

2026 Junior/Youth Homemaking Rules

Rockingham County Fair (www.rockinghamcountyfair.com)
Megan Trice and Heather Warner, Department Superintendents

ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

This department is open to all youth (ages 4-19 as of January 1, 2026) living in Rockingham County or the City of Harrisonburg. Rockingham 4-H members who reside outside Rockingham or Harrisonburg are also eligible to enter exhibits in this department. **Age will be determined by the exhibitors age as of January 1, 2026.**

- **All exhibits, except baked goods, must be brought in from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 9.**
- **Only baked goods may be brought in on Monday, August 10, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Absolutely nothing other than baked goods will be accepted on Monday.**
- Judging will be on Monday from 9:30 am until complete.

EXHIBITS ENTERED SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXHIBITED AND ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE MADE BY THE EXHIBITOR WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. Only one exhibit permitted per class per person. The department and fair management will not be responsible for articles exhibited. Items **must** be picked up on Sunday afternoon, August 16, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

FAIR ENTRY/PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

Pre-registering all your entries is recommended but not required.

FAIR ENTRY for this department will open June 1, 2026.

Pre-registration for this department will END on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. to give us time to print tags. It is okay to register extra items that may not be completed. It will speed up the process

However, you can still enter on take in day, as we will accept eligible items at take-in!

You can also add additional eligible items that were not pre-registered at take-in.

Remember, it is FREE to enter your creations in the Homemaking Department.

If you have any questions about Junior/Youth Homemaking and this catalog, you can...

- ★ call the Fair Office to leave us a message (540-434-0005);
- ★ send a message through our Facebook page (Rockingham County Fair Homemaking Department); or
- ★ Email us at rocohomemaking@gmail.com

Section Rules/Requirements

SECTION I - CRAFTS

Take-in time: **Sunday, August 9, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. ONLY**

All craft items must be made by the exhibitor. Exhibits must be clean and dry. Hangers should be used for displaying clothing items when appropriate, and all pictures should have hooks for hanging. Names are not permitted on the item, so please cover any name that is permanently displayed on the craft until after the judges have made their decision. Remember, only one item per class can be entered by an individual. When crafting with natural products, please research the legality of collecting & using certain items. Many feathers, plants and animal parts are protected by law and cannot be accepted.

Please remember that "constructed toys" - blocks, logs, Legos™, etc., must be entirely self-supporting and MUST be in a sturdy container. We suggest baking sheets, cardboard box lids or clear plastic boxes. Collections must be self contained.

SECTION II – STEM & WOODWORKING (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Take-in time: **Sunday, August 9, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. ONLY**

All items must be made by the exhibitor. Items must be clean and dry. Names are not permitted on the item, so please cover any name that is permanently displayed on the item until after the judges have made their decision. Only one item per class can be entered by an individual. **When crafting with natural products, please research the legality of collecting & using certain items. Many feathers, plants and animal parts are protected by law and cannot be accepted.**

Please remember that "constructed toys" - blocks, logs, Legos™, etc., must be entirely self-supporting and MUST be in a sturdy container. We suggest baking sheets, cardboard box lids or clear plastic boxes. Collections must be self contained.

SECTION III – CANNING/FOOD PRESERVATION

Take-in time: **Sunday, August 9, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. ONLY**

All entries must be made by the exhibitor. All exhibits must be in clear glass, regular canning jars – pints or quarts, except for jams, jellies and preserves which must be in ½ pint or pint size jars. No mayonnaise jars, etc. will be accepted. Leave rings on canning jars. No rusty lids or rings will be accepted. Jams, jellies and preserves must be processed (no Paraffin will be accepted) and must be labeled on the bottom stating contents, but not the exhibitor's name. No mixes may be used for pickle or relish classes. Dried fruits and vegetables must be in ½ dozen pieces in a plastic bag. Label type of fruit or vegetable. No artificial coloring except in novelties.

***We no longer encourage or allow exhibitors under age 9 to enter canning.**

SECTION IV – SEWING

Take-in time: **Sunday, August 9, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. ONLY**

All clothing or sewn items must be made by the exhibitor. Exhibits must be clean and pressed. Hangers should be used for items when appropriate.

SECTION V – CERAMICS

Take-in time: **Sunday, August 9, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. ONLY**

Items entered in all classes may be either poured (pre-molded) ceramics OR original hand-built items. Poured ceramics will be judged on glazing or staining techniques, while original hand-built items will be judged on both construction AND glazing or staining techniques. Hand built items made of colored clay, however, will be judged on construction only. All exhibits must be made by the exhibitor, be finished with all finishes dry, and the name or initials of exhibitor masked. Glazed items that are dry-footed are acceptable.

SECTION VI – BAKED GOODS

Take-in time: **Monday, August 10, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. ONLY**

No mixes may be used in baked products section, except for molded candy. No store-bought pie shells or fillings. All products must be made by the youth and obvious “batches” of a recipe shared with other family members entering in the same class will most likely be disqualified by the judges. **Miscellaneous baked goods must be identified at take-in to be properly judged!**

Please observe these entry specifications:

- Breads must be ½ standard loaf; 3 muffins; 3 rolls.
- Pies must be ¼ of an 8” or 9” pie or a whole small pie.
- Cakes must be ¼ of an 8”X 8” cake, except whole decorated cakes.
- Breads, pies and cakes are to be on a plain white disposable plate and covered with clear plastic wrap or a clear zip-lock bag.
- Cookies and candies must be 3 pieces on a plain white “dessert-size” disposable plate in a clear plastic bag (no doilies please).
- Clam-shell containers are acceptable for decorated items.