

Memo: Division 34-Legos and other building blocks

Greetings from the Arts and Crafts Department of the Manatee County Fair.

Our Craft Division 34, "Legos and other Building Blocks" entries have been growing year by year. It's a wonderful thing to see. Everyone is getting more creative and the workmanship is great. Each exhibitor is only allowed to enter three (3) exhibits in Division 34. So, bring your best and most creative three entries.

While we have lowered the number of exhibits, we are expanding your ability to bring a better exhibit. The rules state that the maximum size can be 24"x24"x24". We have added the words "or 13,824 cubic inches". Yes...do the math! This makes us consistent with our Fine Arts and Photography rules. It has come to our attention that there are a lot of really great kits and ideas that are larger in some dimension than the 24" that we have specified. Examples are, a train, a famous skyscraper or a ship.

A perfect example is the Lego "Titanic" kit. It is 54 inches long, but only 7 inches wide. If you mounted it on a 60"x12" board and it is 18 inches high, it would qualify to be entered at 12,960 cubic inches, (60x12x18). With an attached backboard and some really great ocean and iceberg painting.....This could be a top winner.

We have to address smaller exhibits. Many of our entries look like the same base is used year after year, even if the entry really would look a lot better with a smaller base. Keep in mind that the judges look at the entire project, and a lot of empty space usually does not enhance the appearance. Keep it balanced in size and if you are going to create a scene, do a really good job. It does not have to be elaborate and sometimes simple is best because it does not take the focus from your project.

Another Hint: "We have been told" that there is a product that can be used to "glue" your Lego project together. When you are ready to take it apart, just soak it in warm water and it comes apart easily. We are not necessarily recommending it, but just letting people know that it exists.

Be sure to pick up your project on the right day. It is the day after the Fair closes. Check times on your copy of the entry form. Remember to bring your copy of the entry form with you. We need to make sure that your project gets back to you.

We are looking forward to seeing you in January!