

**ARKANSAS VALLEY FAIR
OPEN CLASS COMPETITION
CRAFTS, FINE ARTS, & PHOTOGRAPHY**

August 19- 22, 2026

- For additional questions, text our directors Cat (719 468 3636) or Sierra (469-7574), or call Otero County Extension Office (254-7608), Sally Cope (254-7723)
- **ENTRY DATE & TIME:** Sunday, August 16, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & Monday, August 17, 2026, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If either of these dates aren't preferable, please contact our directors to see if other arrangements can be made.
- **ENTRY FEE:** \$1.00 per item
- **ENTRY/PICK UP LOCATION:** Exposition Building, Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds, Rocky Ford, CO
- **ENTRY CHECK OUT:** Sunday, August 23, 2026 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 - All entries must match the name of the check-in sheet in order to be checked out. Under no circumstances will the Arkansas Valley Fair or Directors be responsible for any entry left after check-out time. All entries left behind will be locked into storage until next year's fair.
 - **EXHIBIT MONITORS:** If you are interested in volunteering or working for community service hours, please contact Sierra (469-7574) or Cat (468-3636)
- **DIVISIONS:**
 - Junior – Age group includes preschool through age 11.
 - Intermediate – Age group includes ages 12-17.
 - Amateur – Anyone, regardless of age, who isn't a professional. (See definition of professional below.)
 - Senior – Exhibitor must be 65 years of age or over.
 - Professional – A professional is defined as someone who meets one or more of the following:
 - Has taught a class for a fee in the area of entry (does not include demonstrations),
 - Has a degree in the area of entry,
 - Receives any source of personal income from work in the area of entry, or
 - Is a qualified judge for work in the area of entry.

RULES & REGULATIONS: Please carefully read all rules and regulations before completing your entry form:

- Because this is a family-oriented art show, superintendents reserve the right to reject or refuse any exhibit that does not reflect a subject matter conducive to display in an area frequented by young children and families.
- Directors will take every precaution for the safekeeping of all exhibits but assume no responsibility for loss or damage. All entries are entered at the owner's risk.
- Competition is open to all persons. If entry fee or hardware is a barrier to entry, please contact Sierra or Cat (listed above)
- All entries must have been completed within the last year and may not have been entered in the Arkansas Valley Fair in previous years.
- If a participant chooses to enter an item in the Junior, Intermediate, or Senior Division, he or she may not enter an item in the same class in the Amateur division.
- ***Each participant may enter 3 entries per class**
- Graphic arts and pastels must be protected.
- The "Miscellaneous" class in each division is to include only entries that do not qualify for any other class in the division.
- ***All work must be ready to hang for display. Artwork is to be properly framed and secured with wire hanging apparatus on the back. We do not have someone available to do hardware this year so unprepared entries will not be able to be accepted. (See "Preparing Your Art for Exhibit.")**
- Artists are responsible for pedestal and set-up of work over 30 lbs.
- No wet or unfinished items will be accepted.
- Any soiled or defaced article is not eligible for exhibit or judging.
- Entries must be original composition, amateur or professional.
- Artists wishing to sell work can complete an information card during entry registration. The card will be kept on file with the exhibit superintendent and a "For Sale" card will be placed on the item after judging.
- In order to make judging fair to all, the exhibitor's name is not to be visible on the artwork or photograph.
- ***Please note: Commercially produced art kits will no longer be accepted. These include but aren't limited to: Pre stamped kits, Diamond Art kits, & Paint by number kits**
- ***In an effort to help our artists compete, we have condensed the categories this year**

**CRAFTS, FINE ARTS, & PHOTOGRAPHY
CRAFTS DEPARTMENT
DIVISIONS: JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, AMATEUR, SENIOR, & PROFESSIONAL**

| Class # | Class Description |
|---------|--|
| 1 | Painting (Acrylic, Tempera, Oil, Watercolor) |
| 2 | Pastels |
| 3 | Graphite/Charcoal |
| 4 | Mixed Media |
| 5 | 3D Arts (Includes jewelry, pottery, woodworking) |
| 6 | Photography Color |
| 7 | Photography B&W |
| 8 | Digital art |
| 9 | Miscellaneous- Art |
| 10 | Miscellaneous- Craft |
| 11 | Penmanship |

JUDGING & AWARDS:

- In judging, the general appearance, suitability to purpose, beauty, style, color, design, and material used in entry will be considered as well as the finish and workmanship.
- In classes in which no competition exists or, if in the opinion of the judge, an article exhibited is not worthy of a first award, the judge may award second, third, or no award. If there are enough similar items in any miscellaneous category to make a class, they will be judged separately. The decision is up to our panel of judges.
- A Champion and Reserve Champion will be designated in each division if, in the opinion of the judge, entries are worthy. Prize money in the amount of \$10.00 will be awarded to each Champion and Reserve Champion.
- A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be designated in the Crafts, Fine Arts, and Photography Departments from division champions. Prize money in the amount of \$25.00 will be awarded to the Grand Champions and \$15.00 to the Reserve Grand Champions.
- A special ribbon will be awarded for the best original entry depicting (any aspect of) Southeast Colorado.
- Special Ribbons will also be awarded for People's Choice in Fine Arts, Photography, Crafts, Penmanship, & Community Spotlight

Preparing Your Art for Exhibit

Framing Your Artwork

Selecting a Frame:

- You do not need to spend a fortune to have nice, professionally framed artwork! Frames do not need to be fancy, expensive or ornate to look professional.
- Consider creating work that will fit in standard-sized mats and frames; custom frames can be expensive.
- Canvases can be displayed with or without frames.

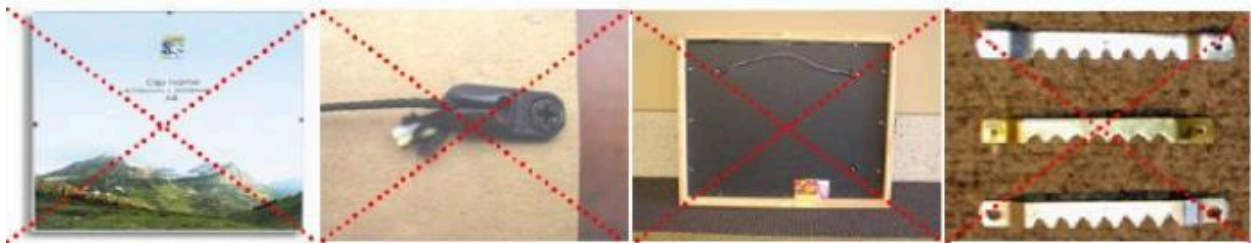
Choosing Hardware:

- This is an important one!
- Please use good D-rings, larger screw eyes, or metal-frame D-rings.
- Ensure that all hardware is securely installed.

Examples of Acceptable Hooks:



DO NOT



Clip Frame

Wire Not Attached

Hanger Not Attached
to Frame

Saw-Tooth Hangers
to Frame

Please DO NOT use clip-frames, saw-tooth hangers, a single triangle hanger at the center, back of frame, triangle hangers/wires that are not attached to the sides of frames, very small screw eyes or corded backs.

Hanging Wire:

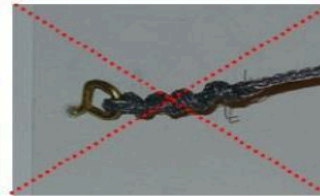
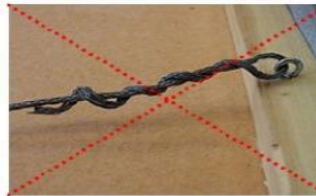
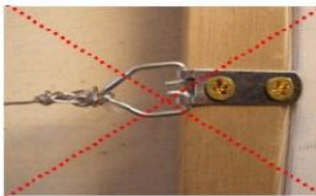
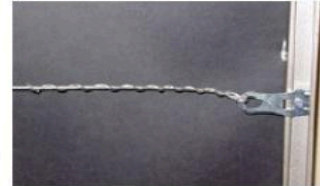
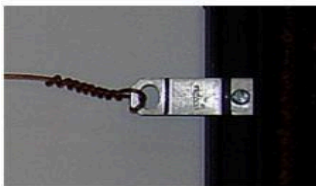
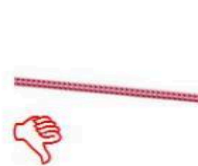
For the safety of your artwork, please use quality picture hanging wire. Please refrain from using fishing line, electric wire and mesh cord.

Quality Picture Hanging Wire

Fishing Line

Electrical Wire

Corded Wire



From left to right correct way to attach wire:

Picture 1: Lead wire securely wound around D-Ring.

Picture 2: Double Loop through.

Picture 3: Secure lead, through ring tightly wound.

From left to right incorrect way to attach wire:

Picture 4: Short lead wires can come apart.

Picture 5: Loose wrap can unravel.

Picture 6: Short wire not cleanly wound and fraying.



Ideally, your hanging wire should be long enough so that, when pulled up tight, the top of the wire is at least 2” from the top of the frame.

- Please make sure that your D-rings and large screw eyes are attached at least 2” down from the top of your frame.
- Please label your work.
- Please attach a small card that displays your full contact information and the title of each work securely to the back of your artwork.
- Clean your artwork before your exhibit—this will be the first time that many viewers are introduced to your work and to you as the artist. Make a good first impression!
- Dust off your work, remove fingerprints from the glass, clean out any dirt and repair any damage on the outside AND inside of your work.
- Make sure any mats are pressed snugly to the glass or Plexiglas and are not crooked in the frame, “bubbling” out, or loose in the frame.
- If you are entering 3-D artwork, make sure to clean your artwork and make sure that items are sturdy and free of flaws.

