

2026 CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

New York State Fair Wegmans Creative Arts Center

(315) 728-4328 – Creative Arts Center Office

nyscreativearts@agriculture.ny.gov

Presented by the New York State Fair, Syracuse, New York 13209,
from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily (6:00 pm on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026)

1. The rules printed herein are made a part of the conditions under which all entries of exhibitors are made, and exhibitors are respectfully requested to read them carefully, thereby avoiding confusion at the time of the Fair.
2. **For all DATES AND TIMES pertaining to entering and exhibiting in the NYS Fair Creative Arts Competitions, please refer to the Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule located on the NYS Fair's Website.**
3. Competitions are open to bona fide living NYS residents **ONLY**.
4. As a condition of exhibiting at the New York State Fair, the exhibitor authorizes the State Fair to use any photographs from the event for future publication, including the New York State Fair website. Photos will be properly credited where applicable.
5. You may enter online **ONLY** with a credit card at [How to Enter - The Great New York State Fair](#). **NO REFUNDS OF EXHIBITOR FEE OR ENTRY FEE(S).**
6. When entering in the Creative Arts Center, you **MUST** be consistent of how you enter in all departments. For example: IF you Enter as an Adult in Arts & Crafts, then you must enter as an Adult in Ribbon Revival, Bucket of Junk, Culinary, Fine Arts, Photography, and Poetry. The same applies to entering as a Youth or as a Senior. The only time this would not apply is if you were entering into a division/class that is not listed in the specific age division/class.
7. Computer generated (AI) entries are **NOT ACCEPTED**.
8. Failure to exhibit an entry for any reason not satisfactory to the Superintendent of that Department, shall forfeit all fees paid by them, except where cancellation of classes, lack of housing or similar reasons prevent exhibition of entry.

9. In keeping with the NYS Fairs Family Orientation, items of offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature and that which is deemed unacceptable material by either the Judge(s) or by the NYS Fair Administration will not be accepted.
10. Entries must be entirely the work of the exhibitor and must have been completed within the past **two (2)** years unless stated under individual Division/Class Rules. Previously entered items will not be accepted. Any Exhibitor that enters an entry in a name other than that of a bona fide owner or attempt to perpetrate a fraud by misrepresenting any fact, will be automatically disqualified. Violators will forfeit any/all awards earned and be prohibited from entry in future competitions. This includes any entry that is an unauthorized copy and thus infringes on copyright laws.
11. **Copyright Permission:** All exhibitors are required to acknowledge with entry submission that they have obtained copyright permission when appropriate. You must have written permission granted by the artist and be able to produce it when asked. A "Copyright Permission Form" can be found on our website.
12. Exhibitors should read all regulations, deadlines, and department descriptions to ensure they are entering their exhibit correctly.
13. **NEW!** Mailed in entries **MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 5, 2026**. Please mail early. All mailed entries must contain a **New York State Shipping Form and Entry Label**. These forms can be found on the NYS Fairs website under Creative Arts Center.
14. If you need to drop off your entry early before the receiving days, you **MUST** call the Creative Arts Center Office at 315-728-4328 and make an appointment.
15. **Exhibitor (Entry) Tag:** Entry Tag(s) will be provided to you on receiving days. You will be responsible for attaching the tag(s) to your entry(s) upon delivery. Please attach tag to the upper right-hand corner when applicable. The only exception is mailed in Entries. The Creative Arts Center Staff will assist with this.
16. Any name identification on the article itself must be concealed by the exhibitor for judging purposes. This will be removed after judging.
17. While the Management will do everything in its power for the safety and protection of all exhibits, it does not assume responsibility in case of loss or damage to entries from any cause. Exhibitor assumes risk associated with, resulting from, or arising in connection with exhibitor's participation or presence at the New York State Fair, including, risks of theft, loss, harm or injury to the person, property, whether caused by negligence, intentional act, accident, Act of God or otherwise. Exhibitor has sole responsibility for its property or any theft, damage, or other loss to such property,

whether stored in any courtesy storage areas. The New York State Fair, nor any of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives, or assigns, shall be liable for, and Exhibitor hereby releases all of them from, and covenants not to sue any of them with respect to, risks, damages and liability described in this paragraph.

18. The judges selected are fully qualified and their decisions will be final. Judges will in no case award a prize where there is no merit. The Judges and/or State Fair Administration also reserve the right to refuse any work not considered suitable for display. All judging will be done prior to the opening of the Fair except for the Culinary Department.
19. The decision of the judges shall be final in all cases, except where error, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, not discovered at the time of the award, is proven. Decisions **MAY NOT** be disputed with the office staff or volunteers. In such cases the Superintendent or such referee as they may appoint may make decisions, or the case may be appealed to the Creative Arts Center Manager.
20. **Appeal Procedure:** An Exhibitor wishing to appeal, protest, challenge, or complain must do so in writing. A deposit of \$50.00 must be submitted with this action. The Creative Arts Center Manager shall only consider appeals filed by the Exhibitor entered in the same department as the Exhibitor that is the subject of the appeal. The Creative Arts Center Manager will consider the appeal and rule. Their decision in this matter shall be final.
21. All prize or ribbon winning entries and entries accepted by the judges will be displayed at the discretion of the department for the **DURATION** of the Fair. Accepted entries include those that receive an award, ribbon or that are deemed worthy to be displayed during the New York State Fair by the judges. All accepted entries on display **CANNOT** be removed before the close of the Fair. A notice of Accepted or Not Accepted will be emailed to all Exhibitors in a timely manner following the completion of judging. Non-accepted articles may be removed in strict accordance with the Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule. Any articles not picked up on designated days will be put in storage until after the Fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please note that if you have multiple entries and not all are accepted, you may pick up all your entries after the Fair.
22. Guard service is provided in the Creative Arts Center. However, the Fair or any affiliate thereof assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to exhibits from any cause. The exhibitor should arrange locally for term insurance on very valuable work.
23. The right is reserved to withhold the prizes awarded in every case in which it shall appear to the New York State Fair Administration that the regulations have not been complied with, or that fraud or deception has been attempted, or where the article is not worthy, and its decision shall be final and binding on all parts.

24. No person having entered anything for a competition or exhibition may withdraw it after judging. Prize cards and ribbons must be displayed during the Fair. Any infraction of these rules will incur the forfeiture of all prizes awarded to the exhibitor, and such further penalty as the New York State Fair Administration may impose.

PREMIUM CHECKS AWARDED

1. Premiums are paid solely from the records of the judge's books. Ribbons or prize cards have no value as to the payment of premiums.
2. The New York State Comptroller's Office requires that the social security number/federal id number of the exhibitor be on file in the State Financial System (SFS). The Exhibitors' address, phone number and email address **MUST** be up to date for the payment of premiums/prize money. Failure to provide this information by October 1st will result in forfeiture of premiums.
3. Payments of premiums will be mailed in a timely matter after the conclusion of the NYS Fair.
4. All premium checks not cashed within 60 days of the date of the check are void.
5. The New York State Fair assumes no responsibility for payment of Special Awards offered by others.