
Judging at the Fair

Judging at the Tanana Valley State Fair is accomplished through a network of volunteers. Judges are recruited & chosen for their expertise in a particular area, and it is through their generous donation of time & knowledge that we are able to showcase your achievements. Judges are trained by the superintendents & through the Fair Office to follow the guidelines set down by the Fair Association. They are expected to:

- be fair & consistent in their judging;
- provide positive comments & constructive criticism to the exhibitor;
- follow the Fair Association's mission to educate participants through their evaluation.

Each exhibit must have a completed score sheet. These score sheets are for the education of the exhibitor only & are not for public view. An exhibitor may request to see a score sheet for any of their entries by asking the exhibit attendant on duty, asking the superintendent, or requesting assistance through the Fair Office.

Although our judges work hard to provide a positive experience for the exhibitor, sometimes there can be discrepancies or inconsistencies. If so, the exhibitor is encouraged to contact the superintendent who can investigate the problem. If necessary, the exhibitor may file a protest through the Exhibit Office. A \$25.00 fee must accompany any protest filed. Please refer to the Exhibitor's Guide for more information regarding this procedure.

Security

You are encouraged to enter your best work. The Competitive Exhibits team (staff, superintendents, judges & volunteers) all recognize the value these hold & all effort is made to provide for their security. Each building has a team of volunteers to watch over the exhibits & to make sure they are not handled or stolen, but because of the volume of entries we get each year, we cannot guarantee the safety of each exhibit.

Questions

We have tried to create a lot for everything, but if you cannot find an appropriate lot in which to enter an item, please contact the Division Superintendent. They can help you in selecting a lot, or can add any lots as needed. Superintendents' names and telephone numbers are listed in the Exhibitor's Guide. Be sure to contact them before Entry Day. If you are unable to reach the superintendent, the Fair Office is here to help. Call us anytime between the hours of 9 am & 5 pm, Monday through Friday - **452-3750** or e-mail exhibits@tvsfa.org

DIVISION 21 NEEDLEWORK

EXHIBITOR'S HANDBOOK

Exhibiting at the Tanana Valley State Fair

Welcome to the world of Competitive Exhibits! As an exhibitor at the fair, you are entering into a long standing tradition of education & competition that began in the Tanana Valley in 1924.

Your primary source of information about entering an exhibit is through the Exhibitor's Guide, available online or at the Fair Exhibit Office.

General Rules:

- Get a Fair I.D. number from the Exhibit Office
- Pick up & fill out Exhibit Tags & Entry forms at home.
- You may enter only one exhibit per lot, except where noted.
- Know your entry days & pick-up days listed in the Exhibitor's Guide.

(907) 452-3750

Tanana Valley State Fair Association
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452-3750 www.tvsfa.org

Entry Guidelines

- **Pick your Best:** You may enter only one exhibit per lot, so choose that item which best demonstrates your skill or knowledge;
- **Prepare your entry:** Read the paragraph on preparation & presentation and present your exhibit in the best way possible. Don't wait until the last minute - know what you will enter & have your exhibit tags ready well before entry day;
- **Tell us about your entry:** If your division has special instructions, be sure to include this information on a 3" x 5" card attached to your entry.

Preparing Your Entry

Needlework exhibits are grouped according to techniques and materials used. The product type doesn't matter (i.e. pillowcases, tea towels, etc.). The emphasis is on the types of needle work, threads, fabric, and variety of stitches used.

Read the class and lot definitions carefully to assure proper placement of your exhibits. The exhibitor is responsible for proper entry. If in doubt, contact the Superintendents or Fair Office for help. Volunteers will be available entry day.

New lots or classes may be created for exhibits when (1) there is no existing lot or class in Needlework or in any other division for the exhibit, (2) the competition is improved by the addition, and (3) the exhibit represents a product or technique that is significantly different from exhibits entered in the existing lots and classes.

All entries are judged on their overall appearance and workmanship. Specific concerns are listed with the class/lot descriptions.

The judging system is based on points. Comments will be made by judges in addition to points awarded. See the judges scoresheet at the end of this handbook.

The Tanana Valley State Fair seeks to highlight and enhance appreciation for Interior Alaska by showcasing competitive & commercial exhibits. The Fair educates and entertains all participants by providing opportunities to share a rich variety of individual and community endeavors. The Fair encourages and welcomes involvement by all.

Specific Class Information

Class A - Free-Hand Embroidery: Embroidery done with flosses or yarns. Embroidery threads should not be knotted. Stitches should be of even tension and size. All crossed x's should cross in the same direction. Yarns should not be frayed or have a worn appearance which can result from too much tension or working with too long a thread. None of the stamped design should show. The item should be properly cleaned and pressed/blocked to remove wrinkles.

Class B - Needlepoint Techniques: Stitches should be uniform and in the same direction. The tension should be even; the threads not frayed or pulled too tight. The finished project should be blocked - this is a most important item.

Class C - Cross-stitch: Embroidery worked on an even weave material from a graph or grid. The count refers to the number of stitches in a linear inch. All X's should cross in the same direction. There should be even tension throughout. (If a pattern calls for an unusual cross or no cross at any point, this should be noted on the Exhibit Tag). There should be no dangling threads visible through the fabric. The usual rule of thumb is that stitches should not be carried more than three squares.

Class D - Other Techniques:

Includes hardanger (embroidery worked by cutting out areas of the fabric), plastic canvas or perforated paper, smocking, hucking, beadwork, drawn and/or pulled thread, and blackwork. Cuts should be smooth and the edges should be well covered. Tension is most important.

Sample Judging Sheet

Division 21 Needlework

ID # _____ Exhibit Tag # _____ Class _____ Lot _____
Judge's Initials _____

POINTS POSSIBLE SCORE

Workmanship **55** _____
Precision (no obvious errors, uniformity & accuracy)

Degree of Difficulty **20** _____
(complexity of work, variety of stitches, etc)

General Appearance **15** _____
Aesthetic Appeal (color & texture)
Presentation (blocking, hanging device, covered back, cleanliness, finishing, framing)

Interpretation **10** _____
Where the design came from: stamped (2 pts), unmodified kit or pattern (4 pts); modified kit or pattern (6 pts); adaptation from another medium (8 pts); original design (10 pts).

TOTAL (100 = perfect score) _____

COMMENTS _____

