ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS

2027 Quilting Challenge

"Food Glorious Food - Farm to Table"

Two Size Categories | No Age Restriction | Cash Premiums

Your quilting project must be themed around a food grown in Manatee County. Your use of color should match the theme of your project.

"Quilting Challenge" Rules and Entry Registration Forms are in the Arts and Crafts Department section of **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. You do not need to preregister.

When you **bring your Quilt Challenge entries** to the Chaires Building on **January 9th or 10th, 2027**, you will be **entering it in Division 70 or 71**, depending on the size of the entry.

CHECKLIST

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

- ❑ Was your entry completed or done in the 12 months before the 2027 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) 2027 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.

2027 FAIR GATE/BUILDING HOURS

Thursday, January 14
5:00 - 10:00 PM

Friday, January 15
5:00 - 10:00 PM

Saturday, January 16
12:00 - 10:00 PM

Sunday, January 17
12:00 - 10:00 PM

Monday, January 18
12:00 - 10:00 PM

Tuesday, January 19
5:00 - 10:00 PM

Wednesday, January 20
12:00 - 10:00 PM

Thursday, January 21
5:00 - 10:00 PM

Friday, January 22
5:00 - 10:00 PM

Saturday, January 23
12:00 - 10:00 PM

Sunday, January 24
12:00 - 7:00 PM

MANATEE COUNTY FAIR

1402 14th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

ManateeCountyFair.com

Information: 941-722-8951
Fair Office: 941-722-1639
(Office is located on 13th Ave. W)

Manatee County FAIR

Arts & Crafts Department 2027 OFFICIAL RULES

JANUARY 14 - 24, 2027 | ManateeCountyFair.com

2027 ENTRY DATES

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

Hobbies, Crafts & Needle Arts, Fine Art, Photography
Saturday, Jan. 9th, 9am – 4pm
Sunday, Jan. 10th, 9am – 4 pm

CHAIRES BUILDING
Walk through entry at Gate 2 and 3 on 17th St. W. in Palmetto.

2027 RELEASE DATE

Hobbies, Crafts, & Needle Arts, Fine Art, Photography, and Culinary Arts & Food
Monday, Jan. 25th, 3 pm–7 pm

Culinary Ribbons may be picked up on this date, but 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 25, 2027.

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) NEW Three (3) entries in Division 34-Legos & Other Building Blocks**
- **Fine Arts - five (5)**
- **Culinary Arts & Food (5)**
- **Photography - three (3)**

Example: Three in Crafts, two in Fine Arts, 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**

ENTRY FORMS

The 2027 Entry Forms will be filled out when you arrive at the Chaires Building.

Optional exceptions are:

Culinary Arts Recipes - The Arts and Crafts Committee encourages you to download the Recipe Form and correctly write out the recipe before bringing in your entry.

The Quilting Challenge entry form - If you would like to download and fill it out ahead of time, it will save you a lot of time when you bring in your entry.

You will be asked if your work is original design, a kit or a pattern. This is to ensure 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

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 19th 2027**. 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 25th.**

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.

JANUARY 14 - 24, 2027
ManateeCountyFair.com

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) NEW Three (3) entries in Division 34-Legos & Other building blocks**
- **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 2027 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.

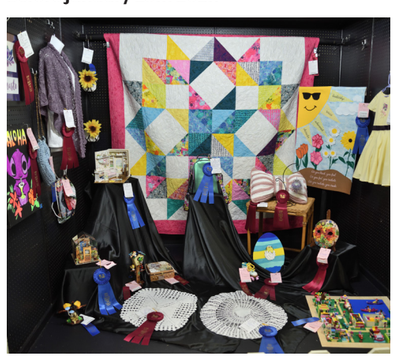
The Arts & Crafts Committee will screen all entries and may disqualify entries considered offensive, too fragile, soiled, spoiled, in poor taste or those entries in which the General and Category rules have not been followed.

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 25th 2027.



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 and other building blocks 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 24"x24"x24" or 13,824 cubic inches. The exhibit cannot be larger than the base. You may put one or more sides on the base to create a backdrop. For more information on Division 34, go to **ManateeCountyFair.com** and go to the Arts and Crafts section.

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 & Other Building Blocks
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. – 1quart 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.**
- **Condiments - 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 2027 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 41 · Beverage
Division 42 · Breads
Division 43 · Salads
Division 44 · Soups, Stews & Chowders
Division 45 · Casseroles
Division 46 · Entre'es
Division 47 · Candies
Division 48 · Cookies
Division 49 · Cakes & Cupcakes
Division 50 · Brownies & Bars
Division 51 · Pies & Cheesecakes
Division 52 · Desserts, other
Division 53 · Condiments
Division 54 · Canned Foods
Division 55 · Non-edibles: Garnishes, Decorative Cakes, Gingerbread Houses,dog biscuits, etc.
Division 56 · Special Needs Foods: low-salt, gluten-free, etc.
Division 57 · "It started with a mix"

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" × 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.

New in all Fine Art Divisions, except for Computer Drawn Art (Division 64), you must submit the actual artwork, not a digital copy of it.

Any entries that are not the actual work will be disqualified or entered as Computer Generated Art.

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
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.

Division 64 • Computer Drawn Art

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY

All photography entries must be mounted, matted or framed. Photos must be at least 8"×8" or 64 square inches. Overall dimensions of the exhibit, including mat and/or frame shall not exceed 20"×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 65 • All Photography
Additional information about the photograph must be included on the entry sheet and also o n the exhibit tag.

Example: film photography, self developed, major digital enhancement.