

FAQs

Who is eligible to enter competitive exhibits at the South Carolina State Fair?

General Building exhibit competitions (Fine Art, Student Art, Agriculture, Flower, Home & Craft) are open to South Carolina residents. Livestock competitions are "Open to the World". Livestock scholarships are open to South Carolina residents only.

Age restrictions are listed for certain competitions so be sure to check the rules and regulations of each department for complete information before entering.

How do I enter competitions at the Fair?

Consult the current online edition of the South Carolina State Fair Competition Exhibits Guide for complete information on individual entry deadlines and requirements for each department at the Fair. Most competitions require pre-registration, with the exception of certain club sponsored flower shows. Most competitions allow for [online entry](#) or mailing in a [downloadable form](#). Please choose one method of entering in competitions at the Fair. Do not submit the same entries online **and** by mail. This will result in duplicate entries that will delay and misdirect the processing of your entry. When completing the registration information, please list your full legal name and refrain from abbreviations or listing a nickname. If you enter competitions in the Fair every year, please make sure to use your full legal name every time you register. This assures that any premiums you win will be properly linked to your name.

Is there a size limit for entries entered in the Fair?

Certain departments have size limitations for entries, such as Fine Art and Home & Craft. Consult the Exhibits Guide for more information under individual departments. Entries that exceed size limitations in certain sections will be disqualified.

Is there a fee for entering competitions at the Fair?

There are no fees in the Building exhibits departments. Livestock departments require fees and this is listed at the beginning of each department listing in the Exhibits Guide. Online entries that require fees must be paid by a major credit or debit card during the online entry process. If entry forms are mailed to the Fair, please include a check or money order made out to the South Carolina State Fair.

Can I choose not to provide my social security number on entry forms?

Social Security and Federal Tax ID numbers are no longer required for entering competitions; however, exhibitors who exceed \$599 in total premiums will need to file a W-9 Form. Please print, complete, and return to the Entry office or mail to SC State Fair, Entry Office, P. O. Box 393, Columbia SC 29202. Premium checks will not be issued unless we have the completed W-9 form. A 1099 will be mailed to the exhibitor by January 31 of the following year.

How will I know that my entry form has been received by the Fair?

If you entered online, you will receive an email confirmation after submission of the form is complete. Exhibitors are advised to print the entry form at this time and bring with you when you deliver your exhibit to the fair. If you enter online, you do not need to mail an entry form to the Entry Department.

If you mailed your entry form to the Fair and wish to receive a confirmation, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped, legal size envelope. A confirmation letter will be mailed to you on the day your entry form is received.

If I miss the Open Entry Registration deadline(s), can I submit a late entry?

Yes, there are Late Entry Registration Periods associated with each department, with exception of Smallstock, and require a \$25 Late Fee in addition to regular exhibitor and entry fees. Once the Late Entry Registration deadline has closed for a particular department, no further entries will be accepted. This allows for adequate time to process the entries we receive and respects the fellow entrants who followed the rules and regulations requested by the Fair.

Can I display exhibits at the Fair without entering them in competitions?

No. Due to space considerations and liability issues, the Fair cannot accept exhibits for display that are outside of competition descriptions.

When will my entry or entries be judged and the results be available?

Each department has a different judging schedule. Please consult each departmental listing in the Exhibits Guide for more information. Building exhibit judging is closed to the public, with exception of some special contests. At the conclusion of the judging, the results are delivered to the Entry Office for processing and then posted to the web site, which can take from several hours to several days depending on number of entries. The best way to learn the results is to come to the Fair on Opening Day (\$1 admission) and look for your exhibit(s). **Please do not call the Fair Office or the Entry Office for this information during the judging process. This information has to be entered in the computer program before it can be released to the public, and this can take several days for completion. Telephone calls delay this process.**

When do I deliver and pick up my exhibit(s)?

Look under each department Index page in the Exhibits Guide for a list of **Delivery and Release dates** when exhibits can be brought to the Fair and picked up. Please note that all entries remain in the building or on display throughout the entire run of the Fair and are not released for any reason until the Release date(s) after the Fair closes.

When will I receive a check for the premiums I win at the Fair?

Premium checks will be mailed to eligible prize winning exhibitors no later than 60 days after the Fair. Errors in premium statements will be corrected until November 30, after which time the books of the Fair will be closed.