

Creative Arts Division 13

Woodcarving

New Mexico State Fair

September 10 – 20, 2026

Art Director

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Sponsored by:

Rio Grande Woodcarvers

Entry Dates

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

ENTRY FEE: \$5.00

Fees are Non-Refundable

5 Entries Maximum per class, per person.
Only one ribbon may be awarded

Special Rules

1. Only entries carved from wood will be accepted, except for incidental use of other materials. All carvings **must be hand carved**. Use of rotary power tools, such as foredom or dremel, is permitted. Judge's decisions are Final.

2. All entries must have been carved by the exhibitor or as the primary team member of two individuals, e.g., carver and painter, who worked together on a particular carving/work. All entries must have been completed within the last 12 months.
3. Entries with multiple pieces must be attached to a single base.
4. Carvings which have been awarded a ribbon/prize at any previous NM State Fair are ineligible.
5. All carvings or other items requiring hanging must have proper display hanging devices.
6. If a class exists that best fits the entry, that is the only class in which it may be entered.
7. Intake committee and/or judges may reject or reclassify entries regarding which section/class a carver's entry should be entered in, decisions are final.
8. Judges may choose to disallow awards in any class. Judge's decisions are final.
9. Large entries may be displayed in open areas.
10. Precautions are taken for the safety of all entries, but in no case, will the New Mexico State Fair, the state of New Mexico, employees, contractors or volunteers be held liable for the loss or damages to any entry while in the Fair's possession. Participants are encouraged to carry their own insurance.
11. Participant recognizes that marketing of the Fair and its grounds requires use of photography and video. Participant hereby expressly grants to the Fair the irrevocable, assignable right and license to take, use and publish participant images and work without the need for any other approval. Images and work will not be used for profit.
12. Participants are responsible for picking up their own work or providing written authorization for pick-up by another individual.
13. Work must be picked up Tuesday, September 22, 2026, from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Any work remaining on the Fairgrounds after this date will be considered abandoned and shall become the property of the NM State Fair to be disposed of at its discretion.

Sections 494 – 497

Ribbon Awards

(Awards are given per class in each section)

1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place

Best of Show – Rosette

Note: Best of Show will be awarded only in sections where there are three (3) or more entries.

Woodcarving

Section 493 – 497

Section 493:

Youth – 17 years and under.

Section 494:

Novice – Anyone who has not won three first place ribbons in any woodcarving competition and/or has been carving for three years or less.

Section 495:

Intermediate – Anyone who has won three first place ribbons in any woodcarving competition or elects to compete in the intermediate section.

Section 496:

Advanced – Anyone who has won ten first place ribbons in any section or elects to compete in the advanced section.

Section 497:

Professional – Anyone who carves, does wood burning or instructs.

Section 493 – Youth

Class 1-8

1. Animals
2. Birds
3. Caricature
4. Human Figures
5. Miscellaneous
6. Ornamental/Whittled/Stylized
7. Relief
8. Woodburning

Class 9-32

9. Animal Caricature
10. Animal Realistic
11. Aquatic Animals or Reptiles
12. Bark, Driftwood, Cypress Knees, Roots, etc.
13. Bird or Waterfowl Caricature
14. Bird or Waterfowl Realistic
15. Canes or Walking Sticks
16. Chip Carved
17. Deep Relief
18. Fantasy or Mythological
19. Group, Caricature
20. Group, Realistic
21. Human Figure, Caricature
22. Human Figure, Realistic
23. Low Relief
24. Miscellaneous
25. Ornamental, Includes wall piece, table piece, picture frame, buckle, box, bookends, gun stocks, etc.
26. Santa Claus
27. Stylized or Abstract
28. Symbolic
29. Symbolic, Hispanic Style
30. Symbolic, Native American Style
31. Whittled Pieces
32. Woodburning

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS: Sections 494 - 497

9. **Animal Caricature** – Animal figure or major portion thereof, carved in the round. Exaggerated or distorted parts or features to dramatize a peculiarity and create a comic or humorous effect. Includes aquatic mammals. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed but not encouraged.

10. **Animal Realistic** - Animal figure, or the major portion thereof, carved in the round. Fidelity to nature with correct proportions and minimum stylization. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed, but not encouraged. Painted or unpainted.
11. **Aquatic Animals or Reptiles** - Realistically carved whales, dolphins, fish, turtle, frog, snake, and reptiles. Fidelity to nature with correct proportions and minimum stylization. Includes aquatic mammals. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed, but not encouraged. Painted or unpainted.
12. **Bark, Driftwood, Cypress Knees, Roots, etc.** - A carving in or on wood or wood shapes found in nature. Any subject. Natural or stained finish. Excludes uncarved wood. Some natural surface must be exposed.
13. **Bird or Waterfowl Caricature** - Bird or Waterfowl figure or major portion thereof, carved in the round. Exaggerated or distorted parts or features to dramatize a peculiarity and create a comic or humorous effect. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed, but not encouraged. Painted or unpainted.
14. **Bird or Waterfowl Realistic** - Bird or Waterfowl figures, or the major portion thereof, carved in the round. Fidelity to nature with correct color, shape and proportion with minimum stylization. Foreign materials are allowed, but not encouraged. Painted or unpainted.
15. **Canes or Walking Sticks** - Carving of functional or decorative devices associated with aids to walking or defense. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed. Painted or unpainted.
16. **Chip Carved** - Pattern or design incised into the wood by removal of regular chips or series of lines to form engraved design lower than the surface of the wood. May decorate other wood objects. Finish optional, but visible wood grain is encouraged.
17. **Deep Relief** – Carving in which forms and figures are not individual objects themselves but are relieved from the background which forms an integral part of the carving. Figures and forms fully modeled and deeply undercut. Any finish.
18. **Fantasy or Mythological** – Carving that represents mythological creatures such as dragons and unicorns, or beings, such as Zeus and Thor, or fantasy representations of made-up beings and creatures. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed, but not encouraged.
19. **Group, Caricature** – Two or more figures of living species carved in the round comprising a single scene. Exaggerated or distorted parts and features to dramatize a peculiarity and create a comic or humorous effect. Painted or unpainted.
20. **Group, Realistic** - Two or more figures of living species carved in the round comprising a single scene. True to nature with correct proportions and without excessive stylization. Painted or unpainted.
21. **Human Figure, Caricature** - Human figure or major portion thereof, carved in the round. Combination of human and animal figures permitted, human figure must be clearly dominant. Distortion or exaggerated parts or features to dramatize a peculiarity and create a comic or humorous effect. Incidental use of foreign materials is allowed, but not encouraged. Painted or unpainted.

22. **Human Figure, Realistic** – Human figure or major portion thereof, carved in the round. Combination of human and animal figures permitted provided human figure is clearly dominant. Fidelity to nature with correct shape and proportion with minimum stylization. Secondary use of foreign materials is allowed, but not encouraged. Painted or unpainted.
23. **Low Relief** - Carving in which forms and figures are not individual objects themselves, but are relieved from the background which is an integral part of the carving. Shallow depth, little or no undercutting. Any finish.
24. **Miscellaneous** – Any entry which does not fit in any of the other classes.
25. **Ornamental** – Carvings which decorate another object or are ornamental objects themselves Any finish. Includes chip carved pieces.
26. **Santa Claus** – One or more human like figures carved in the round representing a mythical visitor associated with a winter holiday season. Unpainted accepted, but not encouraged.
27. **Stylized or Abstract** – Figures carved in the round to represent or resemble figures in nature. Identifiable without exact shape, proportion and fidelity to natural features. Abstract with intrinsic form with little or no attempt at pictorial representation. May be painted or unpainted.
28. **Symbolic** – Carved items of a religious theme. Painted or unpainted. Excludes Santa Claus figures and symbolic figures done in the Hispanic or Native American style.
29. **Symbolic – Hispanic Style** – Carvings executed in the New Mexico Style depicting religious figures or themes associated with religious rites or celebrations. May be painted or unpainted. Includes santos, retablos, crosses, etc.
30. **Symbolic – Native American Style** – Native American ceremonial images, Kachinas, totem poles, masks, dancers, etc. Correct body shape and proportion where applicable. Appropriate use of foreign materials such as stones, feathers, beads, cloth, and metal are permitted. May be painted or unpainted.
31. **Whittled Pieces** – After preparing a cut-out, the work must be done entirely with a knife; the use of power tools, gouges, chisels, v-tools, or sanding is disallowed; the work includes carving in the round, figures of all sorts, objects and decorative items. Painted or stained permitted but not encouraged. Excludes canes and walking sticks.
32. **Woodburning** - A figure, scene or design burned into a piece of wood.