

Woodworking Competition Handbook

For more information, contact
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Exhibits and Special Events Manager
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IMPORTANT DATES

Online or Paper Entry Form deadline
Friday, Dec. 26, 2025

Deliver items to Building 3 at the South Florida Fair (see Page 6)

Items exhibited

Jan. 16 - Feb. 1, 2026

Entry pickup

Monday, Feb 2, 2026
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Competition Overview

Entry fee: FREE

General rules – Page 5

How to enter online – Page 6

Paper entry form - Page 8

Exhibitors are encouraged to read this handbook in its entirety.

Eligibility

- The Woodworking divisions are open to all Florida residents 18+ and youth in the first grade and up.



Entry Rules

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Due to space limitations, no more than eight (8) items per person may be submitted for judging.

SIZE AND PREPARATION GUIDELINES

- Maximum size limits for a carving entered item are as follows: length 55 inches, width 32 inches, height 48 inches. Except for walking sticks, which may be up to 75 inches in length. Carvings that exceed any of these dimensions will not be accepted unless prior approval by the Exhibits and Special Events Manager.
- Carousel animals can be standard size.
- Relief carvings must be submitted ready to hang with strong hooks, loops, or wire. Entered items not ready to hang will be disqualified.

WOODWORKING RULES

- The definitions and class categories must be strictly observed.
- It is the exhibitor's responsibility to select a class for each carving being submitted. Information written under "Entered Item Description" on the Entry Form must match what is submitted; substitutions will not be permitted. The South Florida Fair and judges may change either the division or the class as appropriate.
- Entered items are to be made of wood. Other materials may be used for habitat and structural purposes; however, they are to be hand formed except for eyes.
- Identical items cannot be entered into more than one division.

GENERAL ENTRY RULES

- Entries previously exhibited in the South Florida Fair may not be submitted for competition.
- Exhibited work must be completed within the last two (2) years.
- Entries must have been prepared/made/processed by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
- In keeping with the South Florida Fair's family orientation, nudes or items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.
- Entries completed by two or more individuals are permitted but will be counted as one exhibitor (the individual who entered online).

Judging and Awards

The Fair ensures the judges are knowledgeable in the division in which they are judging and will be impartial. Judges reserve the right to reassign entries to a more appropriate division or class. Judging will be done using a scorecard to assist in keeping decisions as objective as possible. *The decision of the judge(s) is final.*

If, at the judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the judge shall give no award under any circumstance. This rule applies whether there are one or more exhibits in the class.

Judging Criteria

Originality and Creativity
Design
Skill and Execution
Surface Finish
Final Presentation

Awards Information

First Place – South Florida Fair Ribbon

Second Place – South Florida Fair Ribbon

Third Place – South Florida Fair Ribbon

Best of Show – South Florida Fair Ribbon and premium payment

Best of Show awards will be chosen from the first-place winners in each division.

Divisions and Classes

Division #1: Relief Carvings

Class Description

1. Wood spirits – *natural or painted, any size*
2. Portraiture relief – *single or group portrait of human face, head or head and shoulders, natural finish, any size*
3. Architectural relief – *primary subject (i.e. buildings, bridges, agricultural scenes etc. including crest, signs and emblems), natural or painted finish (gold leaf, etc.), any size*
4. Flowers and plant life relief – *natural or painted finish, any size*
5. Animal relief – *all animals including aquatic, wildlife, domestic or farm animals, natural or painted finish, any size*
6. Religious relief – *natural or painted finish, any size*
7. Aquatic/ Seascape / Nautical relief – *natural or painted finish, any size*

Division #2: In-the-Round Carvings

Class Description

1. Animals – *all four-legged animals or animal heads including wildlife, domestic or farm animals, natural or painted finish, any size*
2. Flowers and plant life – *natural or painted finish, any size*
3. Aquatic and marine life – *natural or painted finish, any size*
4. Birds (stylized) – *natural or painted finish, any size*
5. Bust – *realistic single or several heads (includes shoulder and chest), natural or painted finish, any size*
6. Full figure – *natural or painted finish, any size*
7. Masks – *any finish, any size*
8. Walking sticks – *any finish, any size*
9. Caricature – *natural or painted finish, any size*
10. Fantasy – *the free play of creative imagination (fairies, dragons, wizards, etc.)*
11. Holiday caricature – *single or group caricature, natural or painted finish, any size*
12. Miniatures – *(1½ inches x 1½ inches x 2½ inches), natural or painted finish*
13. Stylized/abstract of any subject – *natural or painted finish, any size*
14. Miscellaneous in-the-round (including housewares) – *natural or painted finish, any size*
15. Religious – *natural or painted finish, any size*

Division #3: Chip Carving

Class Description

1. Flatwork – *natural or painted finish, any size*
2. Dimensional work – *natural or painted finish, any size*

Division #4: Wood Burning

Class Description

1. Wood burning – *natural finish, any size*
2. Wood burning – *painted finish, any size*

Division #5: Woodturning

Class Description

1. Standard hollow vessel or vase
2. Embellished hollow vessel or vase
3. Standard bowl
4. Embellished bowl
5. Standard plate/platter
6. Embellished plate/platter
7. Spindle
8. All-natural edge
9. All segmented or constructed
10. Other than wood
11. Miniature (no dimension exceeds 2 inches)
12. All ornamental
13. Lidded container
14. Pens
15. Toys
16. Others not listed

Division #6: Furniture

Class Description

1. Bed, cradle
2. Chair
3. Bench or stool
4. Bookcase
5. Quilt rack
6. Display cabinet, curio cabinet
7. China cabinet, hutch
8. Buffet
9. Armoire
10. Entertainment center
11. Chest
12. Chest of drawers
13. Desk
14. Table
15. Dining table
16. Clock
17. Jewelry box
18. Furniture set (related pieces to the whole set)
19. Other not listed

Division #7: Accessory

Class Description

1. Humidor
2. Jewelry box
3. Clock (wall or table)
4. Box/container
5. Table lamp
6. Chest
7. Cabinet (wall or table)
8. Mirror/picture frame
9. Cutting board
10. Other not listed

General Rules

Disclaimer

All competitive exhibits are entered at the exhibitor's risk. The South Florida Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries, even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors. If the exhibitor desires insurance coverage, this coverage should be secured from a personal insurance agent prior to entry and the policy written to cover the period of exhibition and transportation. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits. Unauthorized persons are not permitted in the building after closing hours.

Division/Class Cancellation

The South Florida Fair reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

Entry Errors

South Florida Fair is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for all errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his/her own error. The South Florida Fair shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the South Florida Fair immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than 90 days after receiving notice of disallowance.

Premium Payments

Premium awards will be paid to the Best of Show. Best of Show awards will be chosen from the first-place winners in each Division. Amounts vary depending on Division.

Substitution

Substitutions may be made in still exhibits only in the same division of the original entry class of the original exhibitor and may be made only if completed by the entry delivery date. Substitutions must be made at time of delivery check in. The South Florida Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct class any entry which is not a true representative of the division or class in which it is entered.

Previously Entered Entry

Any entry that has been exhibited at a previous South Florida Fair is not eligible for entry in this year's South Florida Fair, excluding Horticulture and Creative Aquarium entries.

Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the South Florida Fair has received submitted entry forms must include a self-addressed/stamped envelope when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation email.

Responsibility

The South Florida Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All still exhibits or display elements remaining on the fairgrounds after the designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before Feb. 28 of the current year.

Removal of Entries

Exhibitors may not remove their entry from the South Florida Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the Fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the South Florida Fair) in cases of evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

Design

The South Florida Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of the exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the South Florida Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted.

Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by South Florida Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

How to Enter Online

Exhibitors are encouraged to enter online at www.southfloridafair.com/TheCreationStation.

- Review this Competition Handbook to see which division and class your entry is eligible to compete in. Follow the easy steps listed below to enter.
- To enter online, go to www.southfloridafair.com/TheCreationStation and complete the form. Click the submit button and make sure you are brought to the thank you for registering page.
- Everyone must register as a new exhibitor each year.
- When registering, please verify all information is correct. Please pay special attention to capitalization, full names of cities/counties and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).

Mailing Paper Entry Forms

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, Dec. 26, 2025.

Failure to complete any portion of entry form may result in disqualification.

Mail Entry Form to:

The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts – Woodworking (Adult/Youth)
South Florida Fair
P.O. Box 210367
West Palm Beach, FL 33421-0367

Delivery Entries

All entries must be delivered to the South Florida Fair on either:

Friday, Jan. 2 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 3 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Sunday, Jan. 4 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 5 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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Deliver entries to:

South Florida Fair
Building 3
Attn: Lorie Stinson

Enter Gate 10 off Fairgrounds Road.

Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after delivery deadline may be disqualified.

Retrieving Entries

- See the calendar for pick up dates, times and locations (Page 1).
- Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for special pick up appointment by emailing lorie@southfloridafair.com.
- All entries not claimed by Feb. 28 of the same year will be recycled, disposed or donated.

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Accessory: *An object that normally rests on a piece of furniture or is hung on a wall.*

All ornamental pieces: *are done with an ornamental type lathe.*

All segmented or constructed: *a form that is pieced together and turned with one or more woods (e.g. maple/walnut).*

Bowl: *a form with a top opening is larger than the base, exposing the interior to view (wider than high).*

Bust: *refers to a carving of a person's head, shoulders, and chest.*

Carving: *a general heading that embraces sculpture and carving.*

Carved: *only refers to a carving completed with use of a knife, chisel, or gouge. No sanding, filling, scraping, or filling in is permitted.*

Chip Carving: *refers to the hand carving by cutting chips with a knife or other instruments usually in simple geometric designs.*

Caricature: *refers to a carving completed as a representation by exaggeration or distortion for humorous or satirical effect.*

Embellished bowl: *carved, fluted, wood burned, inlay, colored, etc.*

Embellished hollow vessel or vase: *carved, fluted, wood burned, inlay, colored, etc.*

Embellished plate/platter: *carved, fluted, wood burned, inlay, colored, etc.*

Fine wood furniture: *starts with hardwood (like cherry, maple, walnut and oak) as opposed to soft wood (like pine and other coniferous woods).*

Furniture: *an object that normally rests on the floor.*

Hollow Vessel: *a form with a top opening smaller than the width, containing substantial hollow area.*

In-the-Round: *means shaping a freestanding three-dimensional form or forms.*

Lathe: *a machine tool that rotates a workpiece about an axis of rotation to perform various operations such as cutting, sanding, knurling, drilling, deformation, facing, threading and turning, with tools that are applied to the workpiece to create an object with symmetry about that axis.*

Lidded container: *a form where the dimension is less than 4 inches and greater than 4 inches.*

Miniature: *a form where no dimension exceeds 2 inches.*

Natural Finish: *means that the grain of the wood must show through the finish. Limited natural wood staining of a single color and/or limited wood burning is permitted.*

Other: *can be jewelry, toys, pens, Christmas ornaments, utensils, constructed multiple turnings, resulting in spinning wheels, ships, wheel clocks, candelabra, reassembled turnings, wood, or non-woods acceptable; however, 50 percent of project must be turned.*

Other than wood: *a form made of at least 50 percent other material (alabaster, plastics, metal spinning, soapstone, and combinations of the above).*

Painted Finish: *means work with other than natural color wood stain, such as polychromes, acrylics or extensive wood burning, etc.*

Plate/platter: *a form that is substantially wider than high with the surface open to view.*

Realistic: *refers to a carving completed as an accurate presentation of the subject matter.*

Relief: *means carving with gouge, chisel, or power tool to decorate a generally flat surface, to give the illusion of depth and perspective. Frames are accepted but are not judged.*

Spindle: *a form primarily turned between centers with grain parallel to lathe bed.*

Standard bowl: *may contain decoration applied while turning on the lathe (i.e. coves, beads, surface texture).*

Standard hollow vessel or vase: *may contain decoration while turning on the lathe (i.e. coves, beads, surface texture).*

Standard plate/platter: *may contain decoration while turning on the lathe (i.e. coves, beads, surface texture).*

Stylized: *refers to a carving completed according to a style or stylistic pattern rather than strictly according to reality.*

Vase: *a hollow vessel higher than it is wide.*

Wood burning: *is the process of burning a design usually on wood or leather especially with an electrically heated tool. Scene on flat surface (ready to hang). Frames will not be judged.*

Wood turning: *is the craft of using a wood lathe with hand-held tools to cut a shape that is symmetrical around the axis of rotation. Like the potter's wheel, the wood lathe is a mechanism that can generate a variety of forms.*

Woodworking Competition Entry Form

Adult (ages 18+) Youth

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, Dec. 26, 2025.

Failure to complete any portion of entry form may result in disqualification.

Please print legibly

Exhibitor's Name (First, Last)	If Youth wins prize money, who should the check be made payable to?
Mailing Address	County
City	State
	Zip Code
Phone	Email

Exhibitors may enter up to eight (8) entries per division for judging.

	DIVISION#	CLASS#	TITLE AND / OR DESCRIPTION OF WOODWORKING PROJECT
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

I hereby certify that I have read the South Florida Fair General Rules for The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts Program (Page 5) and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the South Florida Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation.

Signature of exhibitor Date

Signature of parent/guardian (Youth ONLY) Print name of parent/guardian Date

Mail Entry Form to:

The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts – Woodworking (Adult/Youth)
 South Florida Fair
 P.O. Box 210367
 West Palm Beach, FL 33421-0367