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## Judging at the Fair

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Judging at the Tanana Valley State Fair is accomplished through a network of volunteers. Judges are recruited & chosen for their expertise in a particular area, and it is through their generous donation of time & knowledge that we are able to showcase your achievements. Judges are trained by the superintendents & through the Fair Office to follow the guidelines set down by the Fair Association. They are expected to:

- be fair & consistent in their judging;
- provide positive comments & constructive criticism to the exhibitor;
- follow the Fair Association's mission to educate participants through their evaluation.

Each exhibit must have a completed score sheet. These score sheets are for the education of the exhibitor only & are not for public view. An exhibitor may request to see a score sheet for any of their entries by asking the exhibit attendant on duty, asking the superintendent, or requesting assistance through the Fair Office.

Although our judges work hard to provide a positive experience for the exhibitor, sometimes there can be discrepancies or inconsistencies. If so, the exhibitor is encouraged to contact the superintendent who can investigate the problem. If necessary, the exhibitor may file a protest through the Exhibit Office. A \$25 fee must accompany any protest filed. Please refer to the Exhibit Guide for more information regarding this procedure.

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## Security

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You are encouraged to enter your best work. The Competitive Exhibits team (staff, superintendents, judges & volunteers) all recognize the value these hold & all effort is made to provide for their security. Each building has a team of volunteers to watch over the exhibits & to make sure they are not handled or stolen, but because of the volume of entries we get each year, we cannot guarantee the safety of each exhibit.

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## Questions

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We have tried to create a class for everything, but if you cannot find an appropriate class in which to enter an item, please contact the Department Superintendent. They can help you in selecting a class, or can add any classes as needed. Superintendents' names and telephone numbers are listed in the Exhibit Guide. Be sure to contact them before Entry Day. If you are unable to reach the superintendent, the Fair Office is here to help. Call us anytime between the hours of 9 am & 5 pm, Mon.—Fri.**452-3750** or email [exhibits@tvsvfa.org](mailto:exhibits@tvsvfa.org)

# DEPARTMENT 21 NEEDLEWORK

## EXHIBIT HANDBOOK

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## Exhibiting at the Tanana Valley State Fair

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*Welcome to the world of Competitive Exhibits! As an exhibitor at the fair, you are entering into a long standing tradition of education & competition that began in the Tanana Valley in 1924.*

*Your primary source of information about entering an exhibit is through the Exhibit Guide, available online or at the Fair Exhibit Office.*

### General Rules:

**Sign up for ONLINE ENTRIES for the  
Tanana Valley State Fair at  
<https://www.tvsvfa.org/>**

- **Fill out the easy-to-follow entry forms** for all your entries, review the information, and follow the check-out instructions (no online payment needed). Print your receipt, and bring it with you on entry day -- or download the ShoWorks Passport app from the Apple Store or on Google Play and check in from your mobile device, just like you can check in at the airport!
- **If you need assistance** with the entry process, or if you don't have a computer/printer, you can stop by the Events Office on the fairgrounds during open hours to receive help. We are looking forward to seeing your exhibits, and want to offer you every opportunity to enter them!
- **You may enter only one exhibit** per class, except where noted.
- **Know your entry days** & pick-up days listed in the Exhibit Guide.

**Tanana Valley State Fair Association**  
1800 College Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4173  
**452-3750 [www.tvsvfa.org](http://www.tvsvfa.org)**

## Entry Guidelines

- **Pick your Best:** You may enter only one exhibit per class, so choose that item which best demonstrates your skill or knowledge;
- **Prepare your entry:** Read the paragraph on preparation & presentation and present your exhibit in the best way possible. Don't wait until the last minute - know what you will enter & have your exhibit tags ready well before entry day;
- **Tell us about your entry:** If your department has special instructions, be sure to include this information on a 3" x 5" card attached to your entry.

## Preparing Your Entry

Needlework exhibits are grouped according to techniques and materials used. The product type doesn't matter (i.e. pillowcases, tea towels, etc.). The emphasis is on the types of needle work, threads, fabric, and variety of stitches used.

Read the division and class definitions carefully to assure proper placement of your exhibits. The exhibitor is responsible for proper entry. If in doubt, contact the Superintendents or Fair Office for help. Volunteers will be available entry day.

New classes or divisions may be created for exhibits when (1) there is no existing class or division in Needlework or in any other department for the exhibit, (2) the competition is improved by the addition, and (3) the exhibit represents a product or technique that is significantly different from exhibits entered in the existing classes and divisions.

All entries are judged on their overall appearance and workmanship. Specific concerns are listed with the division/class descriptions.

The judging system is based on points. Comments will be made by judges in addition to points awarded. See the judges scoresheet at the end of this handbook.

*The Tanana Valley State Fair seeks to highlight and enhance appreciation for Interior Alaska by showcasing competitive & commercial exhibits. The Fair educates and entertains all participants by providing opportunities to share a rich variety of individual and community endeavors. The Fair encourages and welcomes involvement by all.*

## Specific Division Information

**Division A - Free-Hand Embroidery:** Embroidery done with flosses or yarns. Embroidery threads should not be knotted. Stitches should be of even tension and size. All crossed x's should cross in the same direction. Yarns should not be frayed or have a worn appearance which can result from too much tension or working with too long a thread. None of the stamped design should show. The item should be properly cleaned and pressed/blocked to remove wrinkles.

**Division B - Needlepoint Techniques:** Stitches should be uniform and in the same direction. The tension should be even; the threads not frayed or pulled too tight. The finished project should be blocked - this is a most important item.

**Division C - Cross-stitch:** Embroidery worked on an even weave material from a graph or grid. The count refers to the number of stitches in a linear inch. All X's should cross in the same direction. There should be even tension throughout. (If a pattern calls for an unusual cross or no cross at any point, this should be noted on the Exhibit Tag). There should be no dangling threads visible through the fabric. The usual rule of thumb is that stitches should not be carried more than three squares.

### Division D - Other Techniques:

Includes hardanger (embroidery worked by cutting out areas of the fabric), plastic canvas or perforated paper, smocking, hucking, beadwork, drawn and/or pulled thread, and blackwork. Cuts should be smooth and the edges should be well covered. Tension is most important.

## Sample Judging Sheet

### Department 21 Needlework

WEN# \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

POINTS POSSIBLE SCORE

**Workmanship** **55** \_\_\_\_\_  
Precision (no obvious errors, uniformity & accuracy)

**Degree of Difficulty** **20** \_\_\_\_\_  
(complexity of work, variety of stitches, etc)

**General Appearance** **15** \_\_\_\_\_  
Aesthetic Appeal (color & texture)  
Presentation (blocking, hanging device, covered back, cleanliness, finishing, framing)

**Interpretation** **10** \_\_\_\_\_  
Where the design came from: stamped (2 pts), unmodified kit or pattern (4 pts); modified kit or pattern (6 pts); adaptation from another medium (8 pts); original design (10 pts).

**TOTAL (100 = perfect score)** \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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