

EXHIBITS GUIDE



Butte County Fair
2026 Competitive Exhibits Guide

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RETURNING AGAIN THIS YEAR BY POPULAR DEMAND THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE CONTEST IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

Clothing, Textiles and Quilts
Sponsored by:



NEW CATEGORY THIS YEAR: TABLE ARRANGEMENTS

CLASSES:

1 DATE NIGHT - (ROMANTIC OCCASION)

2 SPECIAL OCCASION – (BIRTHDAY, GRADUATION, CLUB MEETING, SHOWER)

3 HOLIDAY – ANY HOLIDAY INCLUDING CHRISTMAS, EASTER, VALENTINE'S DAY, 4TH OF JULY, ETC...)

4 FAIR THEME - GOLDEN DAYS AND COUNTRY WAYS

LISTING OF 2026 STILLS COMPETITIVE DEPARTMENTS

- Adult Baking and Confections
- Adult Clothing/Textiles & Quilts
- Adult Crafts/Home & Industrial Arts
 - Adult Digital Arts
 - Adult Farm and Garden
 - Adult Fine Arts
 - Adult Floriculture
 - Adult Photography
 - Adult Preserved Foods
- Youth FFA, Skills/USA and Youth Auction
 - Family Projects
- Open Youth and 4-H & Grange

Butte County Fair Competitive Stills 2026 Key dates and deadlines:

- **Online registration open:** Monday March 30, 2026
- **Entry close: By Midnight:**
 - Sunday, August 9, 2026: Clothing, Textiles and Quilts, Crafts, Home and Industrial Arts, Digital Arts, Fine Arts, Preserved Foods, Photography, and Family Projects (Adults and Open Youth)
 - Sunday, August 16, 2026: Baking and Confections, Farm and Garden, and Floriculture (Adults and Open Youth)
 - Monday August 24, 2026: Coloring Contest
- **Entry receiving:**
 - Saturday August 15, 2026 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.): Adult and Youth Clothing, Textiles and Quilts, Crafts, Home and Industrial Arts, Digital Arts, Fine Arts, Photography, and Family Projects **(Expo Hall)**
 - Tuesday August 25, 2026:
 - Adult and Youth Floriculture: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m. (Butte Hall)
 - Wednesday August 26, 2026:
 - Adult and Youth Baking and Confections: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **(Expo Hall)**
 - Adult and Youth Farm and Garden: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **(Butte Hall)**
 - Adult and Youth Floriculture: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m. **(Butte Hall)**

- **Entry Judging: Judging is open to the general public**
 - Monday August 17, 2026 (Expo Hall)
 - 9:00 a.m. : Fine Arts
 - 11:00 a.m. : Photography
 - 1:00 p.m. : Clothing and Textiles
 - 2:00 p.m. : Crafts, Home, and Industrial Art
 - 4:00 p.m. : Digital Arts and Family Projects
 - Tuesday August 18, 2026 (Expo Hall)
 - 9:00 a.m. : Preserved Foods
 - 1:00 p.m. : Quilts
 - Wednesday August 26, 2026 (Expo Hall)
 - 1:00 p.m. : Baking and Confections and Coloring Contest
 - Thursday August 27, 2026 (Butte Hall)
 - 9:00 a.m. : Farm and Garden
 - 11:00 a.m. : Floriculture
- Entry Release: Monday, August 31, 2026 (9:00-5:00)

Local and general rules – Applies to ALL entries

- All State and Local rules apply
- Any and all requirements and notations describing a department, division or class is herein incorporated and should be considered a rule
- No late entries will be accepted
- No refund of entry fees
- All information in the Butte County Fair Competitive Stills guidebook is subject to be amended and/or changed
- The owner or authorized agent(s) must present exhibits in person. Exhibits will not be accepted by mail. Please note the days and hours that exhibits will be received and judged in your division, as changes may have been made. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to regularly check for changes.
- No entry will be accepted where an exhibitor prescribes conditions under which he/she will exhibit.
- Fair Management is not responsible for finding errors on your entry form. Management may refuse entries, but will do so without prejudice or discrimination.
- The Butte County Fair reserves the right to REFUSE acceptance/display of any item that is inappropriate for display at a family fair.
- Failure of any exhibitor to maintain his/her exhibit to the satisfaction of the Fair Management may result in removal of the exhibit, the cancellation of awards and or premiums.
- All judges are provided by The Butte County Fair, and in every instance, the decision made by the Judge is final.
- Cash awards will be paid only as recorded, as per the assigned Judge, and only to the exhibitor on record.

- No exhibitor shall receive more than two cash awards in a class, as per State rules. The exhibitor will receive the two highest cash awards, and the lesser cash awards will be moved down the placings to other exhibitors
- Scores are entered into the Fair program during judging and overall scores are compiled via computer program.
- Placing of ribbons does not guarantee correct judging placement. Only the official placing as listed on the judging results printout (computer compiled) constitutes the final placement.
- Butte County Fair has an OPEN judging policy, allowing exhibitors to *view and listen* without comment. If this is not honored, you will be asked to leave the building.
- Exhibits will remain in place for the duration of the Fair.

Exhibitor Responsibilities

- By submitting an application for entry, participants agree to comply with all rules and regulations governing the Butte County Fair, as published in the 2026 Competitive Stills guidebook.
- The Fair will not be responsible for exhibits left **24** hours after the close of the Fair. All exhibits and equipment **MUST** be claimed and removed within 5 days. After 5 days, the items become the property of the Fair.
- Premium checks must be cashed by **October 13, 2026**. No check will be re-issued or the time extended. Questions about discrepancies in check amounts must be made prior to **September 13, 2026**. No premium adjustment will be made after that date.
- Each exhibitor is responsible for any loss, consequential or otherwise, injury or damage done to or occasioned by, or arising from, any article exhibited by him/her.
- Vehicles belonging to participants/volunteers are requested to park in the parking lot and walk onto the grounds to their assigned buildings or as directed by Fair Management.
- Glass containers are not allowed on Fair grounds
- Animals are not permitted on the grounds unless they are part of an authorized show or exhibit. Service animals and Guide dog puppies are the only exception and must comply with Fair Board policy.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Adult** = Exhibitors (nineteen) 19 years and older
- **Youth** = Exhibitors ages Pre-K through eighteen (18) years as of January 1, 2026
- **Entries close** = this is the last date and time you can enter an exhibit online. ALL ENTRIES ARE ONLINE ONLY.
- **Entries receiving** = this is the time and date you will bring your exhibit to the Fair grounds to be judged and subsequently displayed in the Fair
- **Entries judging** = this is the time and date an entry will be judged by a qualified judge appointed by the Fair. All divisions have OPEN judging
- **Entries release** = this is the time and date the exhibitor must pick up their entry. The Fair will not be responsible for exhibits left **24** hours after the close of the Fair. All exhibits and equipment **MUST** be claimed and removed within 5 days. After 5 days, the items become the property of the Fair
- **Open Judging** = Exhibitors welcome to *view and listen* without comment. If this is not honored, you will be asked to leave the building
- **American Judging System** = Each entry in a class is judged in comparison to other entries in the class. Awards are given according to relative merit with the potential for no more than one 1st (first), one 2nd (second) and one 3rd (third) place
- **Danish Judging System** = Based upon established standards of quality for each type of product. In this system, each exhibit is judged according to how well it meets that standard rather than how it compares to others. The following guidelines will be used by the judge:

o Quality	Score	Ribbon
o 1st Place	90-100%	Blue
o 2nd Place	80-89%	Red
o 3rd Place	70-79%	White
- **Amateurs/Beginner** = an exhibitor is new to or grows or engages in the creation of an exhibit piece such as a hobby and/or for the love of the work
- **Intermediate/Experienced (also called Advanced/Professionals)**= Exhibitors who engage in arts and crafts (or grow) as a hobby, or for the love of the work for a LENGTHY time, OR who put their work on display with the intention of selling for monetary profit. Instructors and teachers are considered experienced/professionals

- **Masters** = Applies to Floriculture only. Flower show judges and instructors are considered Masters and may only compete in the Professionals/Masters divisions in Floral Design
- **Original**= Created, designed and made completely by the exhibitor.
- **Immediate Family**=Members of a family through either blood, marriage, adoption or domestic partnership.
- **Upcycle** = The repurposing of an item/items to a new and different use than originally made for
- **Grand Exhibitors** = Individuals that competed in **at least (three) 3 DIVISIONS within a department** and achieved the (three) 3 highest overall scores (First, second and third)
If there are not enough exhibitors have competed in 3 different divisions to qualify for a first, second and third place, all three places may not be awarded

FLORICULTURE ONLY AWARDS

- **Best of Show** = One exhibit will be chosen from all the Best of Division exhibits from Container Plants, Floral Design and Fresh Cut Flowers
- **Best of Division** = One exhibit will be chosen from all the 1st place exhibits in each class within a Division
- **Judges Choice** = One exhibit will be selected by the accredited judging panel to be recognized as Judges choice
- **People's Choice** = Fair goers visiting Butte Hall are eligible to vote for their favorite Floriculture exhibit Thursday through Sunday morning. Butte Hall closes at 9PM Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. Votes will be tallied Sunday afternoon and the winner awarded immediately thereafter.

HOW TO ENTER – STEP BY STEP GUIDE

STEP 1: Download/ view or pickup this guidebook and Department Guides:

- Download and print this Guidebook located on the Fair's website: buttecountyfair.org or come by the office and pick up a copy at the front desk.

STEP 2: Review both the Competition guide and Department Guides:

- Review the guidebook for rules, dates and available departments. It is the sole responsibility of the entrant to know and understand the information listed here. We are always happy to help if you have questions!

STEP 3: Determine the correct age classification:

- The age classification are divided into two Departments, Adult and Youth
 - o Adult = 19 years and older (as of January 1, 2025)
 - o Youth = 18 years and younger (as of January 1, 2025)
 - Youth department is further broken down as follows:
 - Pre K = ages 4 and under
 - Ages 5-8
 - Ages 9-11
 - Ages 12-13
 - Ages 14-18

STEP 4: ENTER ONLINE:

All entries must be made online through the **ShoWorks** entry system located on our website: buttecountyfair.org

STEP 5: ENTRY INFORMATION:

- You will need to provide your contact and credit card information. The program cannot take cash or paper checks. You will also need to know which Department, Division and class you wish to enter. It is up to the entrant to be familiar with and know the requirements for each entry. This information is located in the Department Guides.

STEP 6: ENTER BY THE POSTED ENTRY DEADLINES:

- **All Competitive Exhibit entries must be entered online by midnight of the stated dates for each entry. Please see the full schedule in the Guidebook or at the top of each Department guide. *No extensions, no exceptions.***

STEP 7: DELIVER THE ENTRY:

- You will need to bring your entries to the fairgrounds on the “Entry Receiving” date, location and time as stated in the full schedule and/or at the top of each Department Guide. There will be signage at the fairgrounds to direct you to either Butte Hall for Farm and Garden or Floriculture departments, or Expo Hall for all other departments.

STEP 8: COME TO THE FAIR!

- Come to the fair to see your entry displayed and how many ribbons you earned! Please feel free to take pictures and share with friends and family.
- Make sure to vote for your People’s Choice awards!

Need Help? We are here to help you!

If you are new to entering as an Exhibitor in the Fair, we know it can be confusing, so please call us if you have questions or need help understanding the guidelines or online entry process. We will have a computer station located in the Fair Office beginning in July for anyone that needs help entering online.