2026 Fort Bend County Fair
Junior Contest General Rules & Regulations

Contestants, entries, and awards must comply with the Fort Bend County Fair General Rules & Regulations, and the following specific rules. Interpretations and applications will be made by the Contest Department Chairman, the Fair Manager, and/or the Contest Department Committee. OFFICIAL RULES ON FILE IN FAIR OFFICE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OTHER RULES.

Any Contestant, parent or guardian of the contestant, teacher, 4-H leader, or county agent who knowingly violates or condones the violation of any rule or rules shall be subject to immediate discipline and possible removal of contestant and family members from all contests and/or forfeiture of all awards.

1. **Eligibility:**
   a. These contests are open to youth who are enrolled in and attending public or private elementary or secondary schools or accredited home school programs in Fort Bend County. Teams and individuals may participate regardless of school or organizational affiliation. If competing as a team representing a school, 4-H club or FFA chapter, all team members must represent the same school, club or chapter.
   b. All participants MUST be United States citizens and possess a valid social security number. Enrolled college and university students are not eligible to participate.
   c. Each legal guardian, teacher or 4H club leader may enter as many teams as desired unless specified in the special rules.
   d. Individual contestants may compete for individual awards.
   e. Age: Contestants must be between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
   f. Enrollment: All participants must be enrolled in and attending public or private elementary or secondary schools or accredited home school programs in Fort Bend County TX.
      a. Junior Division Contestants (grades 3rd – 8th)
      b. Senior Division Contestants (grades 9th – 12th)
   g. For schools that don't follow traditional grade levels the following levels will be used:
      a. Junior Division: must be 8 years of age (in addition to being in the 3rd grade) and not over 13 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
      b. Senior Division: must be 14 to 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
   h. Each team and its age division must be designated and certified by a legal guardian, teacher or 4H club leader at the time of pre-registration. If one or more team members are in the senior division, the team and its individuals are considered all senior division.
   i. Each contestant must turn in at registration a properly executed **LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**. No contestant will be allowed to participate without this agreement.
   j. Contestants must be eligible per Texas Education Agency interpretation on extracurricular activities (as distributed May 2, 1985, and detailed under Update Number 2 example 1 and explanation 6 on page 240). Certification by a school official must be submitted with the entry form.
   k. Only a legal guardian, teacher or 4H club leader will be allowed to pick up registration packets. All packets for a School, 4-H Club or FFA Chapter must be picked up at the same time by the same person.

2. **Entry:** Entry for each type of contest will take place as follows:
   a. **Individual Contests:**
      i. Entries MUST be submitted online at **https://fbcfa.fairwire.com** by the supervising Club Leader for the 4-H Club or Teacher for the School or FFA Chapter. Entries open on August 14, 2026, must be submitted prior to midnight, Sept. 4, 2026.
      ii. Contests include Public Speaking, Job Interview
      iii. Forms: Completed indemnities must be brought on the day of the contest to complete entry. Forms with missing information will be considered incomplete entries and will not be accepted.
   b. **Teams Contests:**
      i. Entries MUST be submitted online at **https://fbcfa.fairwire.com** by the supervising Club Leader for the 4-H Club or Teacher for the School or FFA Chapter. Entries open on August 14, 2026, must be submitted prior to midnight, Sept 4, 2026.

ii. Contests include Robotics Contest, Food Challenge
iii. Forms: Completed indemnities must be brought on the day of the contest to complete entry. Forms with missing information will be considered incomplete entries and will not be accepted.

3. **Conduct of Contestants:**
   a. There will be no talking between contestants during the contest. Violating this rule may cause the contestants and/or their teams to be disqualified and ineligible to receive awards.
   b. Only contestants and contest officials will be permitted in the contest area during the contest.
   c. Contestants must have their group letter clearly visible and must be worn on their torso.
   d. Contestants cannot smoke or use any tobacco products in contest facilities.
   e. Contestants should not monopolize any one exhibit for an unreasonable length of time.
   f. Contestants should not separate themselves from the class in which their group is working.
   g. Contestants should not in any way willfully obstruct the work of another contestant.
   h. If an ineligible contestant is permitted to participate, the team and individual members of that team will be ineligible for prizes. Furthermore, the legal guardian, teacher or 4H club leader who certified the eligibility of the team members, as well as the School, 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, will be ineligible to enter another team for a period of three years.
   i. All participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, integrity, and respect toward fellow contestants, contest officials, and volunteers. Contestants shall treat fellow participants, officials, and volunteers with dignity and respect. Disruptive, disrespectful, or unsportsmanlike behavior, including inappropriate language or gestures, will not be tolerated. At the discretion of contest officials and Department Chairman, any demonstration of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in warnings, individual or team disqualification from the contest.
   j. Communication (cell phone, tablets, smart watches, fitness trackers, and any other smartphone style watch devices) and audio listening devices are not permitted to be in the possession of the contestant for the duration of the contest, except those devices which are required for medical reasons (ie blood sugar monitors/apps/hearing aids). Convey medical device needs to

      contest chairman in advance via the accommodations request in the below *Accommodations* section. Violation by any team member or individual contestant will result in disqualification.

4. **Accommodations:** We will consider requests to accommodate a student with medical, physical or mental impairments on a case- by-case basis in consultation with the Contest Department Chairman and Directors in Charge. Accommodation requests should be submitted to the Fair Office at least 14 days prior to the contest event date via online form. The Youth Contest Department will follow up on all submitted requests.

5. **Scoring:** Scan sheets will be provided. **CONTESTANTS MUST USE THE PROVIDED, PRE-CODED SCANTRONS OR THEY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.** Contestants must provide their own #2 pencil and may bring an unmarked clipboard and/or manila folder for use during the contest. **Forms that are bent or abused will not be scored**. Ties will be broken on the consistency of judging all classes. If ties still exist, ranking with the ties will be the discretion of the Contest Chairman.

6. **Results:** Results, as announced, are final. Contestants must be present to receive their awards. Any remaining awards will not be mailed following the show. Contestants will be responsible for picking up their awards from the Fair office.

7. **Pictures:** The top three teams and individuals in each contest must have their picture taken.