



HARRIS COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO

**CREATIVE ARTS and HORTICULTURE
EXHIBITOR HANDBOOK
AND RULES**

2024

PRESENTED BY: HCF&R CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

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Harris County Fair and Rodeo

CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

2024

Chairman

Ashlynn Reed

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Committee Members

Julie Bye

Tamara Seely

CREATIVE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2024


Creative Arts Chairman: Ashlynn Reed

FAIR OFFICERS: Michele Reed and/or Cody Sherrouse

HCF&R Association Chairman: Fred Stockton

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULE 1: ELIGIBILITY

- a. The Harris County Fair and Rodeo does not discriminate against any applicant, exhibitor, volunteer, customer, or patron on the basis of race, sex, color, age, disability, religion, citizenship, veteran status, nationality or ethnic origin.
- b. Exhibitors Ages 8 years (3rd grade) must live in Harris County or be enrolled in a Harris County ISD School (Elementary- High School) that has a history of validating through Harris County 4-H Office. The exhibitor must be a member of a Harris County FFA OR 4-H club, or FCCLA and in good standing at the time of check-in. If the High School validated in Harris County in 2020 and before in Harris County, the school is eligible to show in Harris County Fair.
- b. Exhibitors Ages 8 years and younger not in the third grade must live in Harris County or be enrolled in a Harris County ISD School (Elementary - High School).
-  c. Junior and Senior Divisions: Exhibitors 8 years old (and in the 3rd grade) to 18 years old (or still in high school). Must be academically eligible to participate in the Harris County Fair and Rodeo and may not have an exhibit shown for them by another exhibitor if ineligible.
- d. Open Division: Exhibitors over 19 years of age and no longer in high school. There are no academic eligibility criteria for the “Open” age Division.
- e. Agriculture Science Teachers/4-H Extension Agent are responsible for providing Livestock Show Secretary a list of ineligible exhibitors by 6 PM on the Wednesday prior to the start of Show.
- f. Any non-adherence to the rules will result in disqualification of entries.

RULE 2: INELIGIBILITY/DISQUALIFICATIONS

- a. The Creative Arts Show is operated by a committee of volunteers for the Harris County Fair and Rodeo Association and strives to have an organized and well operated area. No abusive or derogatory language towards committee members will be tolerated. If committee members and or their volunteers are not treated with respect, the abusive person(s) will be asked to leave, and the entries associated with that person(s) will be disqualified.

RULE 3: EXHIBITOR AGE DIVISIONS

- a. Age Divisions for each Category are as follows. Age of Exhibitor is the age on August 31 the year of the Fair.
 - i. Pee Wee – Competition is open to all youth 8 years of age and under who are not in the third grade.
 - ii. Junior – Competition is open to all 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA youth ages 8 (third grade) to 13.

- iii. Senior – Competition is open to all 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA youth ages 14 to 18 (senior in high school).
- iv. Open – Competition is open to any resident in the Harris County Area that is 19 years or older and no longer in high school.

RULE 4: REGISTRATION AND FEES **IMPORTANT**



- a. Mandatory registration shall be completed online entry by date indicated on the Important Dates document. Must enter in all projects by October 1st, 2024.

<https://www.hcfairandrodeo.org/>



- b. There is a registration fee of \$10. Each item entry will cost \$5 to enter.
- c. At the time of registration, exhibitors need to choose what Creative Arts division AND class(es) will be entered. Exhibitors will be able to change their class at the time of check-in, but not the division. The division and classes will be verified by the Creative Arts Committee at check-in at the Fair and may be moved to another class/division.
- d. Registration will also include the consent of the Release and Liability Form.
- e. Late registration is not permitted.



RULE 5: LIMIT OF ENTRIES

- a. A limit of one (1) entry per class per exhibitor – up to five (5) entries per division – will be allowed.

RULE 6: CREATING EXHIBITS/ENTRIES

- a. All items entered must have been made by the exhibitor with minimal help by parent, teacher, or advisor, etc.
- b. All items entered must have been made within a year of the date of the fair.

RULE 7: CHECK-IN PROCESS

- a. During Registration/Entry you will predetermine your divisions. At check-in, you will select your class.
- b. Registration is not permitted on the day of check-in.
- c. Each exhibitor will be given one (1) entry sheet for all entries per division. All entries will be tagged with a number that corresponds to the exhibitor's number.
- d. All names on entries **MUST BE COVERED BY THE EXHIBITOR PRIOR TO CHECK-IN**. Any entries that have visible names, symbols, or any personal identifying marks (front and/or back) at the time of entry **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. If they are accepted at check-in in error, the judge will disqualify them.
- e. **ENTRY CONTENTS:** The entry must include the following to be considered complete:
 - i. Fees for entry (extra entries \$5/each) - paid during registration

- ii. Exhibitor's entry form
- f. ENTRIES NOT CHECKED IN UPON ARRIVAL: If an exhibitor fails to check in by the published deadline, the entry is ineligible to compete.
- g. EXHIBITOR LATE ARRIVAL: If an exhibitor fails to arrive within designated arrival time/before arrival deadline, the entry is ineligible to compete.

RULE 8: AWARDS AND HIGH POINT

Pee Wee, Junior and Senior Division High Point Awards

- a. Using the point system attached the high point individual of the Pee Wee, Junior and Senior Divisions will be awarded a special high point award (i.e. Belt Buckle, etc.)
- b. All winners will be expected to write thank you notes to their award sponsors. These Thank you notes must be provided to receive your buckle.
- c. Point Awards:
 - i. All projects will receive a participation ribbon.
 - Blue – 5 points
 - Red – 3 points
 - White – 1 point
 - ii. All Divisions will be placed Grand through 10th place per age group:
 - Grand Champion – 50 points (Rosette)
 - Reserve Grand Champion – 40 points (Rosette)
 - 3rd place – 30 points (Ribbon)
 - 4th place – 25 points (Ribbon)
 - 5th place – 20 points (Ribbon)
 - 6th place – 18 points (Ribbon)
 - 7th place – 16 points (Ribbon)
 - 8th place – 14 points (Ribbon)
 - 9th place - 12 points (Ribbon)
 - 10th place - 10 points (Ribbon)


(Grand through 10th place will not get their points for their participation ribbon as well).

Open Division Awards

- a. All Projects will receive a participation ribbon.
 - Blue
 - Red
 - White
- b. All Open divisions will be placed Grand through 5th place per age group:
 - Grand Champion (Ribbon)

- Reserve Grand Champion (Ribbon)
- 3rd Place - (Ribbon)
- 4th Place - (Ribbon)
- 5th Place - (Ribbon)


RULE 9: SALE OF ITEMS

 a. Bake Sale: All judged baked goods, food preservations, and all horticulture produce will be sold from 12:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m. following the judging on Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until sold out. to benefit the fair association as well as the creative arts division.

- Bake Good Exhibitors that placed 1st – 5th have the option to re-make their entry (or bring a spare/new entry) and place it in the Silent Auction.
- Food Preservation that placed 1st – 5th have the option to bring an extra jar of their entry and place it in the Silent Auction.
- Horticulture Produce that placed in the top 5 have the option to enter the Silent Auction vs the Bake Sale.

b. Silent Auction: All Creative Arts Exhibitors have the option to enter the Silent Auction during check-in.


- The Silent Auction is open to the youth divisions (Pee Wee, Junior, and Senior Age Division) and not available to the Open Age Division.



- The Silent Auction will be held the day after judging.

- Each exhibitor may place up to 3 items in the Silent Auction. Items must be designated for silent auction at the time of check-in.

- Only the top 10 placing items will be eligible for the Silent Auction.



- Exhibitors must turn in a completed or complete a Silent Auction Entry Form for each item placed in the Silent Auction at the time of check-in.

- At check-in each exhibitor may rank up to 5 items on their Entry Paper for the Silent Auction. If all 5 items make top 10 placings in their division, the Creative Arts Committee will choose 3 based on the exhibitors ranking.

- The Silent Auction proceeds will benefit the exhibitor minus 10% for the Fair Association.

- Exhibitors will be able to place a minimum bid on their item but exhibitors may not run up bidding by bidding on their own item.

- Once items are placed in the silent auction, they cannot be removed.

- Baked Goods must be fresh (not used during judging), see Rule 9.a above.

- Food items placed in the Silent Auction must be covered and protected from the environment and can be displayed on a dish, platter or in baskets that are sold to the buyer.



- xii. The Harris County Fair and Rodeo Association cannot guarantee the sale of items placed in the Silent Auction. Exhibitors must pick up their items from the silent auction if they did not sell. Pick-up will start 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Silent Auction until 11:00 am the next day. Exhibitors must physically check if their item(s) were sold; the Fair will not notify exhibitors that their items were not purchased.
- xiii. The Harris County Fair and Rodeo Association is not liable for unforeseen damage to items placed in the Silent Auction or entered the Creative Arts contest.

RULE 10: PROTEST PROVISION and JUDGE DECISIONS

- a. No protests will be permitted for the Creative Arts and Horticulture Show.
- b. Qualified judges will judge the Creative Art and Horticulture entries. All decisions by the judges are final.
- c. Any and all differences, disputes will be settled by a Creative Arts Advisory Committee consisting of:
 - i. Fair Board Operating Officer
 - ii. Creative Arts Committee Chairman
 - iii. President of the HCF&R Association

RULE 11: CREATIVE ARTS HOURS

- a. The Creative Arts Building will be open and closed during posted times during the schedule. No one will be allowed in the building after closing.

RULE 12: LOSS and DAMAGE

- a. The Harris County Fair & Rodeo Association and the Creative Arts Committee are not responsible for items entered in the Creative Arts and Horticulture Show. However, extreme caution and care will be used in the handling of all items.

RULE 13: RELEASE OF EXHIBITS

- a. No exhibits are to leave the Show until checked out by the committee during hours of operation.
- b. Grand and Reserve are requested to stay until check out on Friday after the Silent Auction closes.
- c. All non Bake Sale or Silent Auction items must be picked up during the designated time frame.
- d. All items not claimed and removed by the release date and time (see fair schedule) will become the property of the Harris County Fair and Rodeo Association and will be disposed of by the management.



BAKED GOOD DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. All baked items must be in a sealable, forfeited container. Containers/dishes will not be returned.
- c. Saran wrap or food coverings of any type will not be permitted.
- d. For food safety and sanitation, all baked good items must be placed on a forfeited plate in a sealed Ziploc bag.
- e. Any items such as cakes that are too large to fit in a Ziploc bag must be in a forfeited container with a sealable lid. Cardboard boxes and tinfoil will not be permitted.
- f. Uncovered or unsealed exhibits will not be accepted.
- g. A full recipe must accompany your entry at check-in time. Recipes should be printed or typed. A recipe cannot be cut from a magazine or book. Exhibitors' name should not appear anywhere on recipe cards.
 - a. Recipe should include but not be limited to: Name, Ingredients, Instructions, Bake time.
- h. For safety and health of judges, items requiring refrigeration will not be accepted. No fruit (canned or fresh), flowers, cream, cream cheese, meat, vegetables, or sour cream.
- i. To use milk or cream cheese in a recipe it must be baked into an item or brought to a boil.
- j. No cut fresh fruit or vegetable garnishes are allowed.
- k. No alcohol allowed.
- l. Do not cut cakes, breads, pies, and cobblers into pieces. These items must remain whole.
- m. Candy and cookies should be a minimum of 12 pieces.
- n. All food items and horticulture produce will be sold from 12:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m. following the judging on Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until sold out. The funds from these items will be used to benefit the fair association and the creative arts division.



CANDY

- Class 1 Divinity
- Class 2 Fudge
- Class 3 Molded
- Class 4 Peanut Brittle
- Class 5 Praline
- Class 6 Hard Candy
- Class 7 Carmel
- Class 8 Truffles
- Class 9 Candy Fruits
- Class 10 Miscellaneous Candy

PIES

COOKIES

- Class 11 Bar
- Class 12 Drop
- Class 13 Rolled/Cut
- Class 14 Brownies
- Class 15 No Bake
- Class 16 Decorated Cookies
- Class 17 Miscellaneous Cookies

BREADS

Class 18 Fruit
Class 19 Nut
Class 20 Miscellaneous Pie

COBBLER

Class 21 Any Fruit
Class 22 Any Berry
Class 23 Miscellaneous

CAKES

Class 24 Scratch Start
Class 25 Creative Cake
Class 26 Two or Three Layer
Class 27 Fruit/Vegetable Cake
Class 28 Pound Cake
Class 29 Angel Food
Class 30 Jelly Roll
Class 31 Sheet Cake
Class 32 Bundt
Class 33 Decorated Cake
Class 34 Decorated Cupcakes
Class 35 Cake Balls
Class 36 Loaf Cake
Class 37 Box Cake
Class 38 Miscellaneous Cake

Class 39 Rolls
Class 40 Coffee Cake/Tea Ring
Class 41 Kolaches
Class 42 Loaf Bread *White or Wheat*
Class 43 Fruit/Vegetable Bread
Class 44 Biscuits
Class 45 Muffins
Class 46 Cinnamon Rolls/Breakfast Rolls
Class 47 Corn Bread/Quick Bread
Class 48 Miscellaneous

SNACK

Class 49 Sweet
Class 50 Salty Savory
Class 51 Granola
Class 52 Popcorn/Candy
Class 53 Miscellaneous

Harris County Fair Baked Goods Rubric

Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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	Indicators	Points Earned		Indicators	Points Earned
Presentation and Appearance (20 points)	Neatness and Uniformity of shape/size (0-5 points)		Flavor and Aroma (25 points)	Balance and intensity of flavor (0-10 points)	
	Creativity and originality in presentation (0-5 points)			Aroma - pleasant and inviting (0-7 points)	
	Proper color and browning (0-5 points)			Sweetness level (if applicable) - balanced and not overly sweet (0-5 points)	
	Overall Visual Appeal and Attractiveness (0-5 points)			Absence of any off-flavors or aftertastes (0-3 points)	
Texture and Consistency (25 points)	Moistness and tenderness of the interior (0-10 points)		Skill, Creativity, and Innovation (15 points)	Creative presentation or decoration (0-5 points)	
	Crust Texture (if applicable) - Crispy or tender as appropriate (0-7 points)			Complexity and skill demonstrated in the baking techniques used. (0-5 points)	
	Uniformity of texture throughout (0-5 points)			Innovative use of ingredients or unique flavor combinations (0-5 points)	
	absence of sogginess or undercooking (0-3 points)				
Use of a Proper Recipe (15 points)	Adherence to the specified recipe - correct proportions of ingredients and accurate measurements (0-5 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:		
	All information is provided on the recipe - bake temperature, ingredient sizes, etc. (0-10 points)		Total Overall Points:		

Additional Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:

FOOD PRESERVATION DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. Recipes must accompany the entry.
- c. At the top of the recipe, it must be labeled with the name of the food and the date preserved. Example: Peaches (date preserved)
- d. All items must have been preserved within the last year (12 months).
- e. Items must be in good condition with new self-sealing jars.
- f. Exhibitors will check-in jars without the rings to check that the product is sealed. Once checked, the ring can be placed on the product.
- g. Entries will NOT be judged by tasting. Entries will be judged on pack, color, and visual inspection. Jars may need to be open if the judges are having a difficult time placing the entries.
- h. The headspace is 1/4 inch from lid to product or liquid.
- i. All food items and horticulture produce will be sold following the judging to benefit the fair association and the creative arts division.



FRUITS

- Class 1 Peaches
- Class 2 Pears
- Class 3 Berries
- Class 4 Figs
- Class 5 Mixed Fruits
- Class 6 Tomatoes, Stewed
- Class 7 Miscellaneous

- Class 17 Sauerkraut
- Class 18 Miscellaneous

JELLIES (w/juice only)

- Class 19 Berry
- Class 20 Grape
- Class 21 Peach
- Class 22 Plum
- Class 23 Miscellaneous

VEGETABLES

- Class 8 Beans, Green snap
- Class 9 Beans, Lima
- Class 10 Beans, Yellow snap
- Class 11 Beets
- Class 12 Carrots
- Class 13 Corn
- Class 14 Peas
- Class 15 Peppers (any kind)
- Class 16 Squash

JAMS (w/crushed fruit)

- Class 24 Berry
- Class 25 Fig
- Class 26 Grape
- Class 27 Peach
- Class 28 Plum
- Class 29 Miscellaneous

PRESERVES

Class 30	Fig
Class 31	Marmalade (any kind)
Class 32	Peach
Class 33	Pears
Class 34	Tomato
Class 35	Strawberries
Class 36	Miscellaneous

RELISH

Class 37	Chow-Chow
Class 38	Corn Relish
Class 39	Pear Relish
Class 40	Pepper Relish
Class 41	Tomato Relish
Class 42	Salsa
Class 43	Picante
Class 44	Miscellaneous

PICKLES

Class 45	Bread and Butter
Class 46	Dill
Class 47	Mustard
Class 48	Sour
Class 49	Sweet
Class 50	Peppers, Hot
Class 51	Peppers, Sweet
Class 52	Watermelon rind
Class 53	Okra
Class 54	Beans
Class 55	Beets
Class 56	Carrots
Class 57	Miscellaneous

Harris County Fair Food Preservation Rubric



Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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Indicators		Points Earned	Indicators		Points Earned
<i>Texture, Color and Uniformity (40 points)</i>	Desired texture of preserved items and absence of mushiness (0-10 points)		<i>Recipe (30 points)</i>	Use of safe and tested preservation methods as per the provided recipe (0-10 points)	
	Consistency of texture, size, shape, and color of preserved items within the jar (0-10 points)			Proper processing time and temperature based on the provided recipe (0-10 points)	
	Retention of natural color of preserved items (0-10 points)			Adherence to the specified recipe - correct proportions of ingredients, including preservative and acids (0-10 points)	
	Overall Visual Appeal and Attractiveness (0-10 points)				
<i>Proper Sealing (20 points)</i>	Airtight seal - lids should be vacuum-sealed and free from bulges or leaks (0-10 points)		<i>Packing (10 points)</i>	Cleanliness and neatness of jars - no residue or spills on the outside of the jars (0-5 points)	
	Absence of signs of compromised seal (eg. hissing sounds upon opening, lid pops off easily) (0-10 points)			Overall presentation - attractive packaging and labeling that enhance that product's appeal (0-5 points)	
Total Points in section:			Total Points in section:		
Total Overall Points (100):					

Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. All fruit and vegetable entries must be grown by the exhibitor.
- c. Container plants (hanging baskets, cactus, etc.) must have been in the exhibitor's possession/ownership for at least **three months** prior to show. Proof of ownership of three months must be turned in with the project. One element of proof is required. See rubric for recommended proof of ownership.
- d. All entries must be in good condition, free from dirt, disease, and insects.
- e. Class 1-38 entries must be on paper plates covered with a Ziploc bag.
- f. To enter fruits and vegetables, you must enter the following amounts:
 - i. Small (i.e. berries, okra, beans) 12 per plate
 - ii. Medium (i.e. plums, apples, squash) 4 - 6 per plate
 - iii. Large (i.e. melons, greens, lettuce) 2 - 3 per plate
- g. Items in this division will be judged on uniformity, condition, and appearance.
- h. All food items and horticulture produce will be sold starting at 6:00 p.m. following the judging, until sold out, to benefit the fair association and the creative arts division.



PRODUCE

Class 1	Berries
Class 2	Peaches
Class 3	Plums
Class 4	Strawberries
Class 5	Beans, Green
Class 6	Beans, Lima
Class 7	Beans, Pinto
Class 8	Beets
Class 9	Bell Pepper
Class 10	Broccoli
Class 11	Cabbage
Class 12	Carrots
Class 13	Corn, Sweet
Class 14	Cantaloupe
Class 15	Cucumbers
Class 16	Eggplant
Class 17	Greens
Class 18	Okra
Class 19	Onions, Purple

PRODUCE continued

Class 20	Onions, White
Class 21	Onions, Yellow
Class 22	Peas, Black-eyed
Class 23	Peas, Green
Class 24	Peas, English
Class 25	Peas, Purple Hull
Class 26	Peppers, Jalapeno
Class 27	Peppers, Banana
Class 28	Peppers, Red
Class 29	Peppers, Sweet
Class 30	Peppers, White
Class 31	Radishes
Class 32	Squash, White
Class 33	Squash, Yellow
Class 34	Squash, Zucchini
Class 35	Tomatoes
Class 36	Turnips
Class 37	Watermelon
Class 38	Miscellaneous

PLANTS

- Class 39 Container Plants (ex. Cactus, fern, succulent, etc.)
- Class 40 Terrariums
- Class 41 Hanging Baskets
- Class 42 Creative Container
- Class 43 Herbs
- Class 44 Miscellaneous

CREATIVE PRODUCE

- Class 45 Decorated (not cut)
- Class 46 Largest
- Class 47 Funny Shape

FLOWERS (grown by exhibitor)

- Class 48 Container Flowers
- Class 49 Hanging Baskets with flowers
- Class 50 Cut Flowers (bouquet)
- Class 51 Miscellaneous

Harris County Fair Horticulture Rubric



Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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Indicators		Points Earned	Indicators		Points Earned
Uniformity (21 points)	Uniform size, shape, and color of the items within the same category (0-8 points)		Appearance (22 points)	Attractive overall appearance, enhancing the aesthetic value (0-8 points)	
	Consistent growth patterns, such as branching or leaf arrangement (0-6 points)			Vibrant and natural coloration, if applicable (0-8 points)	
	Matching characteristics based on the specific plant species or variety (0-7 points)			Cleanliness and absence of foreign substances or debris (0-6 points)	
Condition (20 points)	Absence of physical damage, such as bruises, cuts, or discoloration (0-8 points)		Proof of Ownership (15 points)	Documentation providing ownership, such as original purchase receipt or cultivation records (0-5 points)	
	Proper ripeness or maturity for the specific item being judged (0-6 points)			Clear labeling with relevant information (plant name, when harvested, etc.) (0-5 points)	
	Appropriate firmness or tenderness as per the type of plant (0-6 points)			Photographs of the plants growth stages (0-5 points)	
Health (22 points)	Overall vitality and vigor of the plant or vegetables (0-8 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:		
	Absence of disease, pests, or signs of stress (ex. wilting, yellowing) (0-8 points)		Total Overall Points:		
	Healthy foliage, free from spots, holes, or abnormal discoloration (0-6 points)				

FLORAL DIVISION



RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. Entries must be made by the exhibitor. Items that are bought and embellished will be disqualified.
- c. Processed foods are not allowed but whole, natural, non-processed foods are allowed like fresh fruits, vegetables, harvested plant based foods (ex. wheat, cucumber, etc).
- d. Entries must fit in a standard single door entryway.
- e. All entries must be in good condition, free from dirt, disease, and insects.
- f. Items in this division will be judged on uniformity, condition, and appearance.
- g. Exhibitors may purchase the flowers to arrange their project.
 - i. Exhibitors must not purchase a completed arrangement and must arrange their own arrangements.

FAUX FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Class 1 | Wall Hangings |
| Class 2 | Basket/Vase |
| Class 3 | Wreath |
| Class 4 | Green Design Bowl |
| Class 5 | Miscellaneous |

LIVE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Class 6 | Wall Hangings |
| Class 7 | Basket/Vase |
| Class 8 | Wreath |
| Class 9 | Green Design Bowl |
| Class 10 | Cut Flowers (arranged) |
| Class 11 | Miscellaneous |

DRIED FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| Class 12 | Wall Hangings |
| Class 13 | Basket/Vase |
| Class 14 | Wreath |
| Class 15 | Miscellaneous |

Harris County Fair Floral Rubric

Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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	Indicators	Points Earned	Indicators	Points Earned
Uniformity (20 points)	Symmetry and balance throughout the arrangement (0-5 points)		Quality and Technical Skills (30 points)	Attention to detail and precision in execution (0-7 points)
	Consistency of theme and style (0-5 points)			Skillful use of tools and techniques (0-8 points)
	Harmony in color and texture (0-5 points)			Attention to detail; Neatness and accuracy in assembly (0-7 points)
	Repetition of patterns and shapes (0-5 points)			Quality of construction and durability (0-8 points)
Creativity (20 points)	Innovative use of materials & techniques (0-5 points)		Craftsmanship (20 points)	Precision in floral placement and securing (0-5 points)
	Unconventional or imaginative approach to the craft (0-5 points)			Skillful use of techniques; Intricacy and complexity in design (0-5 points)
	Thoughtful incorporation of unique and creative elements (0-5 points)			Finishing and grooming of the arrangement, Neatness and accuracy in assembly (0-5 points)
	Artistic expression and creativity in the design (0-5 points)			Overall quality of craftsmanship displayed; structural integrity and functionality (0-5 points)
Presentation (20 points)	Visual impact and first impression (0-5 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:	
	Cohesion between arrangement and display setting (0-5 points)			
	Effective use of space and layout; Innovative display techniques (0-5 points)			
	Attention to viewing angles and accessibility (0-5 points)		Total Overall Points:	

CRAFTS DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. Entries must be made by the exhibitor. Items that are bought and embellished will be disqualified.
- c. No food items are allowed in this division.
- d. Entries must fit in a standard single door entryway.

CERAMICS/POTTERY

Class 1	Underglaze
Class 2	Overglaze
Class 3	Stain
Class 4	Thrown
Class 5	Hand Formed
Class 6	Miscellaneous

WREATHS

Class 23	Wire
Class 24	Fabric
Class 25	Straw
Class 26	Grapevine
Class 27	Holiday
Class 28	Miscellaneous

ACCESSORIES

Class 7	Hair Bows/Barrettes
Class 8	Belt (non-leather)
Class 9	Jewelry
Class 10	Shoes
Class 11	Hat
Class 12	Glasses/Sunglasses
Class 13	Head Band
Class 14	Tote Bag
Class 15	Miscellaneous

NEEDLEWORK

Class 29	Crewel
Class 30	Needlepoint
Class 31	Embroidery
Class 32	Cross-stitch
Class 33	Candle Wicking
Class 34	Crochet
Class 35	Knitting
Class 36	Tatting
Class 37	Dolls, animals, toys
Class 38	Weaving
Class 39	Patchwork
Class 40	Appliqued
Class 41	Miscellaneous

CROSSES

Class 16	Wood
Class 17	Beaded
Class 18	Painted
Class 19	Mosaic
Class 20	Metal Painted
Class 21	Barbed Wire
Class 22	Miscellaneous

MODELS

OTHER

Class 42 Vehicle
 Class 43 Airplane
 Class 44 Military
 Class 45 Ship
 Class 45 Space
 Class 46 House/Barn
 Class 47 Machinery
 Class 48 Lego Design
 Class 49 Anime
 Class 50 Miscellaneous

**DECORATED CLOTHING & ACCESSORY
 (decorated, appliqued, beaded, painted)**

Class 51 Jacket
 Class 52 Jeans/Overalls
 Class 53 Sweatshirts
 Class 54 Skirts
 Class 55 Shirt/T-shirts
 Class 56 Vest
 Class 57 Miscellaneous

Class 58 Holiday item
 Class 59 Scrapbook Page
 Class 60 Scrapbook Project
 Class 61 Shadowbox
 Class 62 Quilling
 Class 63 Bottle Top Art
 Class 64 Mosaic Tile (glass, stone, ceramic)
 Class 65 Concrete Art
 Class 66 Decorated gourds
 Class 67 Decorated glass
 Class 68 Dolls
 Class 69 Recycling/Repurpose
 Class 70 Decorative Pillows
 Class 71 Non-sewn items (blanket, scarf, etc.)
 Class 72 Nail String
 Class 73 Leather items
 Class 74 Beaded items
 Class 75 Bread Dough
 Class 76 Macrame'
 Class 77 Stained Glass (plastic craft)
 Class 78 Decoupage
 Class 79 Woodworking
 Class 80 Carved wood item
 Class 81 Furniture (must be hand-made)
 Class 82 Tolle Painting
 Class 83 Yarn Art

Harris County Fair Crafts Rubric






Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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Indicators		Points Earned	Indicators		Points Earned
<i>Creativity</i> (20 points)	Innovative use of materials & techniques (0-5 points)		<i>Originality</i> (20 points)	Distinctive features or elements that set the crafts apart (0-5 points)	
	Unconventional or imaginative approach to the craft (0-5 points)			Fresh and original concept or idea (0-5 points)	
	Thoughtful incorporation of unique and creative elements (0-5 points)			Unique combination of materials, colors or patterns (0-5 points)	
	Artistic expression and creativity in the design (0-5 points)			Demonstrates a departure from conventional crafting norms (0-5 points)	
<i>Craftsmanship</i> (20 points)	Attention to detail and precision in execution (0-5 points)		<i>Presentation</i> (20 points)	Cleanliness and organization in the presentation (0-5 points)	
	Skillful use of tools and techniques (0-5 points)			Clear and coherent arrangement of elements (0-5 points)	
	Neatness and accuracy in assembly (0-5 points)			Effective use of space and layout (0-5 points)	
	Overall quality of craftsmanship displayed (0-5 points)			Professional and polished presentation of the craft (0-5 points)	
<i>Overall Impact</i> (20 points)	Emotional or intellectual impact' Memorable and unforgettable (elicits a strong response or conveys a powerful message; las a lasting impact) (0-10 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:		
	Cohesiveness of all elements to create a unified and impactful piece and overall visual appeal (0-10 points)		Total Overall Points:		

FINE ARTS DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
-  b. Entries MUST be made by the Exhibitor within the year. Items that are bought and embellished will be disqualified by the judges.
- c. Art entries must not have any indication of who created the art. There shall not be a signature or initials on the front of the piece.
-  d. Art entries must be mounted on heavy foam board, done on canvas, or art board.
 - a. Entries not following this rule are subject to disqualification.
- e. If the entry is not on canvas or art board, (i.e. paper, watercolor, coloring book page, etc.) it must be mounted on a heavy foam board to protect the piece of work.
-  f. Entries containing charcoal, pencil, or pastel must be spray sealed.
- g. Projects with Charcoal, Pencil, or Pastel need a protective seal.

ART

Class 1	Oil
Class 2	Acrylic
Class 3	Tempera
Class 4	Watercolor
Class 5	Charcoal
Class 6	Pencil
Class 7	Pastel
Class 8	Mixed Media
Class 9	Pen and Ink
Class 10	Scratchboard
Class 11	Drafting
Class 12	Painted Gourds
Class 13	Stained Glass
Class 14	Computer Generated
Class 15	Computer Arts (enter plain will be judge for design model)
Class 16	Collages
Class 17	Holiday Picture or item
Class 18	Etched Glass
Class 19	Painted Glass
Class 20	Miscellaneous

SCULPTURE

Class 21	Metal
Class 22	Clay
Class 23	Wood
Class 24	Wire
Class 25	Paper Mache
Class 26	3D Doodle Art
Class 27	Miscellaneous

Harris County Fair Fine Arts Rubric



Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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	Indicators	Points Earned		Indicators	Points Earned
Composition (20 points)	Thoughtful arrangement of elements within the artwork (0-5 points)		Technical Skill (20 points)	Demonstrates mastery of the chosen medium (0-5 points)	
	Balance and harmony in the overall design (0-5 points)			Effective use of color, shading, and highlighting (0-5 points)	
	Effective use of space and layout (0-5 points)			Precision and accuracy in execution (0-5 points)	
	Cohesive arrangement that guides the viewer's eyes (0-5 points)			Skillful rendering of form, texture, and perspective (0-5 points)	
Creativity (15 points)	Innovative use of techniques or methods (0-5 points)		Originality and Presentation (30 points)	Clean and professional presentation of the artwork (0-5 points)	
	Creative interpretation of the subject matter (0-5 points)			Unique perspective or approach in the composition (0-5 points)	
	Demonstrate imagination and artistic flair (0-5 points)			Original concept or idea; demonstrates a departure from conventional artistic norms (0-5 points)	
Overall Impact (15 points)	Emotional or intellectual impact on the viewer (0-5 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:		
	Memorable and unforgettable, leaving a lasting impression (0-5 points)		Total Overall Points:		
	Cohesiveness of all elements to create a unified and impactful piece (0-5 points)				

QUILTING/SEWING DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. All entries entered must be constructed by the exhibitor.
- c. All entries must be clean and in good condition.
- d. The following **MUST BE** provided in a Ziploc bag accompanying your entry:
 - I. Remnants of material used in the construction.
 - II. Name of project pattern or directions if made without a pattern.
 - III. Description of steps taken to assemble the project, either handwritten or typed.
 - IV. Pictures taken before, during the assembly, and the finished product.
 - V. **NOTE** – entries without the above items will not be accepted at check-in. If they are accepted at check-in in error, the judge will disqualify them.
- e. Each entry must be on a hanger appropriate for the size and weight of the item and must be fully covered with a plastic bag. If too large to fit on a hanger a sealable "quilt" bag is acceptable.
- f. Garments may have been worn but must be **freshly cleaned**.

QUILTS

Class 1	Hand Pieced - Hand Quilted
Class 2	Machine Pieced - Hand Quilted
Class 3	Machine Pieced - Machine Quilted
Class 4	Embroidered
Class 5	Wall hangings

CLOTHING-SEWING

Class 6	Dresses
Class 7	Suits, Coats, Jackets
Class 8	Blouses, Shirts
Class 9	Skirts
Class 10	Pants, Slacks, Shorts
Class 11	Ensembles (two to three pieces)
Class 12	Sleepwear, Lounge wear
Class 13	Apron
Class 14	Pillows (sewn)
Class 15	Non-quilted Sewn Blanket
Class 16	Tote Bags
Class 17	Stuff Toys
Class 18	Masks
Class 19	Evening Wear
Class 20	Miscellaneous



Harris County Fair Quilting/Sewing Rubric

Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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Indicators		Points Earned	Indicators		Points Earned
Quality and Technical Skills (30 points)	Precision in cutting and piecing fabric; overall fabric selection and compatibility (0-7 points)		Originality (20 points)	Distinctive features that set the piece apart and original concept (0-5 points)	
	Neatness and accuracy in stitching; appropriate tension and finishing of seams (0-8 points)			Demonstrates a departure from conventional quilting or sewing norms (0-5 points)	
	General cleanliness and attention to detail; mastery of techniques (0-7 points)			Precision and accuracy in execution (0-5 points)	
	Skillful execution of complex or intricate patterns; Attention to details (0-8 points)			Skillful rendering of form, texture, and perspective (0-5 points)	
Creativity (15 points)	Innovative use of color combinations and patterns (0-3 points)		Craftsmanship (30 points)	Precision in quilting or stitching lines (0-10 points)	
	Creative interpretation of traditional designs and unique arrangement and composition of elements (0-6 points)			Evenness and consistency in quilting or stitching density and skillful execution of binding and finishing (0-10 points)	
	Thoughtful incorporation of creative elements and overall creative expression (0-6 points)			Appropriate layering and batting choice in quilting and overall quality of craftsmanship (0-10 points)	
Record Book (15 points)	Photos of the step by step process; Inclusion of challenges and materials used (0-7 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:		
	Clear Documentation of concept and design (0-6 points)		Total Overall Points:		

PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

RULES

- a. Creative Arts General Rules apply.
- b. All photographs must have been taken by the Exhibitor.
- c. All photographs must be 8" x 10" in dimension, except for Class 10.
- d. All prints MUST be permanently glued OR mounted on a solid WHITE ONLY 11 x 14 mount board or foam board (Masonite, photo folders, corrugated cardboard or thin poster board is not acceptable). Make sure the mount board or foam board must be neat and clean and with straight edges because it enhances your photo. Any other matting including borders on pictures is not allowed and will result in disqualification, except for Class 10.

UPDATE!

- a. Projects not permanently glued or mounted are subject to disqualification.

UPDATE!

- e. A label including the following information must be affixed to the back of the photo in the center - Photo Title, Date Taken Camera Used, Description (Special Effects/Creative Effects only). Labels may be obtained at check-in.

- Class 1 People
- Class 2 Animals
- Class 3 Food
- Class 4 Night Photography
- Class 5 Nature & Landscape
- Class 6 Plant/Flora
- Class 7 Dominant Color
- Class 8 2024 Theme - "**Depth of Field**"
- Class 9 Black & White
- Class 10 Non-Traditional Size
- Class 11 Miscellaneous

DESCRIPTIONS OF DIVISIONS AND CLASSES:

- **People:** Photos focus from all walks of life, parenting and family, children, babies, models/ fashion, sports, and couples. *Examples include: Kids & Family, Models/Fashion, Sports.* Such photos may be photo journalistic, or in an interpretive portrait where the person rather than the environment is emphasized.
- **Animals:** Photos focusing on the various animals that have been tamed and made fit for a human environment. To be considered domesticated, the animal must have their behavior, life cycle, or physiology systematically altered as a result of being under human control for many generations. *Examples include: Dog, Sheep, Pig, Goat, Cow, Cat, Chicken, Horse, Camel, Goose, Duck, and Hamsters.* No harm or injury should be inflicted on the animal in order to acquire the photo.
- **Dominant Color:** Photos with a dominant color. The dominant element in the image must be a specific color, such as red, yellow, blue, white, black, white,

green, etc. Black & White photos, duotones, are excluded from this category.

- **Food:** Category is a still life specialization of photography, aimed at producing attractive photographs of food for use in such items of advertisements, packaging, menus and/or cookbooks.
- **Nature & Landscape:** The focus of this category includes landscapes, outdoor scenes, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors. *Examples include: Landscapes, Scenes, Outdoors*
- **Night Photography:** Photos taken outdoors between dusk and dawn. Generally, these photos are achieved by using artificial light or using a long exposure. This category can include any subject as the focus should be on the skill and technique used to acquire the photograph. *Examples include buildings/structures, animals, plant/flora, people, etc.*
- **Plant/Flora:** Photos of interesting, unique, and beautiful flowers and flora. Photography can occur outdoors or indoors. Photo subject should be that of a single flower, plant, bush, tree, etc. Large collections of plant/flora should be considered for entry into the Nature & Landscape category. *Examples include: a rose, an upward shot of a tree, a flower bouquet, etc.*
- **Theme:** Theme photos focus on a subject as announced and outlined in the contest rules. For the 2024 fair, the theme is "**Depth of Field**". Depth of Field is the distance between the nearest and furthest elements in a scene that appears to be "acceptably sharp" in an image. For example, where the subject is near and the background is far.
- **Black and White:** Any picture with black and white with continuing shades of gray. Not to be confused with pictures taken of items in purely black and white. *(Examples: piano keys)*
- **Non – Traditional 8" x 10":** This is any photo that can be sized as small as a 2" x 2", up to a 10" x 10" and any combination in between. *(Example: any size that is square, panoramic, 4" x 6", etc...)* This class photos will be mounted on a mount board or foam board with 3" sticking out past the photo. *(Example: If you have a 4" x 6" photo it will be mounted on a piece of mount board that is 7" x 9". If you have a 3" x 3" photo it will be mounted on a piece of mount board that is 9" x 9" etc...)*

CRITERIA USED FOR JUDGING PHOTOGRAPHY:

- **Focus:** Adjustment of the distance setting on a lens to appropriately define the subject. The focus should be appropriate to the theme/mood and/or photographic class.
- **Exposure:** The quantity of light allowed to act on a photographic material; a product of the intensity and the duration of light striking the film or paper. The exposure compliments the composition and gives the picture a smooth feeling or a particular effect.
- **Lighting:** The illumination of a subject. Use of light should produce the desired mood

or effect.

- **Print Quality:** The photo exhibits the quality consistent with display. There should be an absence of blemishes, scratches, overly enlarged (graininess), and pixelation. This also includes the quality of mounting.
- **Subject:** The photo uses the subject to deliver a message in a creative way. The photo should communicate the subject and fit the chosen category.
- **Composition:** Placement of the subject in the photo demonstrating artistic ability. The photo should have a pleasing balance that exists among all components of the composition.
- **Impact:** The photo clearly captures the attention of the viewer. The composition should convey a strong message.
- **Uniqueness:** Use of originality, camera angle, lighting, character studies, and/or creativity. The photographer should exhibit creativity through the photo.
- **NO PHOTOS OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED** Examples: Thanksgiving dinner, cakes/pies, fruits and place settings, Easter eggs, sandwiches, ingredients, etc.

Harris County Fair Photography Rubric



Exhibitor #:	Class#	Judge Initials:
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	Indicators	Points Earned		Indicators	Points Earned
<i>Focus and Exposure (23 points)</i>	Sharpness and clarity of the main subject (0-6 points)		<i>Print Quality and Impact (23 points)</i>	High-resolution and sharp print, from pixelation or distortion (0-6 points)	
	Appropriate depth of field, ensuring relevant elements are in focus (0-6 points)			Appropriate choice of paper or material, enhancing the visual appeal of the print (0-5 points)	
	Proper exposure - well-balanced highlights, midtones, and shadows (0-5 points)			Emotional or intellectual impact - the photo elicits a strong response/powerful message (0-6 points)	
	Correct use of exposure settings to convey the intended mood or tone (0-6 points)			Memorable and unforgettable, leaving a lasting impression on the viewer (0-6 points)	
<i>Subject and Lighting (23 points)</i>	Relevance to the theme or intended message of the photo (0-5 points)		<i>Composition and Uniqueness (23 points)</i>	Clean and professional presentation of the artwork (0-5 points)	
	Captivating and engaging subject matter, evoking interest and curiosity (0-6 points)			Effective use of framing, leading lines, and focal points to guide the viewer's eye (0-6 points)	
	Proper use of natural or artificial light to enhance the mood (0-6 points)			Originality and creativity in the concept or approach (0-6 points)	
	Balanced and appropriate lighting, avoiding harsh shadows or overexposed areas (0-6 points)			Unique perspective or interpretation of the subject, setting the photo apart from others (0-6 points)	
<i>Proper Mounting (8 points)</i>	Clean cuts of board, properly centered, mounted on top of board. (0-8 points)		Judges Comments/Suggestions/Notes:		
Total Overall Points:					