

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Aug. 22-Sept. 2, 2024

Creative Activities

Superintendent..... Tony Schwandt, St. Paul, Minn.
Secretary..... Arlene Restad, Eagan, Minn.
Board Member, 6th District..... Kirk Peysar, Aitkin, Minn.

Creative Activities Rules

1. **ENTRIES.** Open Monday, May 6. Entries close for all divisions Tuesday, July 30, at 4:30 p.m. No exceptions.
 - A. **ONLINE REGISTRATION.** All entries MUST be registered. Entries close on Tuesday, July 30, at 4:30 p.m. No entries will be accepted after closing date. No entry fee required.
 1. Exhibitors will receive an instantaneous email confirmation after competing the online process. Exhibitors must have a copy printed out or readily available to view on a mobile device during specified drop-off dates as proof of your registration; when delivering your exhibits.
 2. Refer to the "How to Enter Exhibits" document on the creative activities web page for detailed information and entry procedures. Visit the Minnesota State Fair website to begin the registration process: competition.mnstatefair.org
 - B. **MAIL-IN REGISTRATION.** Must be in our office (not postmarked) by Tuesday, July 30, at 4:30 p.m. No entries will be accepted after closing date. All entries MUST be registered. Follow procedure below:
 1. On an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper, include 1) first name, last name, address and phone number; 2) list of exhibit class number(s) and a description for each exhibit.
 2. Mail to: Competition Department - c/o: Creative Activities, Minnesota State Fair, 1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55108.
 3. You will receive a paper confirmation of your entries via USPS mail.
 4. Exhibitors must have a copy printed out or readily available to view on a mobile device during specified drop-off dates as proof of your registration; when delivering your exhibits.
 - C. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE REGISTERED.**
2. **ELIGIBILITY.**
 - A. **Entry limit for Divisions 1-5.** No more than one entry will be permitted in any class by one exhibitor. A single exhibitor may register (sign up online) for no more than 25 classes TOTAL in Divisions 1-5 (needlecraft, garment making, handcrafts, collections and senior citizen).
 - B. **Entry limit for Division 6.** A single exhibitor may register (sign up online) for up to 30 classes in Division 6 (baked goods). An exhibitor who registers for more than 20 classes in Division 6 will need to narrow down to a maximum of 20 entries that they will deliver. Special contests (classes 1090-1092) are included in the registration limit. Family members and/or people living at the same address (household) may register and enter exhibits in the same class as long as each entry is prepared separately; multiple entries from the same batch are not allowed.
 - C. **Entry limit for Division 7.** A single exhibitor may register (sign up online) for up to 30 classes in Division 7 (canning). An exhibitor who registers for more than 20 classes in Division 7 will need to narrow down to a maximum of 20 entries that they will deliver. Family members and/or people living at the same address (household) may register and enter exhibits in the same class as long as each entry is prepared separately; multiple entries from the same batch are not allowed.
 - D. Entries in creative activities are limited to bona fide living residents of Minnesota and must be the work of the exhibitor completed within three (3) years preceding the 2024 State Fair.
 - E. Exhibits that have won a first-place at a previous Minnesota State Fair are not eligible for entry, except in baked products and canning divisions.
 - F. Entries are open to any individual 14 years of age or older as of the first day of the fair (exception: some of the special contests have different age requirements; see individual special contest rules).
 - G. Exhibit represents a recreational hobby and is not used as any means of livelihood, directly or indirectly, as determined by the State Fair staff. In case of protest, refer to state statutes document.
 - H. Winners in classes designated "Sweepstakes" are selected from first-place winners in qualifying classes.
 - I. Management reserves the right to refuse entry to unusually large or heavy exhibits that are difficult to handle and display. Pre-approval by superintendent is required for large exhibits.

- J. No tree skirts, plastic needlepoint canvas, pillowcases, tied quilts, plastic milk cartons, cans, aprons, dish towels, dishcloths, pot holders, napkins, diamond art or art made from kits, wedding gowns or baptismal gowns, yard art, photography, drawings on paper, wreaths, doilies or any type of taxidermy will be accepted in any category.
- K. "Not otherwise specified (NOS)" classes are only for such entries that have no regular classes listed. If there is an existing class where an entry fits, it cannot be entered in NOS and will be moved by staff or judges to the appropriate class to be judged against like entries. This decision is final based on judge and staff assessment.
- L. The Minnesota State Fair is not responsible for any lost or damaged entries. This is an at-will exhibit, and staff takes every precaution possible to ensure each exhibit is treated with care. The Minnesota State Fair does not insure any exhibit entered in the Creative Activities Building. If an exhibitor feels it is necessary, they must purchase insurance at their own expense.

3. DELIVERY OF EXHIBITS.

- A. Entries in needlecraft, garment making, handcrafts, collections and work of senior citizens will be received Saturday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m.; to 5 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Monday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. All entries must be received by Monday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. All entries must be registered PRIOR to delivery. Quilts and rugs entered in County Sweepstakes Contests will be received up to Wednesday, Aug. 14; at noon. Delivered to the Creative Activities Building.
- B. Entries in canned and preserved foods will be received Saturday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Delivered to the Creative Activities Annex on the west side of the building.
- C. Entries in baked products will be received Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ALL baked products should be delivered to the Creative Activities Annex on the west side of the building.
- D. Due to limited storage space, early drop-off is limited only to those who are unable to deliver their exhibits during the designated dates above. Early drop off begins Wednesday, July 31, through Wednesday, Aug. 7 (excluding Saturday and Sunday), from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Admin Too Building (located at 1312 Cosgrove Ave. on the fairgrounds). No items will be accepted before July 31. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - 1. All items must be registered prior to early drop-off. A printed copy of the email confirmation MUST accompany early deliveries; exhibitors must attach to each exhibit: 1) exhibitor number, 2) class number, 3) description of entry.
 - 2. No heavy items or exhibits requiring special handling will be accepted for early delivery (this includes furniture, oversized items, canoes and boats). If you are not sure your piece will be accepted for early delivery, call the competition office PRIOR to delivery, 651-288-4417. No baked goods are accepted for early delivery.
 - 3. All exhibits MUST BE REGISTERED prior to being delivered.
- E. Competitors who send exhibits by mail or express should do so at least three weeks before the opening day of the fair. Address to: Superintendent of Creative Activities, Minnesota State Fair, 1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55108.
 - 1. The sender's name and address must be plainly written on the outside of the package and also placed on a card inside.
 - 2. A LIST OF THE EXHIBITS BEING SENT MUST BE ENCLOSED.
 - 3. Department clerks will classify entries, prepare entry tags and attach them to each exhibit sent.
 - 4. ONLY USPS, UPS or FedEx deliveries will be accepted. Directions for return shipment of exhibits post-fair should be given, and money or checks (payable to: Minnesota State Fair) must be enclosed to cover cost of returning entries to exhibitor. Do NOT send stamps. RETURN OF EXHIBIT: See #5, D.
 - 5. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO BEING SENT.**
- F. **Do NOT bring in props to accompany the exhibit. They will not be used and are at risk of being misplaced.**

4. JUDGING.

- A. All judges' decisions are final.
- B. Errors or omissions to the published results, premium checks or scorecards must be sent in writing within 10 days after the fair closes to competition@mnstatefair.org.
- C. Judging of all exhibits (except entries in the baked products division) will be conducted Monday, Aug. 12 to Monday, Aug. 19. Should any exhibit be entered in the wrong class and the error be discovered before the judging, the superintendent may make proper correction in the entry.
- D. A duplicate scorecard will be returned to the exhibitor for each scored exhibit to help make the reasons for decisions apparent. The sweepstakes winner is chosen from the first-place winners within a category.

- E. Judges are instructed not to award ribbons unless entries are deemed worthy of merit. If no competition exists and an exhibit is not worthy of a first-place ribbon, the judge may award a second or a third place ribbon per their judgment. In large classes, ALL entries are evaluated, but only the top 25 will be scored and receive a returned scorecard.
 - F. Only finished or mounted work will be accepted. Wall hangings and pictures must have a means of hanging them. Any exhibit displaying exhibitor's name must be covered by stitched cloth or heavy tape.
 - G. Soiled entries and any entry that is damp or wet will not be judged.
 - H. Every effort will be made to display entries in an attractive arrangement and per display space available. The State Fair reserves the right to reject any exhibit offered if it is objectionable in any way, if it requires an excessive amount of space, or if the capacity of the department has been reached. Due to the number of entries, all entries may not be displayed.
 - I. Results will be available near the office in the Creative Activities Building during the fair and at mnstatefair.org. No results will be given over the phone prior to the start of the fair.
5. **RETURN OF EXHIBITS.**
- A. Exhibits can be picked up from the Creative Activities Building on Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 1-7 p.m., and Thursday, Sept. 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No exhibits returned before Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 1 p.m. For detailed information review the "Delivery and Return Procedures" document available on the Minnesota State Fair website under General Information at <https://www.mnstatefair.org/competitions/creative-activities/>
 - 1. When dropping off exhibit(s), you will receive a yellow confirmation sheet. Bring the yellow confirmation sheet when picking up your exhibit(s).
 - 2. If you are unable to pick up your exhibit(s) on these days, you must make arrangements with the competition department at 651-288-4417 on or AFTER Sept. 10, 2024.
 - 3. **CANOEES and BOATS** cannot be left behind. We do not have space to store any oversized exhibits. If you are unable to pick up your canoe, boat or oversized exhibit during the specified return dates, they will be left in the building and at risk of damage.
 - B. All entries must be picked up by Dec. 2, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. AFTER such date, the State Fair reserves the right to destroy or dispose of non-claimed items at its discretion. Each person who enters an item at the State Fair does so on the condition and with the understanding that he or she forfeits any and all legal rights and claims to his or her entered items that are not picked up by the deadlines described in this section.
 - C. Premium checks and scorecards will be distributed at the same time entries are available for return to exhibitors. Premium checks not picked up during those dates will be mailed to exhibitors at the address listed on their entry form. You may also donate any premiums won to the Minnesota State Fair Foundation 501(c)(3) to support their mission of preserving and improving the historic Minnesota State Fairgrounds and buildings, and supporting State Fair agricultural, scientific and educational programs.
 - D. **UPS or USPS boxes accepted for return of entries.** All express and parcel post charges must be prepaid by the sender. Directions for return shipment should be given, and money or check (made out to Minnesota State Fair) must be enclosed to cover cost of returning exhibits to the exhibitor. **DO NOT SEND STAMPS.** No exhibits will be shipped back to a P.O. box.

Division 4: Collections

Collections Rules

1. **STAMP COLLECTIONS.** Exhibits in this division need not be the work of the exhibitor, except as otherwise specified, but must be owned by exhibitor. Stamps must be mounted in frames under glass. Brief explanation of the subject will add to the interest value. Outside frame measure should NOT exceed 30" h x 36" w and 1 1/4" d. MUST be mounted landscape format (horizontal, long dimensions). No portrait format (vertical displays); these will NOT fit in creative activities display frames and may not be displayed during State Fair.
2. **POSTCARDS FRAMES.** Read instructions carefully regarding information about linens, chromes and antique post cards. Cards must be mounted under glass or heavy plastic preferably with clear corner mounts. Brief explanation of the subject would add to the interest value. Classes 813, 816 and 819 are antique competition only (pre-1920). Classes 812, 820 and 821 are from specific era(s); be sure to abide by the specific era if entering these classes. Outside frame measurement should NOT exceed 30" h x 36" w and 1 1/4" d. MUST be mounted landscape format (horizontal, long dimensions). No portrait format (vertical displays); these will NOT fit in creative activities display frames and may not be displayed during State Fair.
3. **CREATIVE COLLECTIONS.** Collections must be framed or boxed, under glass or heavy plastic. Please label and title collection on the front if possible. No larger than 24" x 36" or 864 sq. in. Attach a short explanation with each entry describing the collection and the reason for collecting these items. NO wet preserved items or taxidermy.
4. **SCRAPBOOKS.** All entries must be two-page layout in plastic sleeves. Do not bring entire scrapbook. Entries must adhere to the theme listed for each class.
5. **COINS AND CURRENCY.** The display of coins and currency will not be accepted for exhibition at the Minnesota State Fair.
6. **INSURANCE.** Private insurance is required for collections whose value exceed \$200.

Judging Criteria - Stamp Collections

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Quality.....	20
Material.....	20
Design and general appearance.....	20
Condition.....	20
Value in point of interest.....	20
	<hr/> 100

Judging Criteria - Postcard Frames

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Quality of Material.....	30
Design and general appearance.....	30
Condition.....	20
Value in point of interest.....	20
	<hr/> 100

Judging Criteria - Creative Collections

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Description.....	20
Material.....	20
Design and general appearance.....	40
Condition.....	20
	<hr/> 100

Judging Criteria - Scrapbooks

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Photo.....	30
Effective Design.....	40
Journaling.....	30
	<hr/> 100

Premiums for Collections

2024 First-Place Premium

\$8

Sweepstakes (unless otherwise indicated)

\$10

Class Listing for Collections

Stamp Collections

- 800 U.S. 19th-century postage
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 801 U.S. 20th-century postage
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 802 U.S. and foreign revenues; stationary, depts., postage due, special delivery
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 803 First-day covers; U.S. or foreign
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 804 U.S. covers; not first day
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 805 Foreign covers; not first day
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 806 Foreign; one country
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.
- 807 Topical; manufactured, from 2 or more countries (trains, boats, bridges, etc.)
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally. MUST have stamps from more than one country.
- 808 Topical; natural, from 2 or more countries (birds, animals, flowers, etc.)
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally. MUST have stamps from more than one country.
- 809 Topical; subject as art, from 2 or more countries (Red Cross, religion, space, etc.)
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally. MUST have stamps from more than one country.
- 810 Labels; Christmas, Tuberculosis, local stamps, charity, etc.
Should contain at least 20 stamps or 10 covers, limited to one frame. Maximum size limit of frame should be 30" h x 36" w x 1 1/4" d. Stamps must be mounted horizontally.

811 Sweepstakes, stamp collections

classes 800-810

SP9400 Charles Bauer Memorial Trophy

Bruce Bauer will award the Charles Bauer memorial trophy to the winner of Sweepstakes, stamp collections (class 811).

Postcard Frames

- 812 Mixed era: trace one subject using cards from more than one era, any years
Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.
- 813 Holiday
Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Cards to be antique (pre-1920). Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.
- 814 Minnesota postcards
Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Any years. Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.
- 815 Views, places or buildings, etc., scenic nature (non-Minnesota)
Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Any years. Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.
- 816 People: famous, occupational, etc.
Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Cards to be antique (pre-1920). Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.

817 Novelty cards

Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Any years. Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.

818 Transportation cards

Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Any years. Due to limited space, only top 4 submissions may be displayed.

819 Topic: historical event, dogs, cats, mining, fishing, etc.

Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Cards to be antique (pre-1920).

820 Linen era postcards

Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Linen era.

821 Chrome (slick finish) modern postcards

Frame must contain at least 6 cards - no more than 24. Chrome era.

822 Sweepstakes, postcard frames

(classes 812-821)

SP9401 Twin City Postcard Club

Will award a plaque to winner of Sweepstakes, postcard frames (class 822).

Creative Collections

823 Collection, made entirely by exhibitor

Must be framed or boxed, under glass or heavy plastic. Label and title collection on front. No larger than 24" x 36" or 864 sq. in. Short explanation describing the collection and the reason for collecting items.

824 Collection, assembled or mounted by exhibitor

Must be framed or boxed, under glass or heavy plastic. Label and title collection on front. No larger than 24" x 36" or 864 sq. in. Short explanation describing the collection and the reason for collecting items.

825 Collection, nature

Must be framed or boxed, under glass or heavy plastic. Label and title collection on front. No larger than 24" x 36" or 864 sq. in. Short explanation describing the collection and the reason for collecting items.

826 Collection, history

Must be framed or boxed, under glass or heavy plastic. Label and title collection on front. No larger than 24" x 36" or 864 sq. in. Short explanation describing the collection and the reason for collecting items.

827 Sweepstakes, creative collections

(classes 823-826)

Scrapbooks

828 "Vacation," 12 in. x 12 in, two-page layout

Do not bring entire scrapbook, entries must adhere to the theme listed.

829 "Heritage," 12 in. x 12 in., two-page layout

Do not bring entire scrapbook, entries must adhere to the theme listed.

830 "Special Occasion," 12 in. x 12 in., two-page layout

Do not bring entire scrapbook, entries must adhere to the theme listed.

831 Sweepstakes, scrapbooks

(classes 828-830)