



Industrial Agricultural Mechanics “Build-Off”

Step up to the challenge at the San Diego County Fair and put your engineering skills, creativity, and teamwork in the spotlight as teams collaborate to design and build a functional, innovative project using welding, woodworking, metalwork, and more. Impress the judges with your teamwork, ingenuity, and attention to detail—and show what you can create together!

Exhibition Timeline

Entry Deadline	May 23, 2026 at 11:59 PM (PST)
Pre-Competition Meeting	Saturday, June 13, 2026, 10:30 AM
Competition	Saturday, June 13, 2026, 11:30 AM
Fair Dates for Project Display	Sunday, June 14, 2026 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 <i>(closed Mondays and Tuesdays)</i>
Awards Reception	Saturday, June 13 @ 6:00 PM <i>(Details provided after close of entries)</i>
Entry Pickup	Monday, July 6, 2026

Eligibility

Teams will consist of Current High School Students (including 2026 graduates) whose permanent home address lies within the regions of San Diego County. Teams must be under the supervision of a High School Industrial & Technology Education teacher and/or a 4-H or Grange leader are required. Independent exhibitors are not eligible for entry.

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



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.
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.



2026 Local Rules (Continued)

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) team of three (3) to four (4) team members constitutes as one entry. Each school may enter up to two (2) teams. Entries are on a first-come, first-entered basis until capacity for the competition is reached. 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



Competition-Specific Rules

1. Teams will consist of three (3) to four (4) members from the same school or group.
2. Competitors must be under the immediate supervision of an approved teacher, advisor, and/or leader on the day of the competition.
3. Design/construction plans will be available online at the time of registration.

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 “Build-Off Champion.”

Judging Criteria & Results

Entries are judged on design integrity, structural soundness, weld quality, overall craftsmanship, and understanding and use of materials.

Tie Breaker- Should a tie between two or more teams occur, the winner will be based on the total points scored in the Technical Execution portion of the scorecard.

Coaches and/or judges will perform random safety checks through the competition, focusing on the use of proper PPE equipment, tool safety, and jobs site cleanliness. These inspections will account for ten (10) points throughout the competition. Should any safety violations occur, the team will receive a score of zero (0).

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.



Day of Competition Rules & Information

1. A mandatory contest meeting will occur one hour prior to the start of the competition. All team members and supervisors *must* be in attendance.
2. On the day of the competition, each team will be provided with identical sets of materials necessary for completion of the building.
3. All projects must be completed within the time frame given. At the close of the time allotment, projects will be judged as presented, regardless of completion status.
4. Each team must have one (1) approved, fire extinguisher on hand at all times.
5. Safety Equipment and proper PPE's *must* be worn, at all times, during the competition, no exceptions.
6. Arrangements may be made with competition staff to deliver equipment and tools the day before the competition. Please contact contest coordinator for more information.
7. Teams must provide their own portable power (generator, extension cords, etc), welding machines (M.I.G.) and equipment, cutting equipment (chop saw, grinders, etc.), and tools necessary for competition.
8. Tools and equipment must be equipped with safety guards as provided by the manufacturer.
9. Recommended Tools & Equipment:
 - a. Generator (Strong enough to run a 110v or 220v wire feed machine.
 - b. Cutting Torches
 - c. Miter Saw or Circular Saw w/ Metal Cutting Blade
 - d. Angle Grinder w/ Various Disks
 - e. Chop Saw
 - f. Tape Measures
 - g. Combination Squares
 - h. Corner Magnets
 - i. Marking Pens/Scribes/Soapstone
 - j. Vice
 - k. Locking Pliers
 - l. C-Clamps
 - m. Palm or Orbital Sander
 - n. Drill and Bits (for Wood & Metal and 3/8" Bolts)
 - o. Sockets, Wrenches, Pliers
 - p. Extension Cords
 - q. Any other tools deemed necessary to complete the construction of the project.
10. **Supervisor Time-Out:** Each team will receive one fifteen (15) minute time out. During this time will stop and team members have the opportunity to meet with their supervisor to discuss questions, plans, parts, and/or materials that may arise during the competition.



Day of Competition Rules & Information (Continued)

11. If at any point in time there is an equipment failure and the supervisor is needed to fix the problem, the team will not be penalized. However, time will continue to count down.
12. **Supervisor Phone Call:** Each team will receive one (1) one-minute phone call with their supervisor to discuss questions about safety or equipment.
13. **Team Interview:** At the completion of the project, each team must meet with a judge for a team interview. At this time, the same question will be asked of each team regarding the project they constructed and the processes they went through while doing so. This interview will account for 50 points of the overall team score.
14. At the conclusion of the competition, teams will be given the opportunity to assume ownership of their projects. Those wishing to keep their projects will be allowed to pick up their completed projects at the close of the fair.

Competition Divisions & Premiums

Ag Mechanics One-Day “Build Off Competition”

Entry Fee Per Team: \$300 Per Team

The following will be awarded:

Build-Off Premiums Offered	
1st Place	\$400
2nd Place	\$350
3rd Place	\$300
Champion Team	Rosette & Award Designated by Fair Staff

Ag Mechanics Build Off Division

Division 2100: Build Off Team

- Class 001** One Team consisting of three (3) to four (4) members from the same school and/or club.