



## **2026 Bucket of Junk Competition**

### **Sponsored By LOWE'S**

New York State Fair Wegmans Creative Arts Center

(315) 728-4328 – Creative Arts Center Office

[nyscreativearts@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto: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)

### **FEES:**

- **Exhibitor Fee-\$15.00**
- **Adult Entry Fee-\$20.00**
- **NEW! NO ENTRY FEES for Youth (17 and under)**  
(Any Youth aged 17 years and under beginning after March 1 of the calendar year)

### **BUCKET OF JUNK RULES:**

1. Please see the **Creative Arts Center General Rules and Regulations** and the **Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule** that is on the NYS Fair website under Creative Arts Center. This schedule contains all dates and times that pertain to entering and exhibiting in the NYS Fair Creative Arts Center Competitions.
2. 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 and to ensure they are entering their entry correctly.
3. All sculptures must be delivered to the Creative Arts Center, New York State Fair, 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, New York 13209, **on Monday, August 24, 2026, between 9am – 3pm. If these times are not convenient, please contact Yvonne Bakowski at 315-728-4328 to schedule an appointment for drop off. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
4. Contest is limited to NYS Residents and to the first 15 applicants for Adults and 5 applicants for Youth. Please only one (1) entry per family/household. If all the applicant spots are filled, and you would like to be put on our waiting list, please contact the

Creative Arts Center office at 315-728-4328. **Buckets may be picked up at the State Fair Photography Department located on the first-floor hallway in the Creative Arts Center on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 3 pm. ALL BUCKETS must be picked up by Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, unless arrangements have otherwise been made. If any buckets are not picked up by Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and you have not contacted us to make pick up arrangements, we will refer to our waiting list.**

5. When you drop off your sculpture, you **MUST** bring back the bucket. **Please remember to attach your Entry Tag, which was supplied to you on Receiving Day(s).**

Sculptures will remain on display from August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, through the remainder of the Fair. Sculptures are to be picked up on Claim Entry Days per the 2026 Exhibitor Schedule.

6. Sculptures will be Judged on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

7. **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- Contestant used only the materials that were provided (required).... 25%
- Contestant used the materials in a new way to create something different 25%
- Contestants' ideas are recognizable. (Clarity of the idea)..... 25%
- Contestant's overall finished appearance of the sculpture ..... 25%  
(This includes the difficulty of the piece and how well it was made)

8. **PRESENTATION:**

- The objective of “Bucket of Junk” is to create a sculpture using only the items in the bucket. A sculpture is defined as a “three-dimensional work of art” that can be viewed from 365 degrees.
- **All sculptures must be received presentation ready.** Sculptures not meeting this requirement may not be judged.
- The judges must know where you used each item in the bucket. Please note: You must use each item. You do not need to use the entire item in your sculpture, but there must be enough used to make it visible. The only optional pieces in the bucket are the packaging on the different items, i.e., cardboard packages, plastic bags, etc. However, if you want to use it you may, they are just not mandatory.
- You may not add any additional items to your sculpture. Only the items in the bucket are permitted to be part of your sculpture. There will be a list of contents in each bucket. Please indicate on the list where each item was used. Please return this list filled out when you drop off your sculpture.
- You may cut, weld, melt, paint, shave, curl, staple, glue, tape or sew these items to make your sculpture.

- You may connect your entry to a solid base for stability if needed. The base **cannot** be part of your sculpture. The base must also be smaller than the sculpture and is **NOT** to be painted. The base will not be considered part of your sculpture, so it will not be judged.
- Your sculpture will be displayed in the Creative Arts Center for the duration of the NYS Fair.
- The bucket and contents list needs to be returned when you bring your sculpture. The bucket may not be used as part of the entry.
- Any sculpture larger than 20” L x 20” W will be automatically disqualified.
- Your sculpture must be finished when it arrives. **NO** painting, construction, etc. will be allowed after you bring the sculpture in.

## **Adult**

<b><u>Class 1:</u></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Prizes:</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>\$50</b>

## **Youth**

<b><u>Class 2:</u></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Prizes:</b>	<b>Ribbon</b>	<b>Ribbon</b>	<b>Ribbon</b>

**Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded.**