



Landscape Design Competition

Open to all Youth 9th-12th grade

Registration: Limited to the first 13 teams entered

Deadline: September 1, 2026

Register online at www.etstatefair.com, click the Competition button, and then choose Landscape Design. The Register link is near the bottom of the page in Items.

Landscape Design Contest:

Submission of Design Plans – September 23, before judging

Set-up on the grounds – September 23, 9:00 to 10:30

Judging – September 23, 10:45 AM

Awards – September 23, 12:30 PM

Release of Entries:

Monday and Tuesday, October 4 and 5 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Volunteers:

Contact Denise to volunteer: denise@etstatefair.com or 903-597-2501

General Rules

- Entries are released on Monday and Tuesday after the Fair closes. Any entry not claimed by Thursday becomes the property of ETSF.
- All entries must remain on display throughout the fair.
- The Fair Staff will water Landscape Designs at least once a day.
- Every precaution will be taken in the handling and exhibiting of work; however, the East Texas State Fair will not be responsible for loss or damage, which may occur from any cause. Submission of entries implies acceptance of all conditions stated in these rules.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- There are no entry fees in the Landscape division.

DIVISION: LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Awards:

1st – 3rd Place Plaque for School
Ribbons for Students

Sections:

Section A – High School (teams of students in High School Horticulture Programs)

Landscape Design Rules

- A team may consist of 3 to 8 students.
- **Schools may register up to two teams. The Fair is limited to 13 landscape boxes so the first 13 teams entered will receive a spot in the competition.**
- Teams must register online by September 5, 2025.
- Each team must submit a design plan before judging starts.
- **THIS IS A LANDSCAPE COMPETITION NOT A PLANTER BOX DESIGN. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, PLEASE CALL Denise Weaver 903-597-2501 OR EMAIL denise@etstatefair.com**

Procedures

- Teams will provide the landscape plants for the design of a 3' wide x 8' long and any props to be used in the landscape box.
- The exhibitor is responsible for bringing all tools needed to prepare their landscape box.
- The team will submit a Landscape Plan prior to judging. The plan should include a planting plan, plant legend, sketches, and project budget.
- The location of the landscape boxes will be on the fairgrounds. The unloading will take place at gates located at 11315 Hwy 64 W. Tyler, TX.
- Soil **will be** provided for each team.
- Planter boxes will be provided for each team.
- Each team **MUST** supply their own plants.
- At the designated time during the day, the team will begin putting the design together in the box in the designated location. **Parents and adult leaders may assist with moving in supplies and planter materials to the competition area but must vacate the area once the competition begins.**
- **The planting and design of the landscape must be performed by the exhibitors only.**
- The team will have until 11:00 to complete their design.

Judging and Scoring

- Judging will be based on several criteria areas.
- A score will be given by each judge for each of the criteria. Each judge's score will be totaled and then averaged with the total scores given by other judges to determine placings.
- Score sheets will be distributed to each advisor following the competition.

Judging Criteria:

- Project Planning (15 points) – evaluated from the Landscape Plan submitted prior to the contest.
- Project Creativity (25 points) – creative use of the space, relationship between elements in the design, and expression of local characteristics

- Overall Design (25 points) – proper application of design principles including proportion, organization, repetition, unity of elements, form, texture, and color.
- Technical Merit (20 points) – workmanship, use of mulch, materials, attention to details.
- Planting (15 points) – appropriate plant selection for the project area; good use of texture, color, and grouping