



Attention young creators! **The San Diego County Fair's Industrial Agricultural Mechanics Competition** is your chance to showcase your skills in welding, metalwork, ropework, and woodworking. Turn raw materials into stunning, functional projects that highlight your creativity and craftsmanship. And here's the best part—your hard work doesn't just stay on display. Select projects can even step into the spotlight during the Junior Livestock Auction, where creations can be sold to eager buyers. Show off your talent, make an impact, and take your passion to the next level!

Exhibition Timeline

Entry Deadline	May 23, 2026 at 11:59 PM (PST)
Entry Delivery	Monday, June 8, 2026
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Awards Reception	Saturday, June 13 @ 6:00 PM (Details provided after close of entries)
Entry Pickup	Monday, July 6, 2026

Eligibility

Students whose permanent home address lies within the regions of San Diego County. Projects constructed/ fabricated under the supervision of an Industrial & Technology Education teacher and/or a 4-H or Grange leader are highly encouraged.

Contact Us

San Diego County Fair Entry Office

entry@sdfair.com

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014

Office (858) 792-4207- Mon-Fri 10am-4pm



Exhibit-Specific Rules

1. All entries must be complete and contain all necessary components. Entries must have been completed within the last year (July 7, 2025 and after).
2. Entries that are found by fair staff to be too large for the space allotted will be judged but may have to be removed from display at the grounds for the duration of the fair.
3. Please read through the following entry materials for Division Specific Rules.
4. All welds in the competition can be done using E6010, E6011, E6013, E7018, and/or E7024 electrodes.

2026 Local Rules

1. Completion of online entry registration shall be deemed acceptance of all rules. Acceptance includes permission to use your name, photograph, and exhibit for the news media.
2. Online registration is required in all departments and for one-day contests. Online entries are accepted until 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on the deadline day for online entry registration, unless otherwise stated.
3. Once registered, the description, title, and price may not be changed. Substitutions will not be allowed. Fair Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms which may lead to elimination or disqualification of an entry.
4. Processing fees must be paid online at the time of registration. 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 (whose name appears on the entry registration), be in good taste, and suitable for family viewing. Fair Management reserves the right to disqualify any entry/exhibit it deems objectionable or not in accordance with competition standards.
7. If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, no changes will be made to the status of awards given for other entries.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining necessary permission from models and/or to use material in their entry that is considered copyrighted.
9. No entry will be accepted should the exhibitor describe the conditions under which he/she will exhibit, or the exhibit will be displayed.
10. Judges are qualified in the medium(s) they are judging. New judges may be chosen each year, and judges may be assigned to different divisions/classes from year to year.
11. If a coordinator or judge deems an entry to be in the incorrect category, division, class, etc., he or she may direct the Entry Office to move that entry as appropriate. The Entry Office may combine divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool.
12. Fair 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.



2026 Local Rules (Continued)

13. Entries must be delivered on the date(s) and times specified. Entries will not be accepted before or after the stated entry delivery date. All accepted exhibits must remain on display and shall not be removed until the stated entry pick up date. Any exhibit not picked up on the specified date becomes the property of the San Diego County Fair and will be disposed of promptly.
14. 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.
15. 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 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) may order.
16. To ensure reliable award notification, exhibitors are responsible for submitting all address, phone number and email address updates promptly in writing to entry@sdfair.com or Entry Department, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014.
17. Premium money will be paid per the recorded placings in the official judging books rather than the ribbon attached to the exhibit.
18. Donated Award recipients will be selected per the instructions given on the Donated Award Confirmation Form submitted by the donor.
19. Premium, donated cash award, and auction checks will be made payable to the exhibitor as listed on the online entry registration. Checks will be mailed within 30 days after the close of the Fair to the address shown on the online entry registration, or as updated by the exhibitor via written notification to the Entry Office. Auction checks may be held longer if the buyer has not paid. Checks not cashed within 6 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.

California State Rules apply and are available [here](#).



Entry Limit & Fees

One (1) entry per exhibitor per class. Entry fees are payable online with a credit card and are not refundable. Please see Divisions for specific Entry Fees and Premiums.

Fair Tickets

Each exhibitor will receive two (2) Exhibitor Access Passes.

How to Enter

1. After reading all entry materials, click the “Enter Now” link below to go to the ShoWorks Entry Homepage.
2. Register as an **Exhibitor**.
3. Select the appropriate division and class and input the required information. (See “Divisions and Classes” below for a list of all divisions and classes.)
4. Review your entry before completing registration to ensure that you have entered the correct division and class for each entry.
5. Click the check-out button and pay for all entries.
6. Read the confirmation statement and type YES. **Do not click multiple times**, as it will charge you each time.

If you plan to make changes to your entries or need to leave ShoWorks at any time, SAVE YOUR CART before exiting.

For additional help with entering and uploading images, review these detailed step-by-step guides:

[Entry Tutorial](#)

Still have questions? Please call or [email the Entry Office](#).

Phone: (858) 792-4207, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm



Entry Delivery & Pickup

After registration, exhibitors will be emailed additional delivery and pick-up instructions including **a map** showing access to the Fairgrounds. Exhibitors must bring necessary tools, equipment, and/or personnel to unload and place entries within the exhibit.

A claim check will be issued to each exhibitor upon entry delivery and must be presented at the time of entry pick up. If an exhibitor is unable to pick up their entry, they may arrange for another person to bring in their claim check with a signed written authorization from the exhibitor.

Judging

Industrial Agriculture Mechanics uses the Danish judging system, where entries are measured against a standard, rather than against each other. First, second, and third place ribbons are awarded as merited, with the possibility of more than one entry meriting each place.

The only exception in which the American judging system is used, to measure entries against each other to select one entry for each Welding Division Champion, each Fabricated Project Division Champion, and the Fabricated Project Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

Judging Criteria

Entries are judged on design integrity, understanding and use of materials, use of form, overall craftsmanship, appearance, and quality of finish.

Judging Results

Results will be posted on the San Diego County Fair's website by the second week of the Fair.

Awards

Award checks will be mailed within 30 days.

Please see Divisions for specific Entry Fees and Premiums.



Divisions and Classes

Basic Welding Coupon Displays

Entry Fee Per Division: \$5 Per Display Board Entry

The following will be awarded in the divisions listed:

Basic Welding- Divisions 2000-2004	
1st Place	\$10
2nd Place	\$8
3rd Place	\$6
Best of Each Division	Rosette & Award Designated by Fair Staff

Division Specific Rules

1. All weld coupons should have the following measurements: 4” long; 2” wide, with 1/4” thickness for Arc and 1/8” thickness for M.I.G/T.I.G/Flux. Round or square tubing are 1/4 for Arc and 1/8 for M.I.G/T/I/G/Flux.
2. The beginning and end of each pass should be visible.
3. To be considered a complete entry, all six (6) welds for each Division must be completed in the correct size and properly secured on a display board at delivery. Display boards must be made of 1/2” plywood (painted flat black or black tint/tone (AKA- gray) measuring 14” long by 12” wide.
4. The exhibitor tag must be printed, completed, and attached to each board entered.

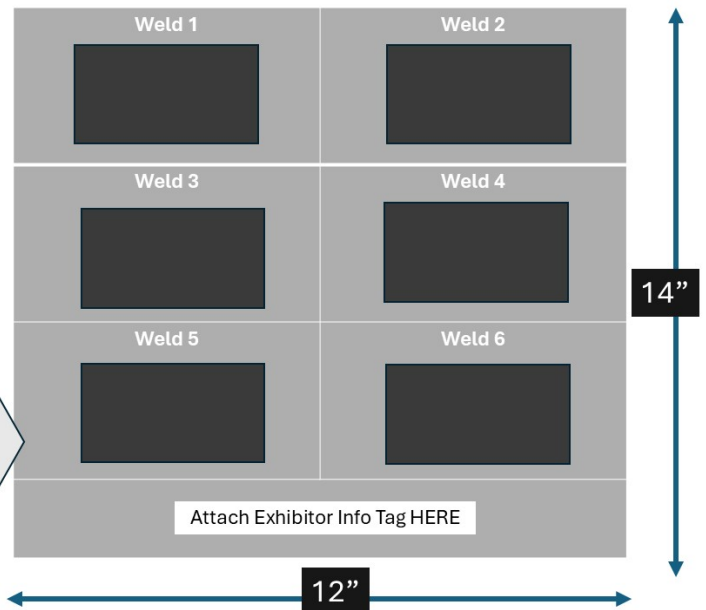


San Diego County Fair Basic Weld Coupon Display Board Directions

Boards must be made of 1/2” thick plywood and painted with a flat base paint in a black or black tint/ tone (AKA- Gray).
Welds must be secured to board upon arrival of entries at the fair.

Attach Each Weld in the Corresponding Space

You do not need to indicate “Weld 1”, “Weld 2”, Etc.





Basic Weld Coupon Display Divisions

Division 2001: Arc Welding

Class 001 Arc Welding Coupon Display

Weld 1: Lap Weld

Weld 2: Corner Weld

Weld 3: Fillet T Weld/ T Joint

Weld 4: Square Butt Weld

Weld 5: Round or Square Tubing to Flat 2" Length Pipe

Weld 6: 4" X 4" Square Bead Pad

Division 2002: M.I.G. (Metallic Inert Gas) Welding

Class 001 M.I.G. Welding Coupon Display

Weld 1: Lap Weld

Weld 2: Corner Weld

Weld 3: Fillet T Weld/ T Joint

Weld 4: Square Butt Weld

Weld 5: Round or Square Tubing to Flat 2" Length Pipe

Weld 6: Round Pipe to Round Pipe; 1/8" Thickness X 1" Diameter

Division 2003: T.I.G. (Tungsten Inert Gas) Welding

Class 001 T.I.G. Welding Coupon Display (Board will be a mix of Steel & Aluminum)

Weld 1: Lap Weld- Steel

Weld 2: Corner Weld- Steel

Weld 3: Square Butt Weld- Steel

Weld 4: Lap Weld- Aluminum

Weld 5: Corner Weld- Aluminum

Weld 6: Square Butt Weld- Aluminum

Division 2004: Innershield/Flux Welding

Class 001 Innershield/Flux Welding Coupon Display

Weld 1: Lap Weld

Weld 2: Corner Weld

Weld 3: Fillet T Weld/ T Joint

Weld 4: Square Butt Weld

Weld 5: Round or Square Tubing to Flat 2" Length Pipe

Weld 6: Round Pipe to Round Pipe; 1/8" Thickness X 1" Diameter



Coupon Display Entry Tag-

Please print, complete, and attach one tag to each Basic Weld Coupon Display Board

<i>Weld Type</i>	<i>Division Number</i>	<i>Exhibitor Name</i>	<i>Club, Chapter, School</i>

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Industrial Arts Fabricated Projects

Entry Fee Per Division: \$10 Per Entry

The following will be awarded in the divisions listed:

Small Fabricated Projects- Division 2005	
1st Place	\$10
2nd Place	\$8
3rd Place	\$6
Medium Fabricated Projects- Division 2006	
1st Place	\$15
2nd Place	\$13
3rd Place	\$11
Large Fabricated Projects- Division 2007	
1st Place	\$20
2nd Place	\$18
3rd Place	\$16
Group Projects- Division 2008	
1st Place	\$25
2nd Place	\$23
3rd Place	\$21
Special Awards	
Best of Division (One each in S, M, L, & Group)	Rosette & Award Designated by Fair Staff
Best in Show	Banner & Award Designated by Fair Staff
Reserve Best in Show	Banner & Award Designated by Fair Staff

**Division Specific Rules:**

1. Projects will be divided into Small, Medium, and Large in classification. Examples have been given in descriptions. Fair staff reserves the right to move entries to different categories as deemed necessary.
2. All entries must be complete and contain all necessary components to be eligible to sell. **No kits.** A material list and cost breakdown sheet must accompany entries. All appropriate finishes required- **no bare metal.**
3. All entries will remain on exhibit during the duration of the Fair.
4. Entries will be judged and all first-place entries in each class will compete for Division Champion. All Division Champion entries will compete for the Best in Show.
5. The Small, Medium, and Large Division Champion projects will be eligible to be auctioned during the Junior Livestock Auction. The exhibitor must notify the Livestock Office if they wish for their project to be sold through the Junior Livestock Auction BY 1:00 PM on Friday, June 20. To sell, exhibitors must accompany their projects through the auction.

Individual Industrial Arts Fabricated Project Divisions**Division 2005: Small Fabricated Projects**

- Class 001** **Cold Metal:** to include but not limited to: battery cable pullers, bolts, etc.
- Class 005** **Sheet metal:** to include but not limited to: small boxes, dust pans, funnels, feed scoops, etc.
- Class 006** **Welding and forging:** to include but not limited to: chisels, hay hooks, post drivers, tools, etc.
- Class 007** **Welding/ sheet metal projects:** using computer-aided equipment.
- Class 008** **Welded/ sheet metal:** not using computer-aided equipment.
- Class 009** **Woodworking:** to include but not limited to: folding footstool, planter, show stick, cutting board, etc.
- Class 010** **Other:** Projects not qualifying for any other categories above.

Division 2006: Medium Fabricated Projects

- Class 001** **Welding:** to include but not limited to: barbeques, carts, benches, etc.
- Class 002** **Sheet metal:** to include but not limited to: toolbox, cabinets, shelving, etc.
- Class 003** **Welding/ sheet metal projects:** using computer-aided equipment.
- Class 004** **Woodworking:** to include but not limited to: grain feeder, farm gate, ladder, sawhorse, small clocks, small shelves, etc.
- Class 005** **Electrical projects:** involving but not limited to: wiring, circuits, lighting, alternative energy, etc.
- Class 006** **Other:** Projects not qualifying for any other categories above.

**Individual Industrial Arts Fabricated Project Divisions (Continued)****Division 2007: Large Fabricated Projects**

- Class 001** **Welding:** to include but not limited to: utility racks, large hay feeder, shop table, small trailer, two axle trailer, portable loading chute, etc.
- Class 002** **Sheet metal:** to include but not limited to: pickup toolbox, large cabinet, etc.
- Class 003** **Woodworking:** to include but not limited to: hay feeder, shop bench, wine rack, mirror, outdoor furniture, picnic table, porch swing, glider, Adirondack set, trellis, large indoor furniture, coffee table, cabinetry, etc.
- Class 004** **Other:** Projects not qualifying for any other categories above

Group Industrial Arts Fabricated Project Divisions

Exhibits must be entered under the club/group name. It is the responsibility of the organization to appropriately divide awards and premiums amongst the members that participated in the project.

Projects in this Division are those that involve a group in designing, constructing, or repairing a piece of equipment in any of the disciplines, woodwork, electrical, welding, sheet metal, or other. To decide which class an entry falls in, please see the Individual Project Divisions and Classes listed above. If a project is found to be in an incorrect class, Fair Staff may move it to a different class.

Division 2008: Group Entries

- Class 001** **Small**
- Class 002** **Medium**
- Class 003** **Large**