

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Aug. 24-Sept. 4, 2023

## Creative Activities

Superintendent..... Tony Schwandt, St. Paul, Minn.  
Secretary..... Arlene Restad, Eagan, Minn.  
Board Member..... Ray Erspamer, Hibbing, Minn.

### Creative Activities Rules

1. **ENTRIES.** Open Monday, May 1. Entries close for all divisions Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 4:30 p.m. No exceptions.
  - A. **ONLINE REGISTRATION.** All entries MUST be registered. Entries close on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 4:30 p.m. No entries will be accepted after closing date. Errors or omissions must be registered within 10 days after fair closes. No entry fee required.
    1. A confirmation will be sent to your email. Exhibitors must bring their registration confirmation during specified drop off dates and times for verification purposes only. A hard copy printed OR readily available to be viewed easily on a mobile device will be required at drop off.
    2. Refer to the "Entry Instructions" document for detailed information and entry procedures. Visit the Minnesota State Fair website to begin the registration process: [competition.mnstatefair.org](http://competition.mnstatefair.org)
  - B. **MAIL-IN REGISTRATION.** Must be in our office (not postmarked) by Tuesday, Aug. 1, 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. Must include 1) first name, last name, address and phone number; 2) list of class number(s) and description of entry 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 bring their registration confirmation with their entry. This is used for verification purposes only.
  - C. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE REGISTERED.**
2. **ELIGIBILITY.**
  - A. A single exhibitor may register for no more than 25 classes total in divisions 1-5 (needlecraft, garment making, handcrafts, collections and senior citizen). Entry limits for division 6 (baked products) and division 7 (canning): no more than 30 classes registered for division 6 and 7 respectively; each exhibitor may submit up to 20 exhibits (selected from the registered 30 classes) for division 6 and division 7 separately. Entries in special contests are not included in these limits; classes 1089-1091 and 1280.
  - B. Entries in this department are limited to bona fide living residents of Minnesota and must be the work of the exhibitor completed within three (3) years preceding the State Fair.
  - C. Exhibits which have won a first prize at a previous Minnesota State Fair are not eligible for entry, except in baked products and canning divisions.
  - D. 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).
  - E. 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.
  - F. No more than one entry will be permitted in any class by one exhibitor. Classes designated "Sweepstakes" or beginning with the letters "SP" will be selected from winners in qualifying classes.
  - G. 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.
  - H. No tree skirts, plastic needlepoint canvas, pillow cases, tied quilts, plastic milk cartons, cans, aprons, dish towels, dish cloths, 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.
  - I. "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.

- J. 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. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 13, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. All entries must be received by Monday, Aug. 14, 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 Thursday, Aug. 17 at noon.
- B. Entries in canned and preserved foods will be received Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 13, 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. 19, 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 space, those not able to drop entries off during the designated delivery dates will be allowed to drop entries off early beginning Wednesday, Aug. 2, through Wednesday, Aug. 9, (excluding Saturday and Sunday) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to the Admin Too Building (located at 1312 Cosgrove Ave on the fairgrounds). No items will be accepted before Aug. 2. 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. No baked goods are accepted for early delivery.
  3. All items 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. Addressed to: Superintendent of Creative Activities, Minnesota State Fair, 1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.
1. The sender's name and address must be plainly written upon the outside of the package and also placed upon a card inside.
  2. A LIST OF THE EXHIBITS BEING SENT MUST BE ENCLOSED. If entry is made by a person over the age of 65, special note should be made of that fact.
  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 should be given and money or checks (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. They will not be used and are at risk of being misplaced.**

### 4. JUDGING.

- A. All judge's decisions are final.
- B. Judging of all exhibits (except entries in the baked products division) will be conducted Monday, Aug. 14 to Saturday, 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.
- C. A duplicate scorecard will be returned to the exhibitor for each scored entry in order that the reasons for decisions may be apparent. The sweepstakes winner is chosen from the first-place winners within a category.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Soiled entries and entries not made within the last three years will not be judged.

- G. 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. 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. Due to the number of entries, all entries may not be displayed.

5. **RETURN OF EXHIBITS.**

- A. Exhibits returned from the Creative Activities Building on Wednesday, Sept. 6, from 1-7 p.m., and Thursday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No exhibits returned before Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 1 p.m. See "Return of Exhibits Procedure" for more information.
  - 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.
  - 3. **CANOES 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. 1, 2023, 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. Should you choose to donate your premiums, you may sign over your check when you pick up your exhibit(s).
- D. **UPS or USPS boxes accepted for return of entries.** All express and parcel post charges must be prepaid by the sender. No P.O. Box addresses will be accepted. Directions for return shipment should be given and money or checks (to: Minnesota State Fair) must be enclosed to cover cost of returning entries to exhibitor. **STAMPS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## Division 4: Collections

### Collections Rules

- 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); they will NOT fit in creative activities display frames and may not be displayed during State Fair.
- POST CARDS.** 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 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); they will NOT fit in creative activities display frames and may not be displayed during State Fair.
- 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.
- 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.
- COINS AND CURRENCY.** The display of coins and currency will not be accepted for exhibition at the Minnesota State Fair.
- INSURANCE.** Private insurance is required for collections whose value exceed \$200.

#### Judging Criteria - Stamp Collections

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

#### Judging Criteria - Post Card Frames

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

#### Judging Criteria - Creative Collections

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

#### Judging Criteria - Scrapbooks

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

### Premiums for Collections

2023 First Place Premium  
\$8

Sweepstakes (unless otherwise indicated)

\$10

## Class Listing for Collections

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### 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 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 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 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, TB, 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).*

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### Post Card 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 post 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.*
- 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 post cards

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

## 821 Chrome (slick finish) modern post cards

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

## 822 Sweepstakes, post card frames

*(classes 812-821)*

## SP9401 Twin City Post Card Club

*Will award a plaque to winner of Sweepstakes, post card 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)*

## SP9402 Hennepin History Museum Award

*Will award a rosette and 1-year membership (\$75 value) to the winner of Collection, history (class 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)*