



2024 ENTRY TIMELINE

Entry Deadline	Monday, April 15 at 8:00pm
Tier 1 Notification Email	Wednesday, April 24
Shipped Entries May Arrive	Thursday, April 25–Wednesday, May 15
Print Delivery.	Tuesday, May 14 & Wednesday, May 15 • Noon-7pm
Artists' Reception	Tuesday, June 11 • 7-9pm
Fair Dates	Tuesday, June 12–Sunday, July 7 (Closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Entry Pick Up	Tuesday, July 9 • Noon–7pm

ONE-DAY CONTESTS (*pre-registration required; limited to 30 entrants*)

Photo Shootout #1	Sunday, June 23
Photo Shootout #2	Sunday, June 30

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Judges' Roundtable	Saturday, June 15
Judges' Critique	Saturday, June 22
Tips from Photographers	Saturday, June 29
Workshops & Presentations	Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the Fair, except Sunday, July 7

ENTRY FEE

\$20 per entry (non-refundable).

ENTRY LIMIT

Twenty (20) entries per exhibitor in all classes combined.

ENTRY CHECKLIST

- Read entry materials and decide what to enter.
- Enter online, upload digital images, and pay entry fees by Monday, April 15 at sdfair.com/entry
- Save email confirmation. Entry delivery instructions will be emailed after entry deadline.
- Prepare accepted images for delivery.
- Deliver prints on May 14 or 15, or ship prints to arrive by May 15.
- Pick up prints on Tuesday, July 9.

NEW THIS YEAR

- Fair Theme: “**Let’s Go Retro!**” With a nod to nostalgia and a focus on fun, the 2024 Fair will give our yesteryears another moment in the San Diego sun.
- Special one-year Class 035 - **Solar Eclipse Experience.**
- Entry Pick Up will be Tuesday, July 9 from noon-7 PM.
- **Entry Deadline is Monday, April 15, 8:00pm.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- You **must** upload your digital photograph when registering your entry online.
- The finished dimensions of entries delivered at Tier 2 must be exactly 16" x 20". The only exceptions are entries in Large Prints, which must be bigger than 20" x 24," but can be no more than 40" x 40" (including any matting).
- Large Prints may not exceed 7lbs in weight.
- Float mounts are not allowed.
- No watermarks or names are allowed on digital entries or prints.
- **All work must be an original creation of the entrant, including ALL individual elements of a composite work.**
- **Images created by Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) are expressly prohibited in all categories. See "Image Processing and AI Rules" on page 4 for details.**
- The Exhibition of Photography reserves the right to request original source files used in submitted work.

CONTACT

Lois Fong-Sakai, Coordinator • Amethel Parel-Sewell, Coordinator
Entry Office: Monday–Friday, 10:00AM – 4:00 PM (*Support available until 8:00 PM on April 15.*)
(858) 792-4207 • entry@sdfair.com • sdfair.com/entry
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014

ELIGIBILITY

The Exhibition of Photography is an international juried exhibition of color and black-and-white photographs, open to all interested photographers, ages 18 and older. All work must be an original creation of the entrant, including all individual elements of a composite work. Images created by Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) are expressly prohibited in all categories. Group work is not allowed.

FAIR TICKETS

Entrants will receive two (2) Exhibitor Access Passes. The passes will be available for pickup during Tier 2 print delivery. Tickets not picked up during print delivery dates will be at the Will Call Booth at the Main Gate. Please bring identification.

JUDGING

The Exhibition of Photography is a two-tier, juried show. **Tier 1 Judging**, from digital images, determines which entries will advance for delivery and Tier 2 judging. During **Tier 2** judging, judges view photos and determine winners. **Advancement to Tier 2 delivery does not guarantee that a print will be in the show;** images must meet Fair rules and judges' standards for print quality and presentation. Accepted work may be disqualified if misrepresented or not ready for display. Each image will be evaluated on its own merits by photographic professionals. The decisions of the judges and coordinators are final.

Judging Criteria: Visual Impact, Composition, Technical Quality, Creativity, and Presentation

DELIVERY & PICK UP

Accepted entries for Tier 2 judging may be delivered or shipped to the Fairgrounds. You will receive an email with delivery instructions and an entry tag, which must be secured to the back of each entry. The Fair is not responsible for lost or delayed shipments. For returning of entries, a pre-paid return label from the shipper (UPS or USPS) must be included with entry. The San Diego County Fair assumes no responsibility for damage to shipped photos.

Ship to: San Diego County Fair
Ag & Ed Department • Exhibition of Photography
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Del Mar, CA 92014

A claim check for entry pick up will be issued to each exhibitor upon print delivery and must be presented at the time of print pick up. If you are unable to pick up your print, arrange for another person to bring in your claim check with a written, signed authorization from you. Entries not picked up become the property of the San Diego County Fair and will be disposed of promptly.

TIER 1 REQUIREMENTS

When registering, please state in the description the location of images and briefly how the image was edited. Tier 1 digital images must be uploaded and should be approximately 1800 pixels on the long side for horizontal or vertical images. File size should not exceed 6MB.

TIER 2 REQUIREMENTS

To prepare prints for Tier 2, see the "Print and Presentation Specifications" included in this document. It will also be included with your Tier 2 notification e-mail, and can be found at www.sdfair.com/entry. Processing, printing, mounting and optional matting may be done commercially.

IMPORTANT: No watermarks or names are allowed on digital entries or prints. Names of the entrants are not allowed in photo titles, in the descriptions in the online entry forms, or on the fronts of prints.

AWARDS

The following are awarded in each class:

1st Place	\$200 and Rosette
2 nd Place	\$175 and Rosette
3rd Place	\$150 and Rosette
4 th Place	\$125 and Rosette

Best of Show is selected from 1st place winners in all classes.

Best of Show \$200 gift card and Rosette – *Award donated by Chrome Digital*

Special Awards

Coordinators Award	\$100 and Ribbon
Margaret Frye Award	\$100 and Ribbon
Gene Wild Award	\$100 and Ribbon

People's Choice: Selected by popular vote during the Fair. Ribbon and gift card. *Award donated by Chrome Digital*

Donated Awards: Gift certificates or cash awards given by various sponsors. The Fair assumes no responsibility for awards donated, nor endorses any organizations or individuals.

Honorable Mention: Ribbons may be awarded at judge's discretion.

No exhibitor will be allowed more than two monetary awards per class. There is no limit to the number of ribbons an exhibitor may win. Award checks will be available at entry pickup. Checks not picked up will be mailed within 30 days.

SALE OF WORK

All entries selected for display will be posted for sale at the price indicated on the online entry registration. Photographers must indicate on the online entry form if entries are not for sale. If no price is listed during registration, the item will be marked **NFS**. Listing a selling price during the online registration authorizes the Fair to give your phone number to interested buyers. No sales are allowed during the Fair. All sales will be handled by the exhibitor and the buyer.

GENERAL RULES

1. Local and State Rules apply to this competition, which are available at www.sdfair.com/entry.
2. Entrants must be 18 years old and above.
3. No entry will be accepted should the exhibitor describe conditions under which they will exhibit. The 22nd DAA (San Diego County Fair) will not be responsible for loss or damage of any kind.
4. **Once registered, changes in description, title, and price may not be changed.** Substitutions will not be accepted. Limit descriptions to 100 characters and include location where image was taken. Review your entry before completing registration to ensure that you have entered the correct division and class for each entry, and that titles match the uploaded images.
5. Work must be in good taste and suitable for family viewing.

6. Work previously shown at the Fair or nearly identical, regardless of title, is ineligible. Identical prints may not be shown in more than one division of the show. Submitting color and black-and-white versions of the same images is **not** allowed.
7. Model releases are the responsibility of the entrant.

IMAGE PROCESSING & USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) RULES

All works, in their entirety, must be created or photographed by the entrant. In Tier 1 submissions, please indicate the location of images and briefly how the image was edited.

Moderate use of corrective/enhancement tools and techniques that maintain the integrity of the subject matter and specific category are allowed. These may include cropping, color and exposure adjustments, sharpening, noise reduction, healing, cloning, removing, liquifying, layer masking, focus stacking, stitched panoramas, HDR/exposure blending, and infrared.

In the Documentary category, content cannot be altered except for basic cropping and exposure adjustments. The Digital Photographic Art category allows more editing and compositing techniques such as collaged elements; for this category, original source images must be included in Tier 1 digital submissions.

Photoshop's Generative Fill/Expand may be used as a minor corrective tool (similar to healing, cloning, and removing) when not significantly altering the primary photographic content. It may not be used with text or image prompts to add substantive generated content.

Prohibited in all categories are stock art, borrowed imagery, or Generative AI (e.g. Midjourney, Stable Diffusion, or other text-to-image or image-to-image apps.) We reserve the right to request original source files used in submitted work.

DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

DIVISION 1201: COLOR SCENIC – LANDSCAPE

Images should reflect the season, regardless of when they were taken. An image with fall colors should be entered in Color Scenic - Fall, for instance, and one with snow or bare trees in Color Scenic - Winter. Shots of the Arctic/Antarctic are allowed in Class 004 - Winter.

Class 001: Spring

Class 002: Summer

Class 003: Fall

Class 004: Winter

Class 005: Timeless (Landscape Non-seasonal)

This category is for scenic color landscapes that aren't seasonal, including, but not limited to: deserts, dunes, coniferous forests, monuments in landscapes, foggy scenes, and aerial/drone images. Images that convey a season (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) must be submitted in the correct corresponding class in this division. Waterscapes, Seascapes, Black & White landscapes, Night/Astrography, and Cityscapes **do not** belong in this class and should be submitted in the corresponding classes listed below. **Review ALL classes to ensure you're entering your images in the correct one, or your images may not advance in the competition.**

DIVISION 1202: COLOR

Class 006: Waterscapes, Seascapes, Waterfalls, Water Details, etc.

Class 007: Architecture or Cityscapes

Class 008: People, formal – Includes studio and environmental portraits. Artificial lighting, props and other staging are allowed. *Awards donated by George's Camera*

Class 009: People, informal – Informal candid images may include travel, street, concert, and other non-posed and unstaged images.

DIVISION 1203: COLOR NATURE

Class 010: Flowers – *Awards donated by George's Camera*

Class 011: All Other Plants and Trees **Class 012: Wild Animals – Mammals** **Class 013: Wild Animals – Birds**

Class 014: Animals – Insects, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Aquarium Sea Life

Zoo animals and aquarium sea life are allowed, but no photos of domestic animals. Studio photography is permitted in Flowers and All Other Plants and Trees.

DIVISION 1204: CELL PHONE

Class 015: Cell Phone – Color or black-and-white images taken with a cell phone.

When registering, please state in the description which phone and apps (if any) were used, where it was taken, and what is depicted.

DIVISION 1205: BLACK & WHITE – Duotones, including sepia-toned images, are acceptable. **No colors other than black or white or sepia tones are allowed.** No photos of domestic animals. Studio photography is allowed in classes 017 and 019.

Class 016: Scenic – Landscapes, waterscapes

Class 017: Nature – Plants, insects, and wild animals

Class 018: Architecture or Cityscapes

Class 019: People – Formal or informal

DIVISION 1206: COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE

Class 020: Documentary – Must be a single image that's not staged or altered to change content. May include travel photos if they meet the above criteria. Basic cropping, dodging, and burning of the image is allowed. No other manipulation is allowed.

DIVISION 1207: COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE—No Style Restrictions

Class 021: Close Up, Macro, and Micro – Photo must be equal to or greater than life-size (1:1). May include photomicrographs and electron microscope images of things that can't be seen with the naked eye.

Class 022: Sports

Class 023: Still Life – A collection of inanimate objects arranged in a specific way; may include flowers, food, game, or man-made objects. *Awards donated by George's Camera*

Class 024: Abstract – Usually not recognizable as an object. Includes fractal, algorithmic art. May include detail shots of nature.

Class 025: Underwater – Images taken underwater while the photographer is underwater. Includes marine life portraits, marine life large animals, and underwater model photography. The photographer must be underwater when taking these images; unlimited post processing is allowed.

Class 026: Our Best Friend – Animals that are beloved companions and pets. Includes domestic animals such as farm animals.

Class 027: Family Moments – Show the meaning and spirit of family relationships.

Class 028: Night – Low-light images of night skies, astrophotography, and painting with light. May include images from dawn or dusk.

Class 029: Fair Theme – San Diego County Fair: *Let's Go Retro!*

Class 030: At the Fair – Moments and scenes from San Diego County Fair from any year.

When registering, please state in the description where it was taken, what is depicted, and how the image was photographed and edited.

Class 031 All Things Mechanical – Trains, planes, automobiles, farm equipment, and industrial machinery; may include people.

DIVISION 1208: FILM AND ALTERNATIVE PROCESSES

Class 032: Film and Alternative Processes – Images produced through traditional wet darkroom techniques. Also includes alternative genres such as photo restoration or hand coloring of photographs; for these, work should include the before and after images in equal size. *Awards donated by Camera Exposure & Safelight Labs*

DIVISION 1209: DIGITAL ART

Class 033: Digital Photographic Art – Artwork based on photographs and manipulated digitally. All work must be an original creation of the entrant, including individual elements of a composite work. Images created by Artificial Intelligence (AI), partially or completely, are expressly prohibited. **For Tier 1 digital image submission, the original source images must be included as thumbnails placed along the outer edges without obscuring the main image. If accepted to Tier 2, the delivered print does not need to include the thumbnails.**

DIVISION 1210: LARGE PRINTS – *Awards donated by George's Camera*

Class 034: Large Prints – Color or black-and-white images, any subject and any style, that are larger than 20" x 24" but no larger than 40" on the longest side (including any matting). **Large prints may not exceed 7 lbs.**

When registering, please state the size of the print in the description.

DIVISION 1211: SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPERIENCE - *Awards donated by George's Camera*

Class 035: Solar Eclipse Experience – Color or black and white images of partial, annular, or total solar eclipses. Images may include the eclipse, people, surroundings, atmospheres, or environments associated with solar eclipses. There is no time restriction for when the photos were taken. This is a special class for 2024 only.

PRINTING, MOUNTING & PRESENTATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR TIER 2 JUDGING

If your entries have been accepted for Tier 2 Judging, review the following rules for preparing your prints.

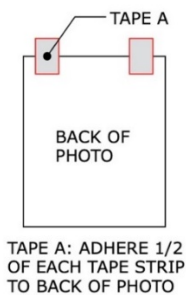
- **The finished dimensions of ready-to-hang entries delivered at Tier 2 must be exactly 16" x 20". No matter the size of the printed artwork, it must be securely mounted on 16" x 20" mount board, foam core, or other backing board.** The only exception to the 16" x 20" requirement is Large Prints.
- **Large Prints must be bigger than 20" x 24" but can be no more than 40" x 40"** (including any matting). **Large Prints should not weigh more than 7 lbs.**
- **Mounted prints, metal, acrylic, canvas, or other substrates are allowed, as long as the finished size is 16" x 20" and can be hung on our Velcro-receptive display panels.** Velcro will be attached to the back of each entry to adhere to the panels. Presentation can be vertical or horizontal. Framed images, glass, or float mounts are not allowed. For safety reasons, **metal prints must have rounded corners.**
- **A single window mat, if used, and mount boards must be BLACK or PURE WHITE. Ivory, cream, or colored mats or mount boards are not allowed.** The mat may have a black outside and white core, or a white outside with a black core. Use only a single mat; double or multiple mats are not allowed.
- **The digital tag included in your acceptance e-mail must be mounted on the back of your entry.** The tag has a thumbnail of the accepted image, and it should be placed in the orientation that the work should hang.
- **No names, signatures, or watermarks** are allowed on the front of the image or the mat.

Instructions for Entries with Window Mat & Mount Board

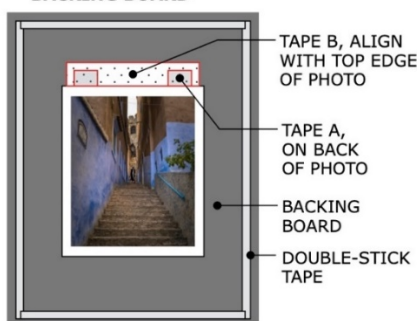
Basic Materials: Window mat, backing/mounting board, linen hinging tape or photo mounting tape, and double-sided tape. Don't use masking tape, transparent tape, photo corners, or spray glue to mount prints. Window mat and backing board and should be the same size.

- On backing board, position photo, then add guidelines to mark desired placement of photo in the window mat.
- Turn photo over (Figure 1) and apply 2-3 strips of hinging or mounting tape at the top edge of photo (Tape A). Half of mounting tape should be on back of photo, with other half extending at top. Tape only top of photo; don't tape all four sides of photo.
- Carefully turn the photo right-side-up and reposition it on the backing board using your guidelines (Figure 2).
- Place a longer strip of mounting tape (Tape B) over the sticky part of Tape A, which is hanging off the top of photo.
- Tape B is only over Tape A and the backing board, not overlapping the photo.
- With the print mounted to the backing board, double check that the photo and window mat are correctly positioned relative to the backing board.
- Add double-stick tape around perimeter of backing board. This will keep window mat in place.
- Carefully center window mat over photo and board. Place firmly to ensure mat adheres to board (Figure 3).

> FIGURE 1



> FIGURE 2: PHOTO ON BACKING BOARD



> FIGURE 3



2024 San Diego Fair Local Rules

Presentation of completed entry form shall be deemed acceptance of all rules. Acceptance includes permission to use your name, photograph, and exhibit for the news media.

1. Online registration is required in all departments and some one-day contests. Online entries are accepted until 8:00pm (Pacific Time) on the deadline day for online entry registration, unless otherwise stated.
2. Incomplete or incorrect entry forms may be returned at the discretion of the management. The Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms which may lead to elimination or disqualification of an entry.
3. Processing fees must be paid online at the time of registration.
4. Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing, in accordance with State Rules. Refunds under **\$15** will not be granted. **Badging and entry processing fees are non-refundable.**
5. Exhibitors must be living at the time the entry form and/or online entry is submitted.
6. All non-livestock entries must be the creative work of the exhibitor.
7. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain necessary permission to use material that is considered copyrighted in their entries.
8. Youth exhibitors must be **5 years** of age by January 1, 2024, and not older than 17 years on June 1, 2024, unless otherwise stated in Department Information.
9. The Management reserves the right to reject any exhibit/entry if it is objectionable in any way, requires an excessive amount of space, or the capacity of the department has been reached. All material used in decorating booths or exhibits must comply with State Fire codes. No entry will be accepted should the exhibitor describe conditions under which he/she will exhibit or the exhibit will be displayed.
10. The Management reserves the right to limit entries, and display thereof, to facilities available and to cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition. Classes may be closed when capacity is reached.
11. Substitutions may only be made in the original Division and Class, unless otherwise noted in the Department rules.
12. Entries must be delivered on the date(s) and times specified. Entries will not be accepted before or after the stated delivery date. All accepted exhibits must remain on display and shall not be removed until the date specified in the rules. Any exhibit not picked up on the specified date becomes the property of the San Diego County Fair and will be disposed of promptly.
13. All exhibits are entered and shown at the owner's risk. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits, but in no event will the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) be responsible for any injury or loss which may occur or for the actions of third parties. Insurance, if desired, should be obtained by the exhibitor at his/her own expense.
14. The American System of Judging will be used in the Adult Divisions and the Danish System of Judging will be used in the Youth Divisions, unless otherwise stated.
15. All entrants at exhibits must be neatly attired, wear shoes, and conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner.
16. Any person who violates any Local, State, or Department rule or displays unethical conduct will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the District may order.
17. **Contact Information:** If an entrant experiences a change of address, phone number, or email address, they are required to update this information with the Entry Office so they may be contacted regarding awards. This notification must be in writing and can be emailed to entry@sdfair.com or mailed to the Entry Department, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014.
18. All premium money will be paid from the awards as marked by the judges in the official judging books and not from ribbons that may be attached to the exhibits. The San Diego County Fair assumes no responsibility for special awards offered by clubs, individuals, or sanctioning bodies.
19. All premium and auction checks will be made payable to the exhibitor as listed on the entry form or online entry. Checks will be mailed within 30 days after the close of the Fair to the address shown on the entry form. Auction checks may be held longer if the buyer has not paid. Checks not cashed within 12 months from the date of issue will be forfeited. Replacement checks may be subject to a **\$35** stop payment fee.
20. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) is required by the Internal Revenue Service to report any premiums paid totaling the amount of **\$600** or more. Exhibitors may be required to submit a W-9 form.
21. The 22nd District Agricultural Association management reserves the right to amend or add to these rules, the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) assumes no liability or responsibility not herein expressed.