

COMPETITIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A. General “building” exhibit competitions (Fine Art, Student Art, Agriculture, Flower, and 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 Exhibit Guide for rules and regulations of each department for complete information before entering.

Q. How do I enter competitions at the Fair?

A. Consult the current online edition of the South Carolina State Fair Competition Exhibits Guide for complete information on entry deadlines and requirements for each department at the Fair. Most competitions require pre-registration, except for certain club sponsored flower shows. Most competitions allow for online entry or postal mailing 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.

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

A. 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.

Q. Is there a fee for entering competitions at the Fair?

A. There are no fees in the Building exhibits departments. Livestock departments require fees, and this is listed at the beginning of each department 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, you may pay by major credit/debit card or a check or money order made out to the South Carolina State Fair.

Q. Is my social security number required on entry forms?

A. Social Security and Federal Tax ID numbers are not required for entering competitions; however, exhibitors who receive more than \$599 in total premiums will need to file a W-9 Form. Please print, compete, 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.

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

A. If you registered online, you will receive an email confirmation after submission of the form is complete. Exhibitors are advised to print the confirmation at this time and bring with you when you deliver your exhibit to the fair. Please note: If you register 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.

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

A. Perhaps, there are Late Entry Registration Periods associated with each department, with exception of **Smallstock** and **Youth Horse**, and require a \$25 Late Fee in addition to regular exhibitor and entry fees. Once the Late Entry Registration deadline has closed for a 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.

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

A. No. Due to space considerations and liability issues, the Fair cannot accept exhibits for displays that are outside of competition descriptions; however, fair management reserves the right to approve an unregistered exhibit for display purposes when presented with an item of interest and/or education to the public.

Q. When will my “building” entry or entries be judged and the results be available?

A. 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 end of the judging, the results are delivered to the Entry Office for data 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).

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

A. Look under each department Exhibits Guide for Delivery and Release date. 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.

Q. When will I receive a premium check for my prize winnings?

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

Q. I lost my premium check? Can it be replaced?

A. It is important to deposit or cash your premium check as soon as it is received. We must contact the bank to confirm the check has not cleared. If the check has not cleared the bank, and the fair is notified prior to November 30, the check will be reissued. No check will be reissued after November 30.