



The San Diego County Fair's **Home Arts & Hobbies' Baked Goods and Confections** Competition invites oven aficionados to put their skill and creativity on display. From irresistible flavors to flawless technique, this competition gives kitchen enthusiasts the chance to earn cash prizes and share their delicious creations with thousands of fairgoers.

2026 Baked Goods and Confections Competition Timeline

Cookies and Confections	
Entry Deadline	Wednesday, May 27, 2026, by 7:59pm
Entry Delivery	Saturday, May 30, 2026, 7am-11am
Cakes and Cupcakes	
Entry Deadline	Saturday, June 13, 2026, by 7:59pm
Entry Delivery	Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 7am – 10am*
Pies and Pastries	
Entry Deadline	Saturday, June 20, 2026, by 7:59pm
Entry Delivery	Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 7am – 10am*
Bread, Rolls, and Quick Breads	
Entry Deadline	Saturday, June 27, 2026, by 7:59pm
Entry Delivery	Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 7am – 10am*
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Culinary Awards Reception	Friday, July 3, 2026, at 2:00pm

*Exhibitors will receive an early morning parking pass for delivery

Eligibility

- Open to all adults aged 18 years old by the Entry Deadline(s) listed.
- Entries must be original work of the exhibitor whose name appears on the registration.
- Entries made by two or more individuals may be entered by one exhibitor only.
- Please see divisions for additional eligibility requirements.

Contact Us

Veronica Navarro, [Coordinator](#)

Trish Bresser, [Assistant 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 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 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 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 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.

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

Entry Limit

Two (2) entries per exhibitor per class. Exhibitors may enter as many classes as desired.

Recipes may only be entered once.

Entry Fees

\$10 per entry

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

Fair Tickets

Each exhibitor will receive two (2) Fair Entry Tickets.

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** (or **Quick Group** if entering for members of a club or guild and checking out with one cart).
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.)
 - A. In the Description field, provide appropriate information, including the technique, so that the work can be identified if the entry tag becomes unattached. For example, “Chocolate cupcakes decorated like monkeys,” or “Banana-flavored cake” Character limit is 100 including spaces.
 - B. In the Social Media field, please enter your preferred social media contact (optional).
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.
7. You will receive a confirmation email with a summary of your entry(ies).

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 Delivery

Please see individual Division and Class container and labeling requirements.

Ingredients List Requirement: An Ingredient List for each entry is required to allow judges to avoid allergens during judging. The list must include every ingredient used to prepare the entry, including fillings, toppings, decorations, herbs, spices, and flavorings. Be specific. For example, enter “roasted, salted peanuts” rather than “peanuts” or “Dutch-processed cocoa powder” rather than “cocoa”.

This completed **Ingredient List** must be delivered with each Culinary Entry.

Inconsideration of exhibitors with no printer, blank Ingredient List forms will be provided, and must be completed by exhibitors, at entry delivery.

Judging

The Baked Goods and Confections Competition uses the American system of judging.

Judging Process - Prior to judging, each entry will be evaluated for eligibility as described under each category. Once eligibility is confirmed, points will be awarded in accordance with the judging criteria outlined under each division.

Baking entries will be disqualified for the following:

- Product considered unsafe to taste.
- Entry produced commercially rather than “from scratch”.
- Hair or foreign object found in entry.

Judging Results - Results will be posted on the San Diego County Fair’s website within five days after the entry delivery date for each competition and announced at the Culinary Awards Reception on the date shown in the Competition Timeline.

HEAD JUDGE

We are excited to welcome extraordinary State and County Fair Culinary Exhibitor and **Award-Winning Cookbook Author Linda Amendt** to lead our culinary judging team! Linda has won over 700 Blue Ribbons in Preserved Foods and Baked Goods Competitions and has authored top titles such as *Blue Ribbon Preserves: Secrets to Award-Winning Jams, Jellies, Marmalades & More* and *Blue Ribbon Baking*.

Entry Delivery & Pickup

Entries must be delivered to the Fairgrounds. Please refer to the Competition Timeline for in-person delivery dates. Exhibitors will be emailed delivery and pick up instructions including a **map** showing access to the Fairgrounds.

Home Arts & Hobbies will provide entry tags at entry delivery. Please allow time to attach entry tags to projects with materials and assistance provided by fair staff. Exhibitors will be responsible for attaching tag.

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.

Baked Good and Confections entries must be delivered in disposable containers. Food items and containers will be disposed of after display.

Quick Group Delivery Appointments - If you registered as a Quick Group (families, clubs, guilds, organizations) and plan to deliver all entries in the group together, please [CLICK HERE](#) to request an appointment time on one of the in-person delivery dates listed in the Competition Timeline.

Awards

Award checks will be mailed within two (2) weeks of the last day of the Fair. Please submit address updates to the [Entry Office](#) in a timely manner.

Award-winning exhibitors will receive an invitation to our Culinary Awards Reception and free Fair admission for the day of the event.

The following will be awarded in each class:

1st Place	\$25 and Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$20 and Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$15 and Ribbon
An Honorable Mention may be awarded at judges' discretion	Ribbon

The following will be awarded in each weekly competition:

Best of Show - Chosen from 1st Place winners in each class	\$100 and Rosette
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BAKED GOODS AND CONFECTIONS DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

See Glossary for all definitions

ELIGIBILITY OF BAKED GOODS AND CONFECTIONS ENTRIES:

- Entries must be completely home-prepared/made from scratch using basic ingredients. Food items which are prepared in a commercial plant or kitchen are not eligible for entry. This includes items prepared using commercial equipment. “Professional” or “Commercial Quality” tools or equipment sold for home use are permitted.
- Entries requiring multiple pieces must be from the same recipe or baking batch.
- Perishable food items must be kept under refrigeration prior to delivery.
- Pre-made or pre-packaged mixes, doughs, or fillings (including gluten-free and vegan) may **not** be used.
- Entries must meet all requirements below and be considered safe to taste.

The following items are **NOT** eligible:

- Entries made with a bread machine
- Entries requiring a freezer
- Hot foods
- Entries requiring special preparation by staff or judges, such as heating, topping, or dipping

Time Limit Requirement: Entries must arrive fresh the morning of judging.

Ingredient List Requirement: This completed **Ingredient List** must be delivered with each Culinary Entry. In consideration of exhibitors with no printer, blank Ingredient List forms will be provided, and must be completed by exhibitors, at entry delivery.



COOKIES AND CONFECTIONS

DIVISION 136: COOKIES

Quantity: Six (6) cookies

JUDGING CRITERIA: Appearance (40%), Crumb (30%), Flavor (30%)

- Class 001** Bar Cookies, including Brownies
- Class 002** Drop Cookies, with or without additions (other than chocolate chips)
- Class 003** Chocolate Chip Cookies, traditional, without nuts
- Class 004** Chocolate Chip Cookies, with other additions
- Class 005** Sandwich, Filled, Cups, or Laceys
- Class 006** International Cookies, such as biscotti and Mexican wedding cookies
- Class 007** Other Cookies, including rolled/cut-out, refrigerator/slice-and-bake, molded, and piped

DIVISION 137: CONFECTIONS

Quantity: Six (6) pieces

JUDGING CRITERIA: Texture (30%), Flavor (30%), Consistency (25%), Appearance (15%)

- Class 001** Fudge (with or without nuts)
- Class 002** Chocolate-Based Confections (other than fudge)
- Class 003** Caramel-Based Treats
- Class 004** Brittle and Crunchy Treats
- Class 005** Sugar-Free Confections
- Class 006** Other than listed



CAKES AND CUPCAKES

DIVISION 138: CAKES AND CUPCAKES

Cakes may be single-layer or multi-layer. Cake and cupcake frosting, filling, and decoration is at the discretion of the exhibitor but should be consistent with the class entered.

Specify at delivery if entry needs refrigeration.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Flavor (35%), Appearance (30%), Texture (25%), Crumb (10%)

Quantity: One (1) whole 8"-9" cake, loaf cake, or six (6) cupcakes

Class 001 Frosted Cakes

Class 002 Unfrosted Cakes

Class 003 Cupcakes

Class 004 Heritage Recipes - Family or cultural recipes passed down through generations. **Entries must include a 4x6 (max.) index card with a short description of the recipe's significance.**

Please see the [Decorated Foods and Liqueurs Competition](#) for more cake and cupcake entry options.

PIES AND PASTRIES

Division 139: Pies and Pastries

Quantity: One (1) whole 8"-10" pie or tart, or four (4) 3"-5" tartlets or other pastries.

No refrigerated pies. No bread dough. No meat or quiches.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Crust (45%), Filling/Topping (30%), Appearance (25%)

Class 001 Single Crust Pie

Class 002 Double Crust Pie

Class 003 Pastries



BREADS, ROLLS, AND QUICK BREADS

Division 140: Leavened Breads and Rolls

Quantity: One (1) whole standard loaf, or six (6) rolls

JUDGING CRITERIA: Flavor (30%), Texture (25%), Appearance (15%), Lightness (15%), Crust (15%)

- Class 001** Sweet Breads and Rolls
- Class 002** Savory Breads and Rolls
- Class 003** Sourdough Breads and Rolls
- Class 004** Fancy Breads and Rolls
- Class 005** Breads and Rolls with additions (no meat)

Division 141: Quick Breads

Quantity: One (1) whole standard loaf, or six (6) pieces of non-loaf entries

JUDGING CRITERIA: Flavor (30%), Texture (25%), Appearance (15%), Lightness (15%), Crust (15%)

- Class 001** Quick Breads, sweet or savory (banana, zucchini, etc.)
- Class 002** Muffins, sweet or savory
- Class 003** Biscuits and Scones
- Class 004** Cornbread and Corn Muffins