

2026 Youth Exhibit Hall Division Rules & Guidelines

Objectives:

1. To host a fun, quality, and healthy competition that allows youth exhibitors to earn a profit from their project work.
2. Provide a chance for youth exhibitors to broaden their horizons, try new things, and showcase skills learned in 4-H, FCCLA and FFA.
3. To provide an opportunity for our community to celebrate and support Blanco County youth exhibitors.

Entries AND payments are due December 1, 2025
with \$10 fee per entry, \$2.00 per bakery box, \$1.00 per photo mat
\$50 late entry fee/per exhibit from December 2, 2025 through December 12, 2025
NO REFUNDS, NO CATEGORY CHANGES (Items entered in the wrong class or category will not be judged.)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
200 N. Ave. G, Ste. 7 | PO Box 189, Johnson City, TX 78636
Gretchen Sanders, Superintendent, 830/868-7167, gretchen.sanders@ag.tamu.edu
Registration link will be posted at: [Youth Exhibit Hall - Blanco](#)

AWARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS FOR EACH CLASS:

Champions: Rosette, Exhibit Hall Task Force Selected Prizes
Reserve Champions: Rosette, Exhibit Hall Task Force Selected Prizes
1st Place: Ribbon and \$12
2nd Place: Ribbon and \$10
3rd Place: Ribbon and \$8
4th Place: Ribbon and \$6
5th Place: Ribbon and \$4

Junior and Senior Sweepstakes Award: Rosette, Buckle, Premium Sale Spot*
Golden Ticket: Rosette, Exhibit Hall Task Force Selected Prizes, Premium Sale Spot*

(*Sweepstakes and Golden Ticket Winners must comply with all rules as stated in the 2026 Blanco County Youth Show Rule Book)

Schedule of Events

Monday, December 1, 2025-Entry deadline, \$10 per entry
Friday, December 12, 2025-Late entry deadline, \$50 late fee per entry
Monday, December 22, 2025-TENTATIVE-Set Up at 9:00 am (This workday does not count as a Youth Show workday.)
Monday, December 29, 2025-
9:00 am to 12:00 pm-Exhibit Hall entry check-in, no entries accepted after 12:00 pm
1:00 pm-Judging of Exhibit Hall entries, building closed to the public until 9:00 am on December 30.
Tuesday, December 30, 2025-
9:00 am to 5:00 pm-Silent Auction, Food items will conclude at 5:00 pm
5:00 pm-Exhibitors must pick up items not listed in Silent Auction
Saturday, January 3, 2026-
10:30 am to Noon-Silent Auction continues for Sewing, Hobbies, Fine Art & Photography
Noon-Exhibitors may remove Educational Exhibits

Rules and Guidelines

1. The Blanco County Youth Exhibit Hall is open to all active and eligible members of Blanco County 4-H, FCCLA and FFA programs as defined by those organization's guidelines for membership.
2. Exhibitors must attend 50% of all scheduled meetings of the club/chapter in which they are enrolled.
3. The exhibitor and their project will not be allowed to participate in the Youth Exhibit Hall if all academic requirements are not met as outlined by the Texas Education Agency.
4. An individual may have only one entry in each category.
5. Classes will be divided by age groups:
 - Juniors-Grades 3-8
 - Seniors-Grades 9-12
6. The top 5 projects in each category will receive ribbons and prize money. One 1st Place Senior entry and one 1st Place Junior entry will be considered for and awarded Champion or Reserve Champion in each of the five classes.
7. Exhibitors may not enter a project they have previously exhibited; however, another family member may make a project from a pattern, instructions, or recipe that has been previously entered by a sibling.
8. All projects must have been made by the exhibitor anytime from January 4, 2025 through December 29, 2025 with quilts being the exception (See rule on page 4).
9. The Superintendent will have the authority to disqualify entries. Judges can disqualify entries at their discretion according to the Exhibit Hall Division Rules & Guidelines.
10. Any extremely valuable item should not be entered.
11. One Sweepstakes Award will be presented to a Senior exhibitor and one Sweepstakes Award will be presented to a Junior exhibitor who accumulates the largest number of points. These points will be awarded as a "weighted ranking" based on the number of entries in that category. First place will receive the same number of points as total number of entries. For example: 4 entries in a category: 1st place-4 points, 2nd place-3 points, 3rd place-2 points, 4th place-1 point
12. Three Golden Ticket awards may be presented to individual entries that show exceptional work. These individuals may earn a spot in the Premium Sale on January 3. Sweepstakes winners are ineligible for the Golden Ticket spots. The Sweepstakes and/or Golden Ticket does not qualify the award winner for a second Sale Spot. A second Sale Spot is only available by qualifying according to the rules of the Livestock Show (See specifically Premium Sale General Rules - Rule 2).
13. Sweepstakes and Golden Ticket Winners must comply with all rules as stated in the 2026 Blanco County Youth Show Rule Book.
14. Each class is divided into categories and each category will have a Junior and Senior Division.
15. A construction information sheet (see page 8) for the judges is required for each entry in Sewing, Hobbies and Fine Art & Photography. Entries will not be accepted or judged without the Construction Information Sheet.
16. All entries must be in good taste and reflect language and symbols appropriate for all ages. Any entry not complying with these standards will be disqualified. Promotion of alcoholic beverages in any exhibit will be disqualified immediately. You will not have a chance to alter the project after being disqualified.
17. All participants are welcome to sell their items in the Silent Auction. Participation in the Silent Auction is not required.
18. As soon as possible after the competition, the Superintendent will send out a spreadsheet to each exhibitor by e-mail. The spreadsheet will list each project with the placing, prize money dollar amount earned, silent auction dollar amount, the silent auction item buyer with address and the total dollar amount earned. Exhibitors are required to present ALL buyers for their projects with "Thank You" notes within 90 days of the Silent Auction. Deadline is April 3, 2026. Thank you notes must be verified by AgriLife personnel for checks to be released to the exhibitor. If the exhibitor does not write thank you notes in 2026, they will NOT be allowed to participate in the Silent Auction in 2027. Exhibitors will have 90 days from the date of their check release to cash/deposit their checks.
19. All exhibits must be entered with an entry card attached. Entry cards will be generated from Fair Entry system.
20. All entries will be judged according to scoresheets. Scoresheets are posted at Youth Exhibit Hall - Blanco (agrilife.org).
21. Exhibitor Auction Add-On deadline will be five (5) working days following the sale (Friday, January 9, 2026 at 5 pm.)
22. **Parents have a significant role in Exhibit Hall projects. They are vital to a successful project experience for their child; therefore, each exhibitor's parent will be REQUIRED to commit 2 hours to help during this contest. Sign up here: [Blanco County Youth Exhibit Hall: 2026 Blanco County Youth Exhibit Hall Volunteers](#)**

Class 1. Foods

1. Food entries must arrive in a disposable bakery box ***distributed by the AgriLife Office***. No other containers will be accepted without prior knowledge of Superintendent. Each bakery box will cost the exhibitor \$2.00 per entry.
2. Cut a sample of the food entry for the judges and place it on a small paper plate or in a clear plastic cup. Place the sample inside a plastic zipper baggie and tape it to the top of the bakery box. Food entries without visible samples cut from the entry will not be accepted.
3. All food products must be homemade (baked or cooked). Uncooked garnishes that do not require baking/cooking will be allowed including nuts, fondant, marzipan, candy, etc. Any questions should be directed to the Superintendent before the show.
4. Foods requiring refrigeration will not be accepted as entries. Any item that has custard, cream cheese, cream type filling, frosting, uncooked fruit, raw eggs, meringues, chiffons or dairy products in the filling, icing or garnish will not be allowed. If sour cream or cream cheese is mixed in and fully cooked, it is considered safe. Please see page 2 of Food Safety Recommendations at: Youth Exhibit Hall - Blanco (agrilife.org)
5. Registrations will not be accepted without recipes. A recipe template is provided on page 9 of this packet. Recipes will be reviewed by the Superintendent. All recipes turned in will be presented to the judges. Photocopies of recipes or printouts from websites will not be allowed.
6. Exhibitors must bring one whole recipe.

Food Categories

1. Cookies-Drop, rolled, shaped.
2. Bars/Brownies-Bar cookies.
3. Pies/Cobblers-Homemade crust recipe must be included with pie recipe. No purchased crusts allowed.
4. Quick Breads-Fruit and nut breads, coffee cakes, muffins, cornbread and other non-yeast breads.
5. Yeast Bread-Sweet or non-sweet yeast, kolache, dinner, cinnamon rolls, and other yeast breads.
6. Frosted Cakes-Layered, sheet, tube, or Bundt. Cakes must be frosted, iced, or glazed from scratch recipes.
7. Unfrosted Cakes-Tube, Bundt, loaf. No frosting, powdered sugar, or edible garnishes. Directly from the oven.
8. Cupcakes-Decorated with frosting, sprinkles, icing, candy. Plastic and paper toppers will be accepted.
9. Candy-Fudge, pralines, divinity, peanut brittle, popcorn balls. Must be homemade and created from a recipe. No dipped-style candy will be accepted (i.e., pretzels, nuts).
10. Alternative Diet-Any baked recipe that has been adapted to fit a dietary need or trend such as Gluten-Free, Sugar-Free, Paleo, Keto.
11. Baking Hack-2026 Ingredient-HAZELNUT SPREAD-Entry will be a baked good made with Nutella or any other brand of sweetened hazelnut cocoa spread (i.e., cookies, brownies, cake). Judging will weigh heavily on creativity.
12. Nailed It!-2026 Project-WATERCOLOR CAKE [HTTPS://PIN.IT/7FUX13V4S](https://pin.it/7fux13v4s) Exhibitors must re-create an edible masterpiece with only the picture in the link to go by. Must include a watercolor style pattern and two layers of cake. Exhibitors may use mixes and pre-made frosting. Judged on appearance and decorating abilities only. Exhibitors must submit construction information sheets. No recipe is required.
13. Savory Snacks-Cheese straws, baked crackers, homemade potato chips. No saltine or oyster crackers with oil mixture may be entered.
14. International Challenge-2026 Country-GERMANY. Entry must be a baked good with origins in Germany (i.e., pretzels, strudel, kolatschen).

Class 2. Sewing

1. All entries in the Sewing Class must submit a construction information sheet (see page 8).
2. Entries must be sewn by hand with a needle and thread or with a sewing machine.

Sewing Categories

1. Wearables and Fashion Accessories-Clothing/accessories for people, animals, dolls.
2. Natural Fibers-Items sewn of leather, wool, mohair, alpaca, silk, or cotton.
3. Home Accessories-Pillows, curtains, kitchen items.
4. Quilts-Must have 3 layers: top, batting, backing, held together by stitching or tying. Quilts must be quilted by hand, machine, or both. Tied quilts are accepted. Exhibitors must specify quilting techniques on Construction Information Form. Printed or pre-quilted kits will not be accepted. Quilts must have been completed in 2023 or 2024.
5. Reuse/Upcycle-Items that are created and sewn from an existing clothing item (i.e., a tote bag made from a t-shirt, dress made from a pillowcase).
6. Small Handwork-Cross-stitch, embroidery, silk ribbon, needlepoint, knitting, crochet (i.e., ornaments, fashion accessories, wall hangings, pillowcases).
7. Large Handwork-Knitting, crochet, macrame (i.e., afghans, blankets, bedspreads, tablecloths).

Class 3. Hobbies

1. All entries in the Hobbies Class must submit a construction information sheet (see page 8).
2. Kits are accepted except for LEGO entries (see Category 3 below).

Hobbies Categories

1. Holiday Time-Any craft that represents any holiday.
2. Natural Products-Creations of soaps, bath salts, candles, laundry detergent.
3. Lego Challenge 2026-BLANCO COUNTY-People, places and things that represent Blanco County. All entries should be MOC (My Own Creation). No LEGO kits will be allowed.
4. Reuse/Upcycle-Small entries that would fit on a tabletop such as lamps.
5. Reuse/Upcycle-Large entries such as furniture, benches, dressers, and tables.
6. Rustic Décor-Project made for the home created mostly of naturally occurring elements (i.e., sticks, feathers, shells, bones, antlers). Additional items such as glue, paint, ribbon, etc. may be used to enhance the project, but must be kept to a minimum.
7. Jewelry-Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc. May enter a set or individual jewelry items.
8. Ceramics/Pottery/Clay/Glass-Painted ceramic/pottery pieces, thrown pottery, etched glass.
9. Miscellaneous-All other projects

Class 4. Fine Art & Photography

1. All entries in the Fine Art & Photography Class must submit a construction information sheet (see page 8).
2. Any framing or glass for art entries will be the decision of the exhibitor.
3. All non-photo entries must have a wire hanger on the back for display.
4. Art entries must be on canvas or paper.
5. Photography entries must be printed as an 8"x10" on photo paper. Photo mats will be provided for display and will be *distributed by the AgriLife Office* before the contest. Each photo mat will cost the exhibitor \$1.00 per entry.

Fine Art & Photography Categories

1. Oil-Painted with oil paints
2. Pastels-Drawn with oil pastel sticks, pastel sticks, or pastel pencils.
3. Watercolor-Painted using water soluble tubes or pan varieties.
4. Acrylic-Painted with any type of acrylic (i.e., craft, heavy body, gouache).
5. Pencil Sketches/Charcoal-No color, graphite, or charcoal.
6. Black & White Photography-Photograph of any subject printed as an 8"x10" on photo paper.
7. Color Photography-Photograph of any subject printed as an 8"x10" on photo paper.
8. Mixed Media-Entry in which more than one medium or material has been employed.

Class 5. Educational Exhibits

1. Exhibits must reflect an educational or research project.
2. There are no limits on the size of the exhibit.
3. Exhibits are not limited to posters or foamboard and can utilize computers, electricity, props, and/or handouts for visitors.

Clover Kids Division

1. 4-H Members enrolled in the Clover Kids program (grades K-2) are eligible to participate in the Youth Exhibit Hall.
2. There is no entry fee for Clover Kids.
3. Entries will be limited to 1 Foods entry and/or 1 Hobbies entry.
4. Clover Kids will receive ribbons as their awards.
5. Clover Kids are welcome to participate in the Silent Auction.
6. Clover Kids should contact Gretchen Sanders directly to enter. Do not enter Clover Kids in the Fair Entry system.

Grade: _____

Name of Recipe: _____

Class: Foods_____

Category: _____

Name of Recipe:

Ingredients:

Directions:

Grade: _____

Name of Project: _____

Class: _____

Category: _____

Construction Information:

(This form must accompany each entry in Foods, Nailed It only, Sewing, Hobbies and Fine Art & Photography)

Construction Information Tips...

Use the attached form for each entry in Hobbies, Sewing and Fine Art & Photography

Use paragraph form to tell all about your entry.

Handwriting is OK.

The judges read these and enjoy hearing about how you made your entry.

Consider including answers to the following questions:

What did you make and why?

What do you enjoy about making this type of project?

What was the hardest part of making this project?

Did you learn a new technique?

Why did you pick these colors?

Where did you get the pattern/instructions?

Did anyone help you with this project? Who was it?

Tell about how this person helped you.

2026 Exhibit Hall Entry Worksheet

(Registration is online at [Youth Exhibit Hall - Blanco](#). This form is for personal use and for your records only.)

Exhibitor's Name: _____

Class 1. Foods	Recipe
1. Cookies	
2. Bars/Brownies	
3. Pies/Cobblers	
4. Quick Breads	
5. Yeast Breads	
6. Frosted Cakes	
7. Unfrosted Cakes	
8. Cupcakes	
9. Candy	
10. Alternative Diet	
11. Baking Hack	
12. Nailed It!	
13. Savory Snacks	
14. International Challenge	

Class 2. Sewing	Project
1. Wearables/Fash.	
2. Natural Fibers	
3. Home Access.	
4. Quilts	
5. Reuse/Upcycle	
6. Handwork-Small	
7. Handwork-Large	

Exhibitor's Name: _____

Class 3. Hobbies	Project
1. Holiday Time	
2. Natural Products	
3. LEGO Challenge-	
4. Reuse/Upcycle- Small	
5. Reuse/Upcycle- Large	
6. Rustic Décor	
7. Jewelry	
8. Ceramics/Glass/Clay	
9. Misc.	

Class 4. Fine Art	Project
1. Oil	
2. Pastels	
3. Watercolor	
4. Acrylic	
5. Pencil Sketches/Charcoal	
6. Photography B&W	
7. Photography Color	
8. Mixed Media	

Class 5. Educational Exhibit	Topic

Total # of entries _____