



# NEEDLE ARTS COMPETITION

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Competitive Exhibits Office  
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**ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION STARTS APRIL 1, 2026**

**ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 13, 2026**

**ENTRY DROP OFF JULY 18, 2026, 9AM-3PM and JULY 21, 2026, 12PM-6PM**

**ENTRY REMOVAL AUGUST 26, 2026, 12PM-6PM and AUGUST 27, 2026, 3PM-7PM**

**Entry Fee:** \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

**Ages:** 13 & Up

**Prize Checks:** Available Tuesday, August 18, 2026, between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks not picked up by Sunday, August 23, 2026, will be mailed.  
**\*Checks are VOID 60 days from issue date and WILL NOT BE REISSUED. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

## **Needle Arts Competition Rules:**

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, July 13, 2026.** For more information see the Important Entry Information page at [www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org).
3. Anyone 13 years old and older is eligible to enter this competition. Team members may be younger than 18 years old.
4. Only one (1) entry per class.
5. **IMPORTANT: Needle Art pictures MUST be well framed and wired with flexible picture wire, fastened to screw eyes on wooden frames or sliding hangers on metal frames. (No saw tooth hangers permitted). All others will not be accepted.**
6. All entries must be clean and free of dirt, pet hair and stains.
7. We are unable to facilitate projects that require any technological needs (e.g. electric plug access, etc.)
8. Each entry will be judged on its own merit.
9. Size requirements: Minimum size: 8"x10" including frame; must include wire on the back. Maximum size: 24"x30" including frame; must include wire on the back.
10. **The following will not be accepted:**
  - Plastic canvas medium
  - Hoop pictures
  - Grouped miniatures to form a minimum picture size
  - Machine embroidery

## **Judging Criteria**

- General Appearance - Is it pleasing to the eye? Does it have balance? Is there harmony among the subjects stitched?
- Workmanship – Is it (technique) correctly executed?
- Did the designer take into consideration the difficulty of the piece and use the correct technique?
- Is the piece clean of smudges and marks?

- Does the framing or finishing of the piece compliment the work itself?
- Each entry will be judged on its own merit.

## NEEDLE ARTS COMPETITION CLASSES

**Premiums Offered:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place Blue \$8, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Red \$5

**Tri-Color:** \$25 & Eligible for *Best of Tri-Color Award*

\*Tri-Color is an honorary award chosen by the judge for the outstanding article among those entered in competition in each section.

### **Counted Cross Stitch-1**

*Worked from a graph*

1. Beginner - 1<sup>st</sup> piece using Aida cloth, any count
2. Using Aida cloth, any count
3. Using Linen, any count
4. Samplers (Must include the Alphabet)
5. Textured Specialty Stitches, on Linen or Aida cloth, using techniques such as Hardanger Motifs, Hemstitching, Pulled/Drawn work (Smyrna crosses etc.) No purchased embellishments.
6. Hardanger Embroidery on Linen, Aida or Canvas using only traditional Hardanger motifs and designs. May include purchased embellishments if desired.
7. Embellished Stitches using Linen or Aida cloth using Textured stitches as well as Beading, Metallic Threads, Silk Ribbon, buttons &/or other purchased embellishments.
8. Crewel Embroidery

### **Needlepoint-2**

*Worked from a graph – On Canvas*

1. Canvas Work. Needlepoint using all other stitches or techniques

### **Fabric Needlework Wall Hanging-3**

*Maximum 30" x 30"*

1. Worked in counted cross-stitch, crewel, embroidered or any other stitch technique, must have appropriate hardware for hanging.

### **Needlework Door/Wall Décor-4**

1. Worked in counted cross-stitch, crewel, embroidered or any other stitch technique, must have appropriate hardware for hanging.

### **Decorative Needlework Pillow-5**

1. Needlepoint using tent stitch or textured stitches
2. Counted Cross Stitch
3. Smocked
4. Patchwork or Appliquéd
5. Crewel
6. Crewel using Silk/Cotton threads or Crewel Yarn
7. Any needlework not listed above

### **Baby-6**

1. Linen or Aida – Cross Stitch only – **FRAMED**
2. Baby Bib – Cross Stitch Only

### **Christmas Needlework-7**

1. Christmas Stocking Linen or Aida, using any stitch technique
2. Christmas Tree Ornaments

### **Specialty & Miscellaneous-8**

1. Black Work (Linen or Aida)
2. Needle Painting or Bunka Embroidery
3. Silk Ribbon Work (using linen, satin or aida ground fabric)
4. Stump Work or 3-Dimensional Embroidery
5. Brazilian Embroidery, using Rayon Brazilian Threads
6. Any needlework listed above worked by a person over 70 years of age.