

Attention All Quilters

2025 Quilting Challenge

“Curl Up With a Good Book Quilt”

Two Size Categories - No Age Restriction - Cash Premiums

Your quilting project must be themed around a well loved book... personally or in your family.
Your use of color should match the theme of the book.

“Quilting Challenge” Rules and Entry Registration on Forms are in the Arts and Crafts Department section of www.ManateeCountyFair.com. On the home page, click on Fair Events Info and then click on Arts and Crafts. Download, print and fill out the form. If you cannot download and print the form, there will be one available at registration. This year you do not need to pre-register. When you bring your Quilt Challenge entries to the Chaires Building on January 11th or 12th, 2025, you will be entering it in Division 70 or 71, depending on the size of the entry.

2025 FAIR HOURS

Date	Gate Hours	Building Hours	Midway Hours
Jan. 16, Thurs.	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Jan. 17, Fri.	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 11:30 pm
Jan. 18, Sat.	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 11:30 pm
Jan. 19, Sun.	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Jan. 20, Mon.	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Jan. 21, Tues.	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Jan. 22, Wed.	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	3:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Jan. 23, Thurs.	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Jan. 24, Fri.	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	5:00 pm – 11:30 pm
Jan. 25, Sat.	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 10:00 pm	12:00 pm – 11:30 pm
Jan. 26, Sun	12:00 pm – 7:00 pm	12:00 pm – 7:00 pm	12:00 pm – 7:00 pm



SCAN ME

Manatee County Fair
1402 14th Avenue West, Palmetto, FL 34221
www.ManateeCountyFair.com
Information 941-722-8951 Fair Office 941-722-1639
(Office is located on 13th Ave W.)

CHECKLIST

Please Read Carefully!

- ☐ Was your entry completed or done in the 12 months before the 2025 Fair?
- ☐ Have you double checked the entry dates and times?
- ☐ Have you read both the general and category rules for your entry?
- ☐ Does your entry meet the size requirements?
- ☐ Does your frame have a proper hanging wire if needed?
- ☐ Is your entry in good taste?
- ☐ Check how many entries you can have.
- ☐ **The Arts & Crafts**

Committee really dislikes to disqualify an exhibit, so please, make all our volunteers happy and follow the rules!

While You Are in the Arts & Crafts Department Visit the Cookie Kitchen to get your cookies and milk and The Fair Store to get t-shirts, hats and other fair souvenirs!

FAIR PASSES

If you are an exhibitor in Arts & Crafts, you can purchase one (1) 2025 Gate Pass for \$30.00. This will get you in the gate all eleven days of the fair.

Passes may be purchased on entry days in the Chaires building or take your exhibitor receipt to the Fair Office. This pass is not good for midway rides or parking and is not transferable.



2025 ENTRY DATES

Culinary Arts & Food
Saturday, Jan. 11th, 9am – Noon

Hobbies, Crafts & Needle Arts, Fine Art, Photography
Saturday, Jan. 11th, 9am – 4pm
Sunday, Jan. 12th, 9am – 4 pm

All entries will be received in the Chaires Building. Walk through entry at Gate 2 and 3 on 17th St. W. in Palmetto.

2025 RELEASE DATE

Hobbies, Crafts, & Needle Arts, Fine Art, Photography and Culinary Arts & Food

Monday, Jan. 27th, 3 pm–7 pm
Ribbons may be picked up on this date.

No food is returned. Any entry not picked up on release date will become property of the Manatee County Fair and will be donated or discarded after January 27th.

ELIGIBILITY

Exhibiting is open to all residents of Manatee County. Winter residents must live in Manatee County for at least (3) months a year.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Each exhibitor may enter up to ten (10) items total for judging in the Arts & Crafts Department. Check for the maximum number that is allowed in each category.

Crafts - five (5)
Fine Arts - five (5)
Culinary Arts & Food (5)
Photography - three (3)

Example: Three in Crafts, two in Fine Arts, and three in Photography and two in Culinary arts.

Each exhibitor will receive their own exhibitor number when they bring in their entries.

CATEGORIES

Hobbies, Crafts & Needle Arts
Culinary Arts & Food
Fine Art
Photography

Arts & Crafts Department

2025 OFFICIAL RULES

January 16 - 26, 2025 ManateeCountyFair.com

ENTRY FORMS

The 2025 **Example** Entry Form will be available to view on the Fair Website by October 1st, 2024. This is not your official entry form. The final multi-layered form will be filled in at the Fairgrounds.

You will be asked if your work is original design, a kit or a pattern. This is to insure that it is seen by the correct judge. **IMPORTANT: NO EARLY DROP OFF ACCEPTED.** Be sure to read the **General Rules** section as well as the **Category Rules**.

JUDGING

- Each entry will be judged fairly on its own merit, using the **Danish Judging System**. An explanation of the Danish Judging System can be found in the Arts & Crafts section at ManateeCountyFair.com
- Judging is done by the most qualified judges available.
- The names of the exhibitors are concealed during judging so each entry will be judged fairly on its own merit.
- The entry of only one item in a division does not necessarily guarantee the top award for that entry.
- Only the top ribbon award will be displayed on each exhibit except for the “Marie Abel Awards” and other special awards that will accompany rosettes.
- No one other than the committee members, volunteers and judges will be allowed to remain in the building during judging. Please do not call to request results.

ADULT AWARDS

Best of Show

Six purple Best of Show rosettes and \$25.00 each will be awarded: Crafts (3), Culinary Arts (1), Fine Arts (1), Photography (1). **Marie Abel Award**
Blue Rosette, plaque and \$25.00 awarded to five (5) top needlework artists.

YOUTH AWARDS

Best of Show

Six purple Best of Show rosettes and \$25.00 each will be awarded: Crafts (3), Culinary Arts (1), Fine Arts (1) Photography (1).
Blue Rosette \$10.00
Red Rosette \$8.00
Blue Ribbon \$5.00

AWARD MONEY

May be picked up at the Finance Building after 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 21st 2025. No money will be available until this time. Award money is awarded according to the judges’ records and not necessarily to attached ribbons. If award money is not picked up within 90 days of the end of the fair, it is forfeited. All awards must be signed for by the exhibitor or a family member.

Prize money will also be available on Release Day – Monday, Jan 27th.

OTHER AWARDS

Manatee-Sarasota Fish

& Game Association Awards

Will present an award and \$25 to an adult and youth in the Photography category to the exhibitor with the picture that best depicts the natural beauty of Manatee County.

Paul Bartley Awards

The department will present an award and \$25 to an adult and youth in the Photography category to the exhibitor with the picture that best depicts people of Manatee County.

Susan Keen Awards

Yellow Rosettes and \$25 will be awarded to five unique and creative entries in any division by the Arts & Crafts Committee.

Gene Page Awards

The Department will present an award and \$25.00 to an adult and youth in the photography category to the exhibitor who best depicts good sports or good sportsmanship photography.

Demonstrations

If you, or your hobby, arts or crafts group would be interested in demonstrating in Arts & Crafts, please contact the Fair Office and let us know

Sponsor Awards

Fair sponsors are invited to recognize an entry in the department that they find exceptional. A ribbon will be awarded.





Please read the General rules AND the Category rules and regulations that govern Arts & Crafts before entering your items.

GENERAL RULES

Arts & Crafts Department is for competition, education, exhibition and demonstration purposes. Sale of entries is not permitted.

Each exhibitor may enter up to ten (10) items **total**, for judging in Arts & Crafts Department. **Check for the maximum that is allowed in each category.**

- Crafts - five (5)
- Fine Arts - five (5)
- Photography - three (3)
- Culinary Arts (5)

Example: 3 in Crafts, 2 in Fine Arts, and 3 in Photography and 2 in Culinary Arts.

Entries must be the work of the exhibitor and must have been completed in the 12 months prior to the 2025 Fair. Entries must not have been entered previously in the Manatee County Fair.

Entries exhibited previously under the same name or another name will be disqualified.

The Manatee County Fair will exercise all reasonable security, but cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to entries.

The Arts & Crafts Committee will screen all entries and may disqualify entries considered offensive, too fragile, soiled, spoiled, in poor taste or those entries in which the General and Category rules have not been followed.

Items to be judged must be submitted by the submitting exhibitor or a family member.

If any exhibitor is found to have made a fraudulent statement about any entry, all awards to that entry shall be forfeited and the entry disqualified.

To claim entries, the entry form copy from Entry Day must be presented.

No entry in any category shall be removed before January 27th 2025.

HOBBIES, CRAFTS, NEEDLE ARTS CATEGORY

Original designs should be noted on the entry form for proper judging. Some items could be entered under crafts or fine arts. You may have to make a choice based on where your entry will be best judged.

Legos are to be mounted securely on a **sturdy** base. The Lego base is too flexible and when it is moved, any flexibility makes breakage more likely. Attaching the Lego base to a piece of plywood, or other non-flexible material, will solve this problem. Make base to fit exhibit but not to exceed 2'x2'x2'. The exhibit cannot be larger than the base. You may put one or more sides on the base to create a backdrop.

Exhibitors must provide dowels, hangers, extension cords, stands, etc. for items needing these things. Please label these items with your name. All framed items that need to be hung (such as counted cross stitch) need to have hanging wire securely attached with screw eyes.

Division 12 horticultural exhibits must be of reasonable weight and size, as very large horticultural entries cannot be handled by department volunteers and space is limited.

If your exhibit is heavy, bring additional help with you on Receiving and Release days. If you have a horticultural entry you may need to visit during the fair to see to it's care.

DIVISIONS

Traditional Crafts

- Division 10 • Basket Weaving
- Division 11 • Ceramics
- Division 12 • Horticultural Crafts*
- Division 13 • Woodworking & Carving
- Division 14 • Sportsman
- Division 15 • Dolls
- Division 16 • Jewelry & Beadwork
- Division 17 • Glass
- Needle & Textile Arts
- Division 20 • Embroidery
- Division 21 • Needlepoint
- Division 22 • Quilting***
- Division 23 • Cross Stitch
- Division 24 • Sewing
- Division 25 • Knitting
- Division 26 • Crochet
- Division 27 • Spinning & Weaving
- Division 28 • Machine Embroidery
- Division 29 • Textile Art & Mixed Media

Eclectic Arts & Crafts

- Division 30 • Miscellaneous
- Division 31 • Group Project
- Division 32 • Recycled Craft **
- Division 33 • Scrapbooking
- Division 34 • Legos

- Division 35 • Mixed Media
- Division 36 • Holiday Decorations

* Must have roots. Live wreaths, fairy gardens, etc.

** Must be at least 50% recycled materials.

*** All kinds of quilts. Be sure to give additional information on your entry tag so that it will be judged by the most appropriate judge.

CULINARY ARTS & FOOD CATEGORY

All foods must be the work of the exhibitor. Recipes entered in previous years may not be used. Including those previously entered under another person's name. The same or very similar entries from the same household will be disqualified.

All entries must be accompanied by one copy of the recipe... typed or clearly printed in black ink on the official recipe sheet. You can get it from the Manatee County Fair website, at the Fair Office or you can fill it out when you bring your entry. No index cards. Please do not add graphics or writing other than the recipe name and recipe. The recipe must list all ingredients used, and amounts, in the order of use, as well as the method of preparation in order. Please state if this is an original recipe. All recipes become the property of the Manatee County Fair and may be published at a later date. Credit will be given to the exhibitor.

Bring all non-canning entries in covered disposable containers. No containers will be returned. Cake decorating should preferably be done on disposable forms. If an actual cake is submitted in the division, it will not be judged for taste, only appearance. Amounts needed for judging and/or display: Cookies, Muffins, etc. -1 dozen. Cakes, Pies, Breads, etc. – whole. Soups, Stews, etc. – 1 quart if fresh or 2 one pint containers if canned. Pickles, Relishes, Butters, Chutneys, etc. – 2 one pint containers. Jams, Jellies, etc. – 2 half pint jars.

CANNING

Canned foods will be judged for presentation, pack, taste, and individuality. Please bring two jars of canned foods per entry: one jar for judging, one for display. All canning must be processed in the twelve months prior to the 2025 Fair. All canning must be in clear glass standard canning jar with two-piece sealing lids. Jellies may be in decorative clear glass jars with one piece sealing lids. Paraffin is not accepted. Vinegars may be in decorative glass containers. No food coloring is permitted unless specified for fancy packs and should be noted on the recipe. Each canning jar should have a label listing food and date canned. No exhibitor names, please. Foods needing to be warmed for judging must have this clearly stated on exhibitor tag and entry sheet. Please no raw eggs in or on any finished product.

Entries made from mixes should be the base for a recipe with other ingredients. Use Division 57.

Yes! Our Judges sample almost everything!

DIVISIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Division 40 • Appetizers & Snacks | Division 51 • Pies & Cheesecakes |
| Division 41 • Beverage | Division 52 • Desserts, other |
| Division 42 • Breads | Division 53 • Condiments |
| Division 43 • Salads | Division 54 • Canned Foods |
| Division 44 • Soups, Stews & Chowders | Division 55 • Non-edibles: Garnishes |
| Division 45 • Casseroles | Decorative Cakes, Gingerbread Houses, |
| Division 46 • Entre'es | dog biscuits, etc. |
| Division 47 • Candies | Division 56 • Special Needs Foods: low- |
| Division 48 • Cookies | salt, gluten-free, etc. |
| Division 49 • Cakes & Cupcakes | Division 57 • "It started with a mix" |
| Division 50 • Brownies & Bars | |

FINE ART CATEGORY

All flat fine art entries must be mounted, matted or framed. Overall dimensions of exhibit, including mat and/or frame, shall not exceed 24" x 36" or 864 square inches.

All FRAMES must have a hanging wire properly attached or the entry may be disqualified. Entries mounted on foam core or mats (1/4" maximum thickness) may be hung using clips, velcro or an adhesive hanger. These will be added by department volunteers.

The rules are to ensure the safety of the exhibit for Fair patrons as well as the quality and overall appearance of the show.

The Chaires building is very damp and has no heat or air conditioning. The Arts and Crafts Committee suggests that using foam core is best for matting or mounting your work. **If your work comes apart due to environmental reasons, it will have to be removed from the display.**

Please present your work well. Presentation may either enhance or detract from your work and influence a judges decision.

No pre-sketched work such as paint by numbers or kits will be accepted in Fine Arts. These items are accepted in Hobbies, Crafts and Needle Arts.

DIVISIONS

Division 60 • Decorative Arts

China painting, tole painting, etc.

Division 61 • Graphics

Computer drawn art, charcoal, pen & ink, pencil & crayon, illustrated manuscripts, etc.

Division 62 • Miscellaneous Arts

Sculpture, glass, stained and fused glass, jewelry, porcelain, recycled materials (more than 50% recycled materials)

Division 63 • Painting

All Media, acrylics, oil, water color, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY

All photography entries must be mounted, matted or framed. Photos must be at least 8" x 8" or 64 square inches.

Overall dimensions of the exhibit, including mat and/or frame shall not exceed 20" x 24".

All FRAMES

Wires on the back of photography exhibits are no longer required. However having a wire on the back is acceptable. If the exhibit is hung on a wall and has no wire, one will be added by department volunteers.

Entries mounted on foam core or mats (1/4" maximum thickness) may be hung using clips, velcro or adhesive hangers that will be supplied. The rules are to ensure the safety of the exhibit for Fair patrons as well as the quality and overall appearance of the show.

The Chaires Building is very damp and has no heat or air conditioning. The Arts and Crafts Committee suggests that using foam core is best for matting or mounting your work. **If your work comes apart due to environmental reasons, it will have to be removed from the display.**

Please present your work well. Presentation may either enhance or detract from your work and influence a judges' decision.

If you processed your own film, or digitally enhanced or altered the photo, please note the method on your exhibitor tag and entry sheet. Removing "red-eye", adjusting brightness or cropping is not considered altered or enhanced – but changing the sky to green is!

DIVISIONS

Division 64 • All photography

Additional information about the photograph must be included on the entry sheet and also on the exhibit tag. Example: film photography, self developed, major digital enhancement.