



The San Diego County Fair's Floral Design Competition is a dazzling showcase of creativity, inviting floral artists and enthusiasts to craft stunning arrangements that captivate and inspire. With categories for all skill levels and themes that challenge your imagination, this competition is the perfect stage to display your talent, gain recognition, and connect with a vibrant community of designers. Whether you're a seasoned florist or a budding enthusiast, join us and let your creativity bloom!

Exhibition Timeline

Exhibitor Meeting	Saturday, May 23, 2026 10:00 AM Location: San Diego County Fair Boardroom
Entry Deadline	Floral Design Entries: Friday, May 29 th , 2026 at 8:00 PM Vase-Off Entries: Tuesdays (June 9, June 16, June 23, and June 30) by 5:00 PM
Entry Delivery & Judging	See Show Schedule
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Ribbon Request Deadline	Friday, July 3, 2026
Awards Ceremony	Sunday July 5, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Eligibility

Exhibitors must be at least 14 years old by the Entry Deadline listed above.



Contact Us

Jasmine Hoofard, [Flower Show Coordinator](#)

San Diego County Fair Entry Office

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 and permission to use your name, photograph, and images and description of entries in print, digital, and other media.
2. Online registration is required for all competitions and one-day contests. Online entries and any required image/document uploads are accepted until the published deadline, which specifies a date and time. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Once registered, the exhibitor's name, entry description, title, and price may not be changed. Substitutions will only be allowed in accordance with current State Rules. 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 when the online entry is submitted.
6. All non-livestock/non-agricultural 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 for using 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 selected for their expertise in the divisions or classes they evaluate. New judges may be appointed each year, and judging assignments may vary annually based on the needs of each competition
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.
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 reports 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. Checks not cashed within six (6) months from the date of issue will be forfeited. Replacement checks may be subject to a stop payment fee.
20. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) is required by the Internal Revenue Service to report any premium payments totaling \$600 or more. Exhibitors whose awards meet or exceed this amount must submit a W-9 form before their check can be issued.
21. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) management reserves the right to amend or add to these rules and assumes no liability or responsibility not herein expressed.
22. California State Rules apply and are available [here](#).



Entry Limit & Fees

Two (2) entries per exhibitor per class. Except - "Vase Off" Floral Designer Showdown, where exhibitors are limited to one entry per show. Exhibitors may enter as many classes as desired.

Professional Floral Design: \$25 per entry

Petite Floral Design: \$10 per entry

All other divisions: \$20 per entry

Entry fees are payable online with a credit card and are not refundable.

Fair Tickets

Each exhibitor will receive two (2) Exhibitor Access Passes per week they participate, up to eight (8) tickets total per exhibitor.

Entry Delivery and Pick Up

After registration, exhibitors will receive an email with detailed delivery instructions, including a map for accessing the Fairgrounds. Floral designs must be delivered according to the schedule below. Alternatively, exhibitors may set up their entries the day before the show by appointment only. **To schedule an appointment, please contact the Flower Show Coordinator.**

Designs and containers may be picked up during the delivery time for the following show or during entry pick up for the last show. Any items not picked up after the entry pick-up date become the property of the Fair.

Show #	Show Date (Flowers on Display)	Floral Design Delivery Date
1	Wednesday, June 10 – Thursday, June 11	Tuesday, June 9, 1 PM – 6 PM
2	Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14	Friday, June 12, 4 AM – 9 AM
3	Wednesday, June 17 – Thursday, June 18	Tuesday, June 16, 1 PM – 6 PM
4	Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21	Friday, June 19, 4 AM – 9 AM
5	Wednesday, June 24 – Thursday, June 25	Tuesday, June 23, 1 PM – 6 PM
6	Friday, June 26 – Sunday, June 28	Friday, June 26, 4 AM – 9 AM
7	Wednesday, July 1 – Thursday, July 2	Tuesday, June 30, 1 PM – 6 PM
8	Friday, July 3 – Sunday, July 5	Friday, July 3, 4 AM – 9 AM



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 out.

For additional help with entering, review this detailed step-by-step guide: [Entry Tutorial](#)

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

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

How to Prepare Your Entry for the Show

The San Diego County Fair will prepare and provide all entry tags, which exhibitors will receive during check-in at the time of delivery. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own tools and any materials necessary for finalizing the display of their designs. Upon completion of set-up, exhibitors must ensure all areas are clean and free of debris. Entries that are not properly constructed or maintained may be deemed ineligible, and premiums may be withheld.

Floral arrangements will remain on display until the evening before the next show. **Wednesday entries:** on display through Thursday night; **Saturday entries:** on display through Sunday night.

Design Guidelines:

- **Plant Materials:** Cut fruit is not permitted. Artificial plant materials and/or dyed fresh plant material are allowed only as accents, where permitted by division rules. Unless otherwise specified as “dry,” designs must include fresh plant materials. For “dry” classes, only dried materials may be used. Dry classes are designated in class titles or descriptions.
- **Accessories and Props:** Accessories are allowed but must not overshadow the creative use of fresh and/or dried floral and plant materials in expressing the theme or interpretation.
- **Containers:** Use of more than one container is permitted. All containers and accessories should be labeled with the owner’s name and phone number. Valued items, such as heirlooms, are discouraged. Hangers are not provided.
- **Business Cards:** Exhibitors may provide business cards in a tray or holder placed near their arrangements. Cards will be displayed by Fair staff after judging is complete.



Judging and Awards

The Paul Ecke Jr. Flower Show follows the American judging system. All judging will be conducted anonymously in a **closed session**. Exhibitors are not allowed to be present in or around the show area during the judging process. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in disqualification. **Once judging begins, no entries may be moved to a different division or class.**

The judges' decisions are final. Upon the completion of judging, all entries become the property of the San Diego County Fair. See division descriptions for division-specific judging information. Results will be posted on the San Diego County Fair's website two weeks following the last day of the Fair. Exhibitors wanting ribbons must notify the Flower Show office by the deadline listed above. Award checks will be mailed within 30 days after the Fair closes.

The following will be awarded in each class:

Beginner/Amateur Floral Design	
1 st Place	\$100 and Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$75 and Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$50 and Ribbon
Professional Floral Design	
1 st Place	\$175 and Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$150 and Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$125 and Ribbon
Petite Floral Design	
1 st Place	\$35 and Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$25 and Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$15 and Ribbon
Wedding Floral Design	
1 st Place	\$100 and Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$75 and Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$50 and Ribbon
Sweepstakes Awards	
Sweepstakes Awards will be presented in Amateur, Professional, Petite, and Wedding Floral Design Divisions. The award will be presented to the exhibitor earning the highest total amount of premiums earned in each of these Divisions.	Rosette & Award
“Vase Off” Floral Designer Contest	
1 st Place	\$50 and Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$40 and Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$30 and Ribbon



Divisions & Show Schedule

Please refer to “How to Prepare Your Entry for the Show” and Divisions & Classes sections for design guidelines, competition specifics, limitations, eligible materials, and judging criteria.

Weekly Floral Design Schedule

Show # & Check-In Date	Divisions			
	Amateur	Professional	Petite	Wedding
1 Tuesday, June 9; 1 PM – 6 PM	4050	4005	4205	4500
2 Friday, June 12; 4 AM – 9 AM	4055	4010	4210	4501
3 Tuesday, June 16; 1 PM – 6 PM	4060	4015	4215	4502
4 Friday, June 19; 4 AM – 9 AM	4065	4020	4220	4503
5 Tuesday, June 23; 1 PM – 6 PM	4070	4025	4225	4504
6 Friday, June 26; 4 AM – 9 AM	4075	4030	4230	4505
7 Tuesday, June 30; 1 PM – 6 PM	4080	4035	4235	4506
8 Friday, July 3; 4 AM – 9 AM	4085	4005	4205	4500

**See below for Divisions and Classes

“Vase Off” Floral Designer Showdown Schedule

Show # & Date		“Vase Off” Showdown Divisions
1	Saturday, June 13	3000
2	Saturday, June 20	3010
3	Saturday, June 27	3020
4	Saturday, July 4	3030



Beginner/Amateur Floral Design Divisions & Classes

Eligibility: Classes are open to beginner and amateur floral designers, defined as individuals with various levels of experience who practice floral design as a hobby rather than as a source of income. This includes hobbyists, students, and others who adhere to the floral design principles and guidelines established by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Dimensions:

- Arrangements must not exceed 48" in height or 24" in diameter, including the container.
- There is no minimum height or width requirement.
- Display tables measure 20.5" square and stand 42" from the floor.

Materials:

- Artificial plant materials are not permitted in any class.
- For non-"dry" classes: Fresh plant materials must be the primary component, but dry or treated plant materials may be incorporated as accents.
- For "dry" classes: Only dried plant materials are allowed, which may be treated or painted.

Judging Criteria: Theme Interpretation (25 points); Design Principles and Elements (25 points); Technical Execution and Mechanics (15 points); Creativity (25 points); Flower Quality (10 point

Week 1 – Fairy Tale Magic

Spells, royalty, creatures, and classic fairy tale wonder

Division 4050- Exhibited June 10 – June 11

Class 001	Enchanted Forest
Class 002	Kings & Queens

Division 4055- Exhibited June 12 – June 14

Class 003	Creatures of Legend
Class 004	Charms & Potions

Week 2 – Epic Adventures & Classic Tales

Heroic quests, high society, glamour, and timeless literature

Division 4060- Exhibited June 17 – June 18

Class 005	The Hero's Journey
Class 006	A Season in High Society

Division 4065- Exhibited June 19 – June 21

Class 007	A Jazz Age Celebration
Class 008	Library of Wonder

Week 3 – Whimsical Children's Wonders

Playful, imaginative, and beloved children's literature

Division 4070- Exhibited June 24 – June 25

Class 009	Wild Creatures and Imagination
Class 010	Whimsy in Color

Division 4075- Exhibited June 26 – June 28

Class 011	Sweet as Honey
Class 012	A Hungry Caterpillar's Journey

Week 4 – Americana

Celebrating American literary classics, community, and Independence Day spirit

Division 4080- Exhibited July 1 – July 2

Class 013	Harvest of Hope
Class 014	Small Town Picnic

Division 4085- Exhibited July 3 – July 5

Class 015	Dreams at the Fair
Class 016	Rockets' Red Glare



Professional Floral Design Divisions & Classes

Eligibility: Classes are open to professional floral designers, defined as individuals who engage in any aspect of the floral industry as a portion of their livelihood rather than as a hobby.

Dimensions:

- Arrangements must not exceed 48" in height or 24" in diameter, including the container.
- There is no minimum height or width requirement.
- Display tables measure 20.5" square and stand 42" from the floor.

Materials:

- Artificial plant materials are not permitted in any class.
- For non-"dry" classes: Fresh plant materials must be the primary component, but dry or treated plant materials may be incorporated as accents.
- For "dry" classes: Only dried plant materials are allowed, which may be treated or painted.

Judging Criteria: Theme interpretation (25 points), design principles and elements (25 points), technical execution and mechanics (15 points), creativity (25 points), and flower quality (10 points).

Week 1 – Fairy Tale Magic

Spells, royalty, creatures, and classic fairy tale wonder

Division 4005- Exhibited June 10 – June 11

Class 001 Shadows of Enchantment
Class 002 Clock Strikes Midnight

Division 4010- Exhibited June 12 – June 14

Class 003 Magical Items
Class 004 Happily Ever After

Week 2 – Epic Adventures & Classic Tales

Heroic quests, high society, glamour, and timeless literature

Division 4015- Exhibited June 17 – June 18

Class 005 Drawn to the Horizon
Class 006 A City Divided

Division 4020- Exhibited June 19 – June 21

Class 007 Siren's Call
Class 008 The Perfect Picture

Week 3 – Whimsical Children's Wonders

Playful, imaginative, and beloved children's literature

Division 4025- Exhibited June 24 – June 25

Class 009 A Flight Beyond the Stars
Class 010 Boundless Curiosity

Division 4030- Exhibited June 26 – June 28

Class 011 A World of Sweets
Class 012 The Road to Discovery

Week 4 – Americana

Celebrating American literary classics, community, and Independence Day spirit

Division 4035- Exhibited July 1 – July 2

Class 013 Heirloom Quilt
Class 014 Fields of Freedom

Division 4040- Exhibited July 3 – July 5

Class 015 Firework Homestead Dream
Class 016 Across the American Landscape



Petite Floral Design Divisions & Classes

Eligibility: Classes are open to any designer (Professional, Amateur, Student, etc.)

Dimensions:

- Arrangements must not exceed 5" in height or 5" in diameter, including the container. There is no minimum height requirement.
- Backdrops and underlays are allowed, but the design should be proportionate to the size of the backdrop, if used.
- Arrangements will be displayed on a shelf positioned at approximately eye level for optimal viewing.

Materials:

- Artificial plant materials are not permitted in any class.
- For non-"dry" classes: Fresh plant materials must be the primary component, but dry or treated plant materials may be incorporated as accents.
- For "dry" classes: Only dried plant materials are allowed, which may be treated or painted.

Judging Criteria: Distinction in design, proportion, scale, and quality of plant materials. Petites are judged according to the Floral Design Principles and Guidelines established by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Week 1 – Fairy Tale Magic

Spells, royalty, creatures, and classic fairy tale wonder

Division 4205- Exhibited June 10 – June 11

Class 001	Tiny Magic
Class 002	Woodland Folk

Division 4210- Exhibited June 12 – June 14

Class 003	Fairy Realm
Class 004	Mysteries Beneath the Sea

Week 2 – Epic Adventures & Classic Tales

Heroic quests, high society, glamour, and timeless literature

Division 4215- Exhibited June 17 – June 18

Class 005	A Voyage of Discovery
Class 006	An Epic Quest

Division 4220- Exhibited June 19 – June 21

Class 007	Classical Stage Drama
Class 008	Refined Society

Week 3 – Whimsical Children's Wonders

Playful, imaginative, & beloved children's literature

Division 4225- Exhibited June 24 – June 25

Class 009	No Bigger Than a Thumb
Class 010	Mischief in Pairs

Division 4230- Exhibited June 26 – June 28

Class 011	A Spoonful of Sugar
Class 012	When Curiosity Leads the Way

Week 4 – Americana

Celebrating American literary classics, community, and Independence Day spirit

Division 4235- Exhibited July 1- July 2

Class 013	Radiant Barnyard
Class 014	A Web of Friendship

Division 4240- Exhibited July 3 – July 5

Class 015	Hometown Pride
Class 016	Golden Years of Home



Wedding Floral Design Divisions & Classes

Eligibility: Classes are open to any designer.

Dimensions:

- There are no size limitations for arrangements.
- Accessories, backdrops, and underlays are encouraged to enhance the design but must not dominate or overshadow the floral arrangement.
- Arrangements will be displayed on a 24" square tabletop.

Materials:

- Artificial plant materials are not permitted.
- Fresh, dry, or treated plant materials may be used.

Judging Criteria: Theme Interpretation (25 points); Design Principles and Elements (25 points); Technical Execution and Mechanics (15 points); Creativity (25 points); Flower Quality (10 points)

Week 1: Fairytale Venue Florals

Enchanting weddings inspired by magical fairytales, focusing on immersive venue florals that evoke castles, gardens, and wonder-filled adventures

Division 4500- Exhibited June 10 – June 11
Theme: An Enchanted Castle Ceremony

Interpretive cues: grandeur, transformation, elegance, magical atmosphere

Class 001 Altarpieces
Class 002 Guestbook or Buffet Table

Division 4501- Exhibited June 12 – June 14
Theme: A Whimsical Garden Wedding
Interpretive cues: playful fantasy, unexpected forms, storybook garden paths

Class 003 Aisle Arrangements
Class 004 Cake Flower

Week 2: Epic Drama Wearable Florals

Intense, atmospheric weddings drawn from iconic American literary dramas, ideal for wearable flowers that symbolize family legacies, opulence, and hidden turmoil

Division 4502- Exhibited June 17 – June 18
Theme: A California Legacy Wedding

Interpretive cues: heritage, contrast, strength of land, and lineage

Class 005 Boutonnieres
Class 006 Crowns

Division 4503- Exhibited June 19 – June 21
Theme: A Jazz Age Mansion Wedding

Interpretive cues: glamour, excess, structured elegance, dramatic statement

Class 007 Corsages
Class 008 Wearable Floral Art

Wedding Floral Design Divisions & Classes (Continued)

Week 3: Whimsical Classic Romance

Bouquets

Timeless, romantic weddings infused with dramatic passion and enchanting narratives from classic tales, suited for bouquets that convey beauty, love, and emotional depths

Division 4504- Exhibited June 24 – June 25

Theme: A Grand Ballroom Romance

Interpretive cues: luxury, symmetry, dramatic beauty, refined romance

Class 009 Bride's Bouquet, any style

Class 010 Hand-tied Bouquet

Division 4505- Exhibited June 26 – June 28

Theme: A Moonlit Balcony Vow

Interpretive cues: passion, movement, emotional depth, sweeping form

Class 011 Attendant's Bouquet

Class 012 Cascade Bouquet

Week 4: Americana Centerpieces

Heartwarming, patriotic weddings celebrating American heritage, rural traditions, and Independence Day spirit!

Division 4506- Exhibited July 1 – July 2

Theme: A Frontier Homestead Reception

Interpretive cues: frontier resilience, simplicity, handcrafted structure

Class 013 Tall Centerpiece

Class 014 Suspended Centerpieces

Division 4507- Exhibited July 3 – July 5

Theme: A New England Family Reception

Interpretive cues: community, tradition, warmth, patriotic restraint

Class 015 Floral Runners or Garlands

Class 016 Low Centerpiece



“Vase Off” Floral Designer Showdown Divisions & Classes

Registration Deadline: Registration closes at 5:00 PM the Tuesday before each competition.

Contest Description & Information: Participants must pre-enter. Contestants will be given specific directions for the day of fair attendance. At the time of the contest, each designer will receive a bucket of flowers and plant materials, a container, and floral designing medium (Oasis foam, chicken wire, etc.). The theme of the design will then be presented, and designers will have the opportunity to construct an arrangement.

The specified amount of time will be given at registration on the day of the competition and will be based on the size of the design as well as the skill level of the participants.

Tools: Participants must provide their own arrangement tools (knives, scissors, clippers, etc.). In addition, participants may bring any special tools or hard goods (such as ribbon, candles, ornaments, or dried plant material) they may want to use in their design. No additional soft goods or any perishable materials (live plants, fruit, cut flowers, etc.) will be allowed.

Eligibility: See Class descriptions for eligibility requirements.

Judging Criteria: Theme Interpretation (35 points); Design Principles and Elements (25 points); Technical Execution and Mechanics (25 points); Use of Materials (15 points).

Classes

Class 001	Professionals as defined elsewhere in these entry materials
Class 002	Beginners/Amateurs as defined elsewhere in these entry materials
Class 003	Students, who may be enrolled in a high school, vocational, community college, or university program. All student participants must meet the minimum age requirement of 14 years by the Entry Deadline.

Competition Date	Division	“Vase Off” Theme Title	Interpretive Focus
Saturday, June 13	3000	Relentless Ocean Pursuit	<i>Draw inspiration from vast ocean expanses, dramatic pursuit, and nautical influence to create dynamic, seafaring designs emphasizing depth, movement, contrast, and the raw power of nature.</i>
Saturday, June 20	3010	A Fertile Valley Divided	<i>Inspired by California’s agricultural heartland—express abundance, contrast, strong linear structure, and organic growth reflecting both prosperity and tension within the landscape.</i>
Saturday, June 27	3020	Jazz Age Glamour	<i>Emphasize form, drama, contrast, and refined structure inspired by American opulence, social excess, and polished elegance of the early 20th century.</i>
Saturday, July 4	3030	New England Home Gathering	<i>Create a handcrafted, intimate design emphasizing balance, simplicity, and meaningful use of materials inspired by family, community, and traditional American values.</i>