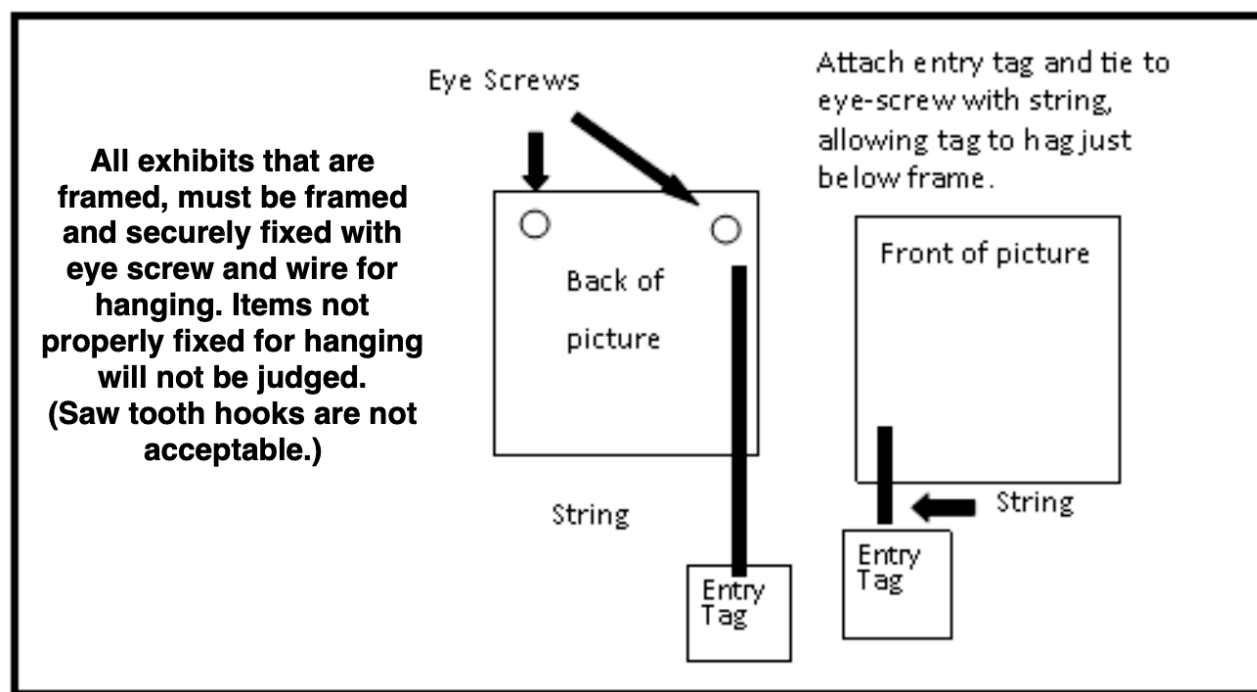
NATURE: Any subject found in nature, plants or flowers, close-ups, etc.

SCENIC: Landscapes, seascapes, architectural and industrial scenes, or any scene that has a fundamental unit of design or mood of such magnitude that all else is subordinate to it.

STILL LIFE: Table top photography, flowers, etc. Subject matter must be arranged by the photographer.

ANIMALS: Any animal or animals (pets, livestock, zoo, marine) in a natural setting. No posed, official show type photos. **CANDID:** Not posed, informal.

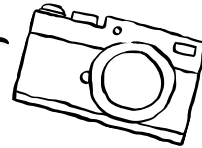
FRAMING



DEPT. J- Special Contests

Division 27

“West Virginia Agriculture” Photography Contest



Submit a photograph of any color or black and white subject that best depicts agriculture in the state of West Virginia.

Please Enter Department J, Division 27, Class 1

Premiums

1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$6.00 3rd - \$5.00



Flea Market FLIP VINTAGE TO NEW

Have a vintage item you repurposed into something new? Show off your creativity in this contest!

Rules:

1. This contest is limited to the first **TEN (10)** entries. Entries must be submitted by paper.
2. All items must have been purchased at a flea market or yard sale.
3. Items may be no larger than 4 feet in any direction.
4. Exhibitors may include before and after pictures.

Please Enter Department J, Division 27, Class 2

Premiums

1st - \$25.00
2nd - \$15.00
3rd - \$10.00



America 250 Christmas Tree decorating

Decorate a tree that represents your interpretation of the theme “America 250”. The State Fair will provide a 6’ tall Christmas tree, all you need is the materials to decorate!

Rules:

1. This contest is limited to the first **TEN (10)** entries. Entries must be submitted by paper.
2. Contestants must provide all decorations including lights, electrical cords, and tree skirts.
3. Trees will be decorated on **Saturday, August 8th between 4 and 6 pm**. Judging will follow.
4. Parking on the fairgrounds will not be permitted. Please plan accordingly.

Please Enter Department J, Division 27, Class 3

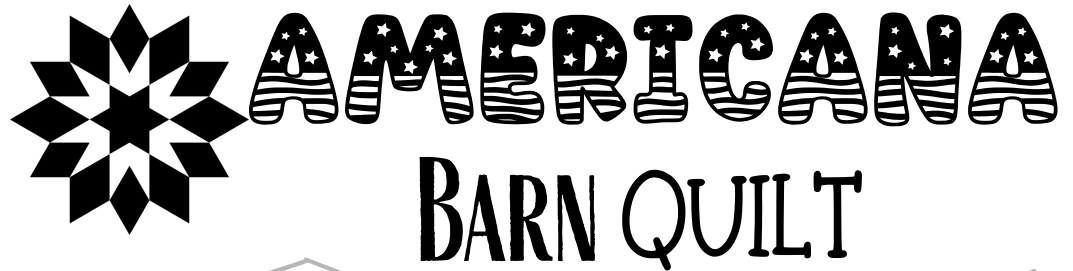
Premiums

1st - \$75.00
2nd - \$50.00
3rd - \$25.00

*****NOTE- NEW CHECK-IN DATE*****

DEPT. J- Special Contests

Divison 27



AMERICANA BARN QUILT

Barn quilts are a fantastic way to show creativity and add charm to a barn.

1. May be a 2'x2' (class 4), or 3'x3' (class 5) square. Display cannot be on point (diamond shaped) - due to display limitations.
2. Needs to be prepared for hanging. Participant must supply hooks ("J" hooks) 2" from top edge of quilt. Participant is responsible for using the correct size of hooks according to weight.
3. Must be on 3/8" or 1/2" thick exterior durable material. MDO (medium density overlay) board is recommended.
4. Limited to the first 8 entries. Must enter by paper.

For 2'x2' Please Enter Department J, Division 27, Class 4

For 3'x3' Please Enter Department J, Division 27, Class 5


Premiums

1st - \$75.00

2nd - \$50.00

3rd - \$25.00

photo **COLOR HUNT**



Fair goers must pick a color, find it, and photograph it at the fair. After taking your photos, compile a 3x3 grid of photos on Instagram. To enter the contest, compile your grid, using the hastag **#SFWVColorHunt2026**. Grids will be judged on Saturday, August 22nd at noon. Number of likes on the grid on Instagram will be considered in determining a winner, so make sure to share with your followers!

Premiums:

1st - \$15.00

2nd - \$10.00

3rd - \$5.00

SPECIAL WEEKLY EVENTS AND CONTESTS (NO PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED)

Mystery Craft Contest ????

Contestants will be given a box of craft items and materials to create any masterpiece their minds can imagine. Competitors must be ages 12 and older, and must complete their masterpiece within the 30 minute time limit. Sign ups will be at the Dept. J table in the West Virginia Building on the day of the event. Limited to the first 10 exhibitors.

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When: Sunday, August 16 @ 2:00 p.m.

KIDS Crafts

Come visit the Dept. J table in the West Virginia Building everyday throughout the fair week. Each day, we will have a special craft just for kids to make!



2026

STEELEBOR

P.O. DRAWER 936
LEWISBURG, WV 24901

WWW.STEELEBOR.COM