

# 2026 Special Events Department

This department contains both YOUTH and ADULT contests. All contests in this department are held DURING THE FAIR. Please read each division carefully as rules and procedures may vary.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** June 25, 2026.

On-line entry is available through our website [www.ozarkempirefair.com](http://www.ozarkempirefair.com).

Registration forms to mail in are available at [www.ozarkempirefair.com](http://www.ozarkempirefair.com) or the Exhibits Office.

Exhibitor tags will be mailed in July to the name and address on registration form.

Receive one (1) FREE admission ticket if you enter 15 or more paid entries (all departments combined).

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**SPECIAL EVENT ENTRY FEES:**  
**ADULTS and YOUTH\*: \$2.00 per entry**  
**Youth Flowers: no entry fee**

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**CHECK-IN and CHECK-OUT:** All contests in this department take place DURING the Fair. Check-in and Check-out dates and times vary. (Be sure you receive your admission ticket for each contest.)

## REGULATIONS:

1. All entries are governed by the Life & Arts Rules and the rules for this department.
2. Exhibitor is limited to one (1) exhibit in a class.
3. Allowable age of exhibitors varies in each division. Please read division descriptions carefully.
4. Articles that have been exhibited at any previous Ozark Empire Fair are not eligible for entry.
5. Exhibits must have been completed within the last two (2) years, unless otherwise indicated in specific division rules.
6. Any exhibit to be displayed by hanging must be provided with a suitable hanging device.
7. Superintendents will have the authority to remove and dispose of foods that become unsightly.
8. For any foods competitions, exhibit must be made from scratch (no mixes) unless instructions specifically allow mixes. Read division rules carefully.
9. For any foods competitions that require submitting the recipe, the recipe should be typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor number and class number must be included on recipe. Recipe may not be used in any other contest in any other division or department in this year's fair.
10. Prize money will be paid to the number of places indicated for each class, if quality merits. Judges may occasionally award ribbons for additional placings, but no money will be paid for additional ribbons.
11. Champion ribbons will only be awarded to divisions of **three** or more classes in which the average entry per class is **three** exhibitors with at least **one** entry per class.
12. In order to have this exhibit of as high quality as possible, the right is reserved to reject all unsuitable exhibits, to determine that all rules and regulations have been followed and that no identification of the exhibitor in any form is displayed during judging.
13. **Judging Guidelines: see Judging Guidelines link.**

2026 SPECIAL EVENTS		
Date / Time	Contest	Exhibitors
<b>Thursday, July 30</b>		
5 p.m.	For the Birds	adults and youth
<b>Friday, July 31</b>		
2 p.m.	Paint a Plate	adults and youth
4 p.m.	Gift Baskets – <b>NEW CLASSES!</b>	adults
6 p.m.	Sophisticated Shimmer – Jell-O Mold Competition <b>NEW!</b>	adults
<b>Saturday, August 1</b>		
1 p.m.	Hammons Products Black Walnut “Bold, wild” Cooking Contest	adults
3 p.m.	Pies	adults
3 p.m.	Youth Leather Contest	Youth (on the spot)
5 p.m.	Bricks and Mini-figs Tournament	Youth (on the spot)
<b>Sunday, August 2</b>		
2 p.m.	Chocolate Sunday	adults
4 p.m.	King Arthur Baking Contest – Crisps and Cobblers	adults and youth
6 p.m.	Quick Breads	adults and youth
<b>Monday, August 3</b>		
2 p.m.	Grandparents’ Cookie Contest	Grandparents only
4 p.m.	American Heritage Recipes <b>NEW!</b>	adults
6 p.m.	Muffin Monday <b>NEW!</b>	adults and youth
<b>Tuesday, August 4</b>		
	Flowers Grown by Youth Exhibitors	youth
2 p.m.	Scrapbook Challenge	adults and youth
4 p.m.	Red, White, and Blue Centerpieces <b>NEW!</b>	adults and youth
<b>Wednesday, August 5</b>		
2 p.m.	Creative Cupcakes	adults and youth
4 p.m.	Crafty Cookies	adults and youth
6 p.m.	Spaghetti Towers	adults and youth
<b>Thursday, August 6</b>		
4 p.m.	Cowboy Hoover Hobo Stew <b>NEW!</b>	adults
6 p.m.	Cream Cheesy	adults and youth

Friday, August 7		
4 p.m.	Youth Cook's Challenge <b>NEW!</b>	Youth
6 p.m.	Battle of the Boards	adults and youth
Saturday, August 8		
3 p.m.	Youth Leather Contest	Youth (on the spot)
4 p.m.	Perfect Picnic	adults
6 p.m.	Cook's Challenge – <b>NEW ingredients!</b>	adults

There will be daily **ON-THE-SPOT** contests open to anyone attending the fair each day. No pre-registration required. On-the-spot contests will be announced daily by the grounds announcer, posted on Facebook, and daily contest schedule near our contest stage.

### DIVISION 501 – FOR THE BIRDS

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 5 p.m.

Prize money: \$4 - \$3 - \$2

<b>Adults and Youth</b>
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**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **THURSDAY, JULY 30** 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Competition begins at 5 p.m. and is open to the public. Adult competition follows youth. (This is during the Fair, be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. If your birdhouse or feeder is designed for a specific type of bird, write it on the exhibitor tag.
- c. Houses and feeders may be made of any material (wood, gourd, etc.). **Kits NOT allowed.**
- d. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair and will be released on regular check-out day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

Class Youth	Class Adult
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- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | Bird house, functional  |
| 2 | 6 | Bird house, decorative  |
| 3 | 7 | Bird feeder, functional   |
| 4 | 8 | Suet Feeder – homemade suet and original suet feeder combination (may be from recycled items, i.e. coffee mug, tin can, gourd, cookie cutter, etc.) |

## DIVISION 502 – PAINT A PLATE

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2 p.m.

Prize money: \$4 - \$3 - \$2

Adult and Youth

*Pick a plate and create a unique serving dish with an original design with items provided by the Life & Arts department!*

### Additional information:

- a. Check-in: **FRIDAY, JULY 31**, in the East Hall Judging Center between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Contest begins at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. This is during the Fair, so be sure you get admission tickets from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.
- b. Upon check-in contestant will choose a glass plate provided by Life & Arts.
- c. All work must be completed in 30 minutes.
- d. When contest begins, each contestant will receive a packet of supplies from which to paint the plate. All supplies will be provided. No other supplies may be used. Supplies will include things found in a kitchen, such as: paint, toothpicks, sponges, cotton swabs, fork, spoon, etc.
- e. Contest limited to first eight (8) exhibits to register in each age level.
- f. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair and will be released on regular check-out day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

### Class

- 1 Youth 10 and under
- 2 Youth 11-18
- 3 Adult

## DIVISION 503 – GIFT BASKETS

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 4 p.m.

CHAMPION RIBBON

Prize money: \$4 - \$3 - \$2

Adults

### NEW CLASSES

### Additional information:

- a. Check-in: **FRIDAY, JULY 31**, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Basket may be constructed of any material as long as it is a “basket” container – open topped with handle(s).
- c. Basket and/or items may be made by exhibitor (crochet, leather, sewn, etc.) or exhibitor may purchase and decorate basket and/or purchase items to include in the gift basket.
- d. Gift basket may be for any occasion or theme as determined by the exhibitor according to the class descriptions.
- e. Gift basket may or may not be in gift basket cellophane, but all objects in the basket need to be seen by the judge.
- f. Exhibitors will need to provide an attached explanation of the items in the gift basket as related to the occasion or theme of the basket.
- g. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair and will be released on regular check-out day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

**Class:**

- 1 **Theme:** 90 Years of a Grand Ole Fair
- 2 First Day of School
- 3 Happy Retirement
- 4 Oven mitt "basket" , any theme – items to be placed and displayed in an oven mitt of your choice

**DIVISION 504 – SOPHISTICATED SHIMMER – JELL-O MOLD**

**FRIDAY, JULY 31, 6 p.m.**

Prize money: \$4 - \$3 - \$2

**A Sophisticated Shimmer:** Reflects the Great Depression-era desire to use inexpensive Jell-O to create "elegant" and "sophisticated" centerpieces for home entertainment. Use a Jell-O recipe from the 1930's or a modern twist to create a "tasty" molded centerpiece for your family gathering.

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **FRIDAY, JULY 31, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.** Contest begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. This is during the Fair, so be sure you get admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.
- b. Each exhibit must be accompanied by recipe **typed on 8½"x11" paper**. Exhibitor NUMBER must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair.
- c. Exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature. No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.
- d. Entries judged on recipe, appearance and creativity.
- e. All entries will be released following judging.

**Class**

- 1 Classic Fruited Mold – Jell-O plus fruit
- 2 Retro Savory (Aspics) – Jell-O plus vegetables, meat, and/or spices
- 3 Festive Fluff – Jell-O plus whipped topping, cream cheese, or cottage cheese

**DIVISION 505**

**HAMMONDS PRODUCTS BLACK WALNUT COOKING CONTEST**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1:00 p.m.**

**HAMMONDS PRODUCTS COMPANY**, Stockton, will award 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50; 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$30; 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20.



**Adults only**

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, Noon - 1 p.m.** at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 1:00 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Exhibitor is limited to one recipe of a salad, meat dish, vegetable dish, pasta, etc. using Black Walnuts. None of the following baked goods (cakes, cookies, muffins): See Food Department, Division 805, for these items.
- c. Each recipe must use at least ¼ cup American Black Walnuts.
- d. Exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.

- e. Each exhibit must be accompanied by recipe **typed on 8½"x11" paper**. Exhibitor NUMBER must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of Hammons Products and the Ozark Empire Fair.
- f. The exhibitor, by entering, allows Hammons Products Co. or the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.

**Class 1:** American Walnut “Bold, wild” Savory recipe – Salad, meat dish, vegetable dish, pasta, etc., using American Black Walnuts.

**DIVISION 506 - PIES**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 3 p.m.**  
**CHAMPION RIBBON**

<b>Adults only</b>
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Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 3 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. All pies must be made from scratch. Exhibitor’s choice to enter whole pie or half pie, in suitable container. Exception is class 8 which must be a whole pie.
- c. All pie entries must not have been entered in any other contest during the 2025 Fair.
- d. Exhibitor tags must be attached to container, not to wrapper.
- e. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.
- f. All non-winning and all custard/cream pies will be released after judging. Winning pies will remain on display through the Fair. The Superintendent reserves the right to dispose of exhibits which become unsightly. Pie plates may be picked up on release day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

**Class:**

- 1 Custard or cream pie
- 2 Apple pie
- 3 Cherry pie
- 4 Any other fruit pie (not apple or cherry)
- 5 Combination pie (strawberry rhubarb, blueberry peach, cranberry pear, etc. These may include apple and cherry but with other fruit/berries.)
- 6 Berry pie
- 7 Nut pie
- 8 Vegetable pie
- 9 Flavored crust pie – any flavor crust besides traditional (chocolate, cinnamon roll, etc.), any filling type.
- 10 Decorative Pie (will be judged for appearance and creativity)

Cheese Cake recipes enter Division 520 Cream Cheesy on Thursday, August 6.
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## DIVISION 507 – CHOCOLATE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2 p.m.

Adults Only

Champion: Ribbon

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

*Create the ultimate chocolate flavor experience! Whether it is smooth milk chocolate or decadent dark chocolate, use your choice of sweet or baker's chocolate to tantalize the palate.*

### Additional information:

- a. Check-in: **SUNDAY, AUGUST 2**, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use recipe in future publications or promotions.
- c. Do not enter the same recipe in this section as in other sections. Example: If you enter a chocolate cake recipe in Foods, Division 802, Class 3, do not enter the same recipe in Division 507, class 3.
- d. Exhibit must be displayed on white disposable, sturdy plate or cardboard with no decoration.
- e. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair.

### Class

- 1 Candy
- 2 Cookies
- 3 Cake
- 4 Bread
- 5 Any other recipe using chocolate

## DIVISION 508 – KING ARTHUR BAKING CONTEST – CRISPS AND COBBLERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 4 p.m.

Adults and Youth

Prizes:

Adult: 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon -- \$75 gift certificate, 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon -- \$50 gift certificate,  
3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon -- \$25 gift certificate

Youth: 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon -- \$40 gift certificate, 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon -- \$25 gift certificate,  
3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon -- \$25 gift certificate



**Additional information:**

- a. Check in: **SUNDAY, AUGUST 2**, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Each exhibitor must use King Arthur Flour.
- c. Exhibitor must bring the opened bag of King Arthur Flour or submit a UPC label from the flour bag at check in.
- d. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair and King Arthur Baking Company. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair and King Arthur Baking Company to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.
- e. All recipes must be made from scratch (no mixes - see Mix Tricks in Foods Department, Division 809.)
- f. Exhibit must be displayed in a pan or baking dish.
- g. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair. Dishes may be picked up on release day, August 9.

**Class**

- 1 Crisp or cobbler, any variety - Youth
- 2 Crisp or cobbler, any variety - Adult

**DIVISION 509 - QUICK BREADS****SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 6 p.m.****Champion: Ribbon**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

<b>Adults Only</b>
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**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **SUNDAY, JULY 27**, 5 - 6 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use recipe in future publications or promotions.
- c. Exhibit must be displayed on white disposable plate or cardboard with no decoration.
- d. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair.

**Class**

- 1 Biscuits, 5
- 2 Cornbread, plain OR "fancy"( Mexican cornbread, cheddar dill cornbread, confetti cornbread, etc.), 5
- 3 Coffee Cake with topping, whole or half
- 4 Any fruit quick bread, whole or ½ loaf (banana nut, cranberry, apple, etc.)
- 5 Any spice quick bread, not containing fruit, whole or ½ loaf(gingerbread, pumpkin spice, chai, etc.)
- 6 Any other quick bread, whole or ½ loaf (zucchini, carrot, almond, etc.)

## DIVISION 510 – GRANDPARENTS' COOKIE CONTEST

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2 p.m.

Champion: Ribbon

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

Grandparents Only

*Whose Grandmother or Grandfather bakes the best cookies? Join us on Senior Citizens Day at the fair and bake your grandkids' favorite cookies and see which ones the judges (who are someone's grandkids!) prefer.*

### Additional information:

- a. Check-in: **MONDAY, AUGUST 3**, 1 – 2 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. Exhibitor must be a grandmother or grandfather.
- c. May be any variety of cookies that your grandkids really enjoy, but must be made from scratch.
- d. Judge(s) will be teenage grandkids with a lot of experience eating cookies.
- e. Exhibit to consist of six (6) cookies of one variety on a sturdy disposable white plate.
- f. Please do not enter the same recipe in this division as in other divisions. Example: if you enter a chocolate cake in this section, do not enter the same chocolate cake recipe in any other division.
- g. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair.
- h. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair.

### Class

- 1 Cookies made with chocolate or chocolate chips (not Christmas cookies)
- 2 Cookies, any other – NO chocolate or chocolate chips (not Christmas cookies)
- 3 No-bake cookies
- 4 Christmas cookies

## DIVISION 511 – AMERICAN HERITAGE RECIPES

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 4 p.m.

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

Adults Only

*Any recipe dating from before 1976. A family favorite passed down from your grandmother. A nostalgic recipe from a cookbook found at the flea market. Make magical memories by revisiting cooking traditions of the American past.*

### Additional information:

- a. Check-in: **MONDAY, AUGUST 3**, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Exhibit must be made from scratch (no mixes) and may be served hot or cold. The exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available. (No custard or cream pies since we don't have refrigeration.)
- c. All exhibits will be released following judging.
- d. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor number must be on recipe (no names, please). **Include date and a brief description of the source of this recipe and the part of the United States it comes from (family heirloom, etc.)** Recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair and may be used in future publications or promotions.

### Class

- 1 Heritage Recipe – side dish
- 2 Heritage Recipe – main dish
- 3 Heritage Recipe – dessert

## DIVISION 512 - MUFFIN MONDAY

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 6 p.m.

Champion: Ribbon

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

Adults and Youth

### Additional information:

- Check in: **MONDAY, AUGUST 3**, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Judging begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.
- Black walnut muffins are in Hammons Black Walnut Baking, Foods Division 804
- Exhibit must be displayed on sturdy white disposable plate or cardboard with no decoration.
- All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair.

### Class

- Muffins, any variety, 5 - Youth
- Muffins with any fruit, 5 - Adult
- Savory muffins, 5 (rosemary muffins, smoked bacon muffins, Greek pizza muffins, etc.) - Adult
- Muffins, any other "sweet" muffin, 5 (Sweet Potato Muffins, Carrot Muffins, chocolate, etc.) - Adult

## DIVISION 513 - FLOWERS GROWN BY YOUTH EXHIBITORS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Prize money: \$3 - \$2 - \$1

Youth only

### Additional information:

- Check-in: TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026.** All exhibits in this division will be checked in Tuesday, August 4, 2026, **8 a.m. - 9 a.m.** in the Flowers Department in the East Hall of the E\*Plex. This is during the Fair, so please be sure you receive admission tickets from the Exhibits Office with your exhibitor tags.
- Check-out: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026.** All exhibits will check out Sunday, August 9, 2026, **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the Flowers Department. Any flowers and containers not picked up at this time will be discarded.
- Age must be listed on registration form and exhibitor tag.
- Variety should be listed on exhibitor tag.
- Flowers and plants must have been grown by exhibitor. Plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three (3) months.

### Class

10/under

### Class

11-18

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 11 | Sunflower , 1 stem in water, any color  |
| 2 | 12 | Mature sunflower head   |
| 3 | 13 | Marigold, 1 stem  |
| 4 | 14 | Zinnia, 1 stem  |
| 5 | 15 | Any other flower, 1 stem  |
| 6 | 16 | Flower Collection - 3 blooms, each a different variety or color, shown in one container |

- |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 7  | 17 | Container grown plant. Pots are limited to 10" diameter at top.  |
| 8  | 18 | Cactus or succulent, grown and shown in a pot not over 10" diameter.   |
| 9  | 19 | Planter, three compatible plants grown in single container (cactus garden, terrarium, etc.). No embellishments. Container should not be more than 12" long or wide.  |
| 10 | 20 | Miniature garden – a landscape in a container. Must be live plants. Embellishments (tiny chairs, pebbles, etc.) are permitted. No artificial plants or live animals are allowed. Container may not exceed 12" X 12". |

### **DIVISION 514 - SCRAPBOOK CHALLENGE**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2 p.m.**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

<b>Adults and Youth</b>
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**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **TUESDAY, AUGUST 4**, 1-2 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Contest begins at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. All work must be completed in 20 minutes.
- c. When contest begins, each contestant will receive a packet of supplies from which to create a scrapbook page. All supplies (including papers, scissors, and adhesives) will be provided. Competitors may bring their own scissors and adhesives, but nothing else.
- d. Contest limited to first six (6) exhibitors to register in each class.
- e. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair and will be released on regular check-out day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

**Class**

- 1 Youth 11-18
- 2 Challenged Adults
- 3 Adult

### **DIVISION 515 – RED, WHITE, AND BLUE CENTERPIECES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 4 p.m.**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

<b>Adults and Youth</b>
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***NEW!***

*Celebrate America's Semiquincentennial! 250 years as the United States of America deserves a centerpiece of stellar construction. Create a festive table decoration with items provided by the Ozark Empire Fair to help celebrate our country's birthday.*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **TUESDAY, AUGUST 4**, 3-4 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Contest begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. All work must be completed in 20 minutes.
- c. When contest begins, each contestant will receive supplies from which to create a centerpiece using the red, white and blue as the color scheme. All supplies will be provided by the Life and Arts Department.
- d. Contest limited to first six (6) exhibitors to register in each class.
- e. All exhibits will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair and will be released on regular check-out day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

**Class**

- 1 Youth 10 and under
- 2 Youth 11-18
- 3 Adult

**DIVISION 516 – CREATIVE CUPCAKES****WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2 p.m.**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

**Adult and Youth**

*Calling all kids and kids at heart! Share your favorite cupcake recipe and decorating technique.*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5**, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Judging begins at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.
- c. Entries will be judged on taste, appearance, creativity of flavor and decoration.
- d. Design classes will be judged on originality of design using 6(youth) and 12(adult) or more cupcakes to create.
- e. Cupcakes will be displayed for the remainder of the Fair and will be released on regular check-out day, Sunday, August 9, 2026.

**Class**

- 1 Ages 10 & under cupcakes, 5
- 2 Ages 11-18 cupcakes, 5
- 3 Adult cupcakes, 5
- 4 Cupcake design using 6 or more cupcakes – youth
- 5 Cupcake design using 12 or more cupcakes – adult

**DIVISION 517 – CRAFTY COOKIES****WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 4 p.m.**

Prize money: \$4 - \$3 - \$2

**Adult and Youth**

*What a better way to celebrate Summer's Biggest Party than decorating cookies! Come join us for this on-the-spot contest and decorate a cookie with your favorite embellishments!*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5**, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. This is during the Fair, so be sure you get admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.
- b. All work must be completed in 20 minutes.
- c. When contest begins, each contestant will receive a packet of supplies from which to decorate a cookie. All supplies will be provided. No other supplies may be used. In addition to cookie, supplies may include such things as: candy, frosting, sprinkles, marshmallow, etc.
- d. Cookies will be displayed during the remainder of the fair.
- e. Entries judged appearance and creativity.

**Class**

- 1 YOUTH – 10 and under
- 2 YOUTH – 11-18
- 3 ADULT

**DIVISION 518 – SPAGHETTI TOWERS****WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 6 p.m.****Adult and Youth****NEW!**

Prize money: \$4 - \$3 - \$2

*Use spaghetti pasta and marshmallows to construct the tallest tower in 15 minutes. Use your STEM knowledge to maximize your tower.*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 5 - 6 p.m.** Contest begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. All work must be completed in 15 minutes.
- c. When contest begins, each contestant will receive a packet of supplies (spaghetti and marshmallows) from which to create a tower. All supplies will be provided. No other supplies may be used.
- d. Towers will be displayed during the remainder of the fair and be released on August 9, 2026.
- e. Entries will be judged on height, construction, appearance, and creativity.
- f. Contest limited to the first six (6) exhibitors to register in each age level.

**Class**

- 1 Youth, ages 10 & under
- 2 Youth, ages 11-14
- 3 Youth 15-18
- 4 Adults

**DIVISION 519 – COWBOY HOOVER HOBBO STEW****THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 4 p.m.****Adults only**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

In the 1930's, every piece of food, every morsel mattered. Combine your "scraps" into a hearty, healthy, tasty stew that says you care even if you cannot spare the expense of a fancy meal. Submit your Cowboy Stew, Hoover Stew, Hobo Stew or other named hodgepodge pot meal.

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.** at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Entries should be a one pot or crock pot stew.
- c. Entries will be judged on taste, appearance, uniqueness, ease of preparation, and cook time.
- d. The exhibit should be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature.
- e. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.
- f. All exhibits will be released after judging and must be claimed or will be discarded.

**Class**

- 1 Vegetarian
- 2 Hot dog or sausage
- 3 Other meat

**DIVISION 520 - CREAM CHEESEY**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 6 p.m.**

**Adults only**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **THURSDAY, AUGUST 6**, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tags.)
- b. Cream cheese must be a main ingredient in the dish.
- c. The exhibit must be fully prepared at home and brought to the fairgrounds ready to judge.
- d. The exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.
- e. No packaged mixes may be used (i.e. instant cheese cake)
- f. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.
- g. All exhibits will be released after judging.

**Class**

- 1 Cheese Cake (baked or unbaked)
- 2 Appetizer
- 3 Main or Side Dish
- 4 Dessert (other than cheese cake)
- 5 Youth Cheese Cake 11-18 (baked or unbaked)

**DIVISION 521 – YOUTH COOK’S CHALLENGE**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 4 p.m.**

**NEW!**

**Youth only**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

Champion Ribbon

*Calling all youth cooks and chefs-to-be! Find out if you have what it takes to win the champion ribbon in our annual Cook's Challenge. Using the list of ingredients given, create your best appetizer, main dish, and dessert to impress our judges and fair patrons.*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **FRIDAY, AUGUST 7**, in the East Hall Judging Center between 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. Each dish must include all of the given ingredients. (These should be underlined in recipes.)
- c. Other ingredients may be included (i.e. canned cranberries) but no mixes may be used. All recipes must be from scratch.
- d. Exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.
- e. All non-winning entries will be released after judging. Winning entries will remain on display through the Fair. The Superintendent reserves the right to dispose of exhibits which become unsightly.
- f. Exhibitor tags must be attached to container, not to wrapper.

- g. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.

**Class:**

- 1 Appetizers – bacon, cheese, cracker of choice
- 1 Main Dish – bacon, cheese, vegetable of choice
- 2 Desserts – bacon, cheese, chocolate

**DIVISION 522 – BATTLE OF THE BOARDS**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 6 p.m.**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

Adult Champion Ribbon

**Adults and Youth**

*As we finish celebrating Summer's Biggest Party, let's create a palatable wonder with meat, cheese, fruits, vegetables, and snacks. Do your best to assemble the best finger foods in charcuterie style focusing on presentation, variety, and flavor.*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **FRIDAY, AUGUST 7**, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. The exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.
- c. Entries should be displayed on a cutting board or tray of exhibitor's choice.
- d. Entries may be themed. Identify theme on exhibitor tag.
- e. Each board must be accompanied by a list of ingredients/recipes (if necessary)
- f. Boards may be assembled at the fair. Make sure to allow time for entry to be checked in prior to judging.
- g. Non-winning exhibits will be released following judging.

**Class**

- 1 Snack Board with meat and cheese
- 2 Snack Board vegetarian/vegan
- 3 Dessert Board
- 4 Youth Board, any variety

**DIVISION 523 – PERFECT PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 4 p.m.**

**CHAMPION RIBBON**

Prize money: \$5 - \$4 - \$3

**Adults Only**

*What a better way to create memories than to have a picnic? Whether it is a picnic in the park or a backyard gathering, you will need to pack just the right blend of portable food. What are your favorites? Which ones will create the perfect picnic experience?*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **SATURDAY, AUGUST 8**, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the East Hall Judging Center. Judging begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. The exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.
- c. Entries should be displayed in a picnic basket with portions for two to four people.
- d. To be eligible for the champion ribbon, competitor must enter all four classes.
- e. Non-winning exhibits will be released following judging.

- f. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.

**Class**

- 1 Nibbles – picnic appetizers
- 2 Mains – picnic main dish
- 3 Sweets – picnic dessert
- 4 Drinks – picnic beverage (non-alcoholic)

**DIVISION 524 – COOK'S CHALLENGE**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 6 p.m.**

**NEW INGREDIENTS**

**CHAMPION RIBBON**

**Adults Only**

Prize money: \$6 - \$5 - \$4

**Terry Cornio Memorial Award – \$10 to the Champion**

*Fancy yourself a creative chef? Find out if you have what it takes to win the champion ribbon in our annual Cook's Challenge. The Depression Era recipes from 1936 inspire this year's ingredients. Using the list of ingredients given, create your best appetizer, main dish, and dessert to impress our judges and fair patrons.*

**Additional information:**

- a. Check-in: **SATURDAY, AUGUST 8**, in the East Hall Judging Center between 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Judging begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. (This is during the Fair, so be sure you get an admission ticket from the Exhibits Office when you get your exhibitor tag.)
- b. Each dish must include all of the given ingredients. (These should be underlined in recipes.)
- c. Other ingredients may be included (i.e. canned cranberries) but no mixes may be used. All recipes must be from scratch.
- d. To be eligible for the champion ribbon, competitor must enter all three classes.
- e. Exhibit must be packaged to maintain proper serving temperature (hot or cold). No refrigeration or heating elements will be available.
- f. All non-winning entries will be released after judging. Winning entries will remain on display through the Fair. The Superintendent reserves the right to dispose of exhibits which become unsightly.
- g. Exhibitor tags must be attached to container, not to wrapper.
- h. Each exhibit must be accompanied by the recipe typed on 8½"x11" paper. Exhibitor, division, and class number must be listed on recipe. All recipes become the property of the Ozark Empire Fair. The exhibitor, by entering, allows the Ozark Empire Fair to use the recipe in future publications or promotions.

**Class:**

- 3 Appetizers – potato, cheese of choice, chives
- 4 Main Dish – potato, meat of choice, cheese of choice
- 5 Desserts – potato, chocolate, nut of choice