



**2025
CREATIVE
ARTS
RULES**



14569 Old Highway Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52002

Phone 563.588.1406 Fax 563.588.1162

Email: dbqfair@dbqfair.com website: www.dbqfair.com

2025 Dubuque County Fair Creative Arts Rules & Regulations

***You DO NOT have to live in Iowa or Dubuque County to enter**

2025 Registration Information:

Save Paper! Please fill out the online form by **12:01 AM July 12th, 2025**. (Forms will also be linked on www.dbqfair.com.)

Adult Registration Form:	dbqfair.com/competitions
Kids Korner Registration Form:	dbqfair.com/competitions
King Arthur Flour Registration Form:	dbqfair.com/competitions
Art Ability Registration Form:	dbqfair.com/competitions

Paper entry forms will be available at the fairgrounds office and must be **postmarked by July 13th, 2025 (NO PAST POST MARKED WILL BE ACCEPTED)**. **ALL REGISTRATIONS NEED TO BE TURNED IN BY JULY 16th, 2025**. Entry registration forms must be filled out completely.

Please mail entry registration to:

Dubuque County Fair
Creative Arts Division
14569 Old Highway Road
Dubuque, IA 52002

2025 Check-in Information:

Saturday July 19th, 2025: 8:00am-11:00am, Creative Arts Building

******Gardening will be brought in on Monday, July 21st, 2025: 8:00am-11:00am, Creative Arts Building**

THERE WILL BE NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED!!!!

2025 Release Information:

Release of Creative Arts entries is scheduled for:

Monday, July 28th, 2025: 8:00am-11:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm.

The management is not responsible for exhibits left on the fairgrounds after release hours.

****Projects can be picked up in the Grand Ballroom after July 28th, 2025****

2025 Creative Activities Division
Open to everyone!

Creative Arts Committee:
Chairs: Dawn Shepherd & Mike Lambert

Open Class Exhibits:

General Rules: These rules apply to all divisions.

1. Entries are open to anyone, any age level. There is no entry fee.
2. All entries must have been grown or made by the exhibitor. Unfinished, soiled, foul, odorous smelling or articles that show signs of wear may not be entered. All entries are judged, based on quality, workmanship, and neatness.
3. Due to the limited space, we reserve the right to refuse any article we consider too large to display properly.
4. **Exhibitors MUST register entries no later than July 16th, 2025,** so we can plan for exhibits space. **NO EXHIBITS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS AN ENTRY FORM HAS BEEN SUBMITTED or PROOF IS SHOWN THAT IT WAS ENTERED (EX. CONFIRMATION EMAIL).** Printed entry registration forms can be obtained from the website or the Dubuque County Fair Office. No telephone entries.
5. Hours for the Creative Arts Building- July 22nd - July 27th, 2025, will be, Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am-8:00pm, Thursday - Saturday 10:00am – 8:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-7:00pm.
6. Release of ALL Liability. The Dubuque County Fair Association will use diligence to ensure the safety of articles/entries. Security is provided when the building is open during the hours posted in the General Rules section #6. Please note that every precaution is taken to protect articles, but it is distinctly understood that in no case shall the Dubuque County Fair Association, its Directors, officers, or employees be held responsible for any loss, damage, or injury.
7. No one except the judges, clerks and designated show personnel will be allowed in the show area during judging. **ANY** exhibitor's attempt to interfere with the judge or their assistants in any manner shall result in the forfeit of all premiums awarded and will be excluded from further competition.
8. NO EARLY RELEASES. NO CARS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE EXHIBIT AREA SUNDAY NIGHT. Monday, July 25th, 2024, release time will be from 8:00am-11:00am and 4:00-6:00 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS. The management is not responsible for exhibits left on the fairgrounds after release hours. Projects can be picked up in the Grand Ballroom after July 30th, 2025.
9. Awards for "Best of Show" will be awarded in each division. No person may win "Best of Show" in the same Division two years in a row.
10. **To be eligible for judging, exhibit must have been completed since the last fair.**
11. RIBBON POLICY: Ribbon placement is as follows: Purple: Best of Show; Blue, Red, Green. Premium money will be awarded to purple, blue & red ribbons. Premiums will not be paid for exhibits released ahead of time without the permission of the chairpersons.
12. For exhibits completed by groups, please include all names, name of guild, scout troop, etc.... on entry blank.
13. Previously entered articles **MAY NOT** be entered again by **ANY** exhibitor.

Note: – We are only using divisions and some subdivisions to identify entries.

Kid's Korner

Kids Korner Registration Form:

dbqfair.com/2025kids

1. All general creative rules apply to the Kid's Korner Rules.
2. All kids up to and including age 14, may exhibit any entry in the "Kid's Korner" division.
3. Note: Children may enter items for Divisions E (Garden) and (Antiques), but they will be judged with the adult entries.
4. Nine "Best of Show" ribbons may be awarded.
5. All kids' ages must be included on the entry form.
6. **Maximum of 6 (SIX) Entries per Child.**

artAbility

artAbility Registration Form:

dbqfair.com/2025art

1. All general creative rules apply to artAbility.
2. Entries are open to anyone, any age level with disabilities.
3. Entries are open to all Divisions listed below.
4. All entries will be judged as one classification, known as artAbility.
5. **Maximum of 6 (SIX) Entries per person.**

Division A: Photography

1. See General Rules—Open Class.
2. Entries may be in color, black and white or sepia. Single photos or groups of 3 or 4 photos that are related may be entered. More than one entry may be made in each class. No photo may be larger than 5x7, when in a group of 3 or 4 photos.
3. Maximum allowable entries per individual: 5
4. The exhibitor must have taken photographs, but it is not necessary that exhibitor do processing.
5. Any size photograph will be acceptable but **MUST** be mounted on foam board or matte board appropriate for the picture(s). Minimum size for the foam board or matte board is 8"x10". No framed pictures will be accepted.
6. Exhibitor's name, address and class number of photo **MUST** be indicated on the back of the entry.
7. Ribbons will be awarded solely on the basis of individual merit. Judging will be done on general interest and visual appeal.
8. **ALL photographs must have been taken with 1 calendar year of the previous fair. (Aug 1st, 2024 – Aug 1st, 2025)**
9. One "Best of Show" award will be given in the Beginner, Advanced and Kid's Korner Divisions.

This division has three sub-divisions.

- Kids Korner
 - Children up to and including age 14.
- Beginner
 - Any person who takes photos as a hobby and has no financial gain from taking photos.
- Advanced
 - Any person who takes photos on a regular basis and has taken formal training such as educational photography classes. **(Someone who earns or receives financial gain from his or her photography.)**

Division B: Sewing

1. See General Rules—Open class.
2. **Exhibits must be clean,** or they will not be exhibited or judged. No foul or smoke smelling articles will be accepted.
3. Items should never have been worn or cleaned if worn.
4. Finish and press seams.
5. Please use basic sewing practices in the completion of the sewing project.

Examples: Articles of Clothing/Doll Clothes, Hot Pad Sets, Pillowcases, Aprons

*******Quilts or Quilted items are to be entered in the Division F: Quilts*******

Division C: Needlecraft

1. See General Rules—Open class.
2. Exhibits must be clean, or they will not be exhibited or judged. No foul or smoke smelling articles will be accepted.
3. All doilies must be mounted on cardboard, or they will not be accepted.

Examples: Handmade dollies, Cross Stitch, Crochet/Knitted Items

*******Quilts or Quilted items are to be entered in the Division F: Quilts*******

Division D: Fine Arts

1. See General Rules-open Class.
2. All work must be original. No kits or molds may be used.
3. All work must be ready to hang on pegboard. Masking tape and string are not allowed. Articles without either matting or frame will not be judged or displayed. Each article should have an identification card attached to the back. **ANY WORK NOT FOLLOWING THESE RULES WILL BE RETURNED TO THE EXHIBITOR.**
4. All entries will be judged and exhibited at the discretion of the committee. Ribbons will be awarded solely on the basis of artistic excellence.
5. Classification of entries may be changed at the discretion of the chairperson.
6. The management will use the utmost care in displaying and guarding the exhibits but assumes no liability.

2D: Paintings and Drawings that is **NOT** three dimensional

3D: Painting, Drawings, Sculptures occupies space defined through the dimensions of height, weight, and depth

Painted Porcelain/Ceramic Tiles (Please specify on entry form for the entry tags)

This division has three sub-divisions (2D/3D/Painted Porcelain & Tiles) A Best of Show will be awarded in the following areas, up to a total of 9.

- Kids Korner
 - Children up to and including age 14.
- Beginner
 - Any person who draws/sculpts/paints/etc. as a hobby and has no financial gain.
- Advanced
 - Any person who takes draws/sculpts/paints/etc. on a regular basis and has taken formal

training such as classes. (Someone who receives no financial gain from his or her drawings/sculpting/paintings/etc.)

All Garden entries to be entered by July 21st, 2025. See Rule #4 – Open Class Exhibits

Division E: Garden

1. See General Rules-open class. Register entries.
2. Entries are open to everyone. Each exhibitor shall be limited to ten entries per family, with a maximum of 1 entry of the same class. Entries should be identified by variety if possible. All entries must have been grown or made by exhibitor. Potted plants must have been in possession of the exhibitor two months.
3. **All exhibits must be entered at the Creative Arts Building on Monday, July 21st, 2025, from 8:00am-11am at the back door of the Creative Arts Building.**
4. Exhibitors for Division E, use DELIVER GATE ENTRANCE ONLY. There is **NO admission fee** for the day with your garden entry.
5. Release time on exhibits will be on Monday, July 28th, from 8:00am- 11:00am and 4-6pm. No early releases. No exceptions will be made! **The management is not responsible for exhibits left on the fairgrounds after release hours.**
6. **The class of an Unusual Vegetable/Fruit will not be awarded Best of Show**
7. Please pay attention to the following rules regarding individual items: Vegetables:
 1. Vegetables must be exhibited on white paper plates.
 2. **Onions: Harvest early (2 weeks before the show). DO NOT remove outer scales. Do not wash, trim tops to 1" above bulb. Trim roots to 1/2."** **Exhibit (3)**
 3. Do not show vegetables that are injured or dirty (exception to onions)
 4. Do not show vegetables that are not uniform in size, shape, color, maturity, and type.
 5. Do not exhibit the biggest fruits you have, because unusual size frequently indicates poor quality due to over maturity. This includes overripe produce.
 6. Vegetable Baskets must display 9 different kinds of vegetable crops.
 7. Please see the following guidelines for specific vegetables: Beans – 6 specimens
Beets-3 specimens (leave 1" top)
Broccoli-1 head
Brussel
Sprouts- 5 specimens
Cabbage – 1 head
Carrots- 3 specimens (leave 1" top)
Cucumbers- 3 specimens
Eggplant- 1 specimen
Green Onions- 3 specimens (leave 1" root and 4" top)
Herbs – 2 sprigs or stems, put in a vase
Kohlrabi-3 specimens
Muskmelon- 1 specimen
Onions- 3 specimens

Ornamental Gourds- 3 specimens
 Other crops on creative
 arrangement. Peppers- 3
 specimens
 Plate of Mixed Vegetables; must
 contain 2 tomatoes Potatoes - 4
 specimens
 Pumpkin-
 Pie- 1
 specimen
 Pumpkin-
 1
 specimen
 Salad
 Tomatoes- 6
 specimens
 Squash- 1
 specimen
 Sweet Corn- 4 ears in a plastic bag,
 completely husked Tomatoes- 3
 specimens (stems off)
 Waterm
 elon-1
 specime
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 Zucchini- 1
 specimen
 n
 Unusual
 Fruit/V
 egetable

1. Do not exhibit the biggest fruits you have, because unusual size frequently indicates poor quality due to over maturity. This includes overripe fruit.
2. Do not show fruit that are injured or dirty.
3. Do not show fruit that are not uniform in size, shape, color, maturity, and type.
4. Please see the following guidelines for specific fruit:
 Apples- 3 specimens
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Pears- can be
green- 3
specimens
Plums- 6
specimens
Red Raspberries- 1 full cup
Strawberries- 6 specimens

Flower Specimens:

1. Vases will be furnished.
2. Please see the following guidelines for specific
Flower specimens:
Blooming Geranium (1 slip with at least 2
leaves)
Chrysanthemum-1 spray
Cosmos-1 spray
Dahlia- (must be de-budded, have foliage)
Potted Plants - 2 or more plants of the same variety are permitted in the same pot.
Roses – 1 bud with 1-3 leaves / spray of tea roses with 1-3 leaves

Flower Arrangement:

1. Vases will be furnished.
2. Artificial flowers or foliage (painted or treated materials) are not allowed.
3. The **American Flag** may not be used in any arrangement judged by State Garden Show Rules.
4. Accessories such as rocks, feathers, figurines, etc., **are** permitted.
5. These 22 noxious weeds may not be used in flower arrangements:

Buck Thistle	Butter-Print	Quack Grass
Buckhorn	Cocklebur	Russian Knapweed
Canada Thistle	Puncture Vine	Wild Hemp
European Bindweed	Sheep Sorrel	Wild Carrot
Horse Nettle	Smooth Dock	(Queen Ann's Lace)
Leafy Spurge	Sour Dock	Wild Mustard
Perennial Peppergrass	Perennial Sow Thistle	Wild Sunflower

Division F: Quilts:

This class was designed to enter in all quilts

Examples: Quilts of any size, Table Runners, Wall
Hangings etc.

Division G: Antiques and Collectibles:

HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES
ARTICLES FOURTY OR MORE YEARS OLD

******When possible, cards should accompany items giving history of the item. ******

7. See General Rules-open class.
8. No entries accepted from dealers or professionals.
9. All articles will be placed in closed glass case (unless too large) and locked, until exhibitors pick them up at the time specified in the general rules.
10. Previously entered articles MAY NOT be entered again.
11. Articles to be judged on Condition, Suitability of Entry, Uniqueness and Worthiness of Preservation.
12. Items should not be cracked, broken or have tape on them.
13. Acceptable entries can include are Glass, China, Metal, Collections, Advertising, Books, Textiles, Framed Items, Toys, Miscellaneous and Instruments.

Division H: Baking and Canning:

1. See General Rules- Open Class
2. All items must be displayed on a small paper plate in a clear plastic bag. If exhibiting cake, must bring entire cake.
3. Each entry (except canned goods) MUST be accompanied with the recipe with ingredient list and method. No recipe means disqualification.
4. Pies must be made in disposable aluminum pie plates.
5. All items must be clearly labeled. All canned products must be displayed in clear standard canning glass jars, either jelly, pint, or quart sizes, with or without rings. Wax on jellies and jams NOT acceptable. Maximum of 10 entries.
6. Products must be canned since last Dubuque County Fair dates.
7. Each jar should be plainly labeled with name of product. Date all canned goods by month and year. Older products will not be eligible.
8. **All canning guidelines and rules for judging will be based off the Ball Blue Book. Please visit https://lib.msu.edu/sliker/load_object/333/pdf/ for canning guidelines.**
9. **No changing of entries last minute.**
10. All mixes in a jar must be layered by ingredients in a quart sized canning jar. Jar must include lid and ring. Decorated lid is optional. Must include the recipe.
11. Note the following entry-specific rules:
 - Clover Leaf – 3 pieces
 - Parker House – 3 pieces
 - Raised Doughnuts – 3 pieces
 - Cookies – 3 pieces on a plate
 - Cinnamon Rolls – 3 pieces
 - Candy – 4 pieces on a plate

Division I: Honey & Maple Syrup:

1. Put maple syrup and honey in a clear labeled pint/quart jar

Division J: Decorated Cakes:

Decorated Cakes/Cupcake Cakes/Sugar Cookies

Decorated Cakes: Is one of the sugar arts that must use icing or frosting & other decorated elements to make plain cakes more visually interesting.

Decorated Cupcake Cakes: Is the art of arranging cupcakes into a pattern, which must use icing or frosting & other decorated elements to make the arranged cupcakes more visually interesting.

Decorated Sugar Cookies: Cut out sugar cookies should be decorated with Royal Frosting.

1. See General Rules- Open Class
2. All decorated cakes can use a cake form, but not mandatory.
3. Cakes will **NOT** be tasted and will be judged on the cake decorating abilities.
4. **Decorated Cakes will have two subdivisions:**
Professional and Amateur. A Best of show
will be awarded for each subdivision.

Professional: An individual that has taken formal training in the cake decorating profession and benefits from his or her training.

Amateur: An individual that has not taken formal training in cake decorating and does not benefit from his or her talents

Division K: Applied Arts & Crafts & Hobbies

1. See General Rules- Open Class
2. All work must be entirely the work of the exhibitor. Kits will be accepted.
3. All work must be completed and ready for its intended use.
4. No knitted, crocheted, needlepoint, latch hook, etc. items allowed. Enter those in Division C.
5. No poisonous or hazardous materials may be used or displayed.
6. Projects will be judged on originality, innovation, workmanship, creativity, and ingenuity.

Division L: STEM

Subdivisions:

A) Ag/Natural Resources

An exhibit demonstrating learning about agriculture or natural resources. A farm display would fit into this category.

B) Woodworking

Any exhibit demonstrating learning about wood, woodworking techniques, and safe uses of woodworking tools and machines. Exhibits may include newly constructed or refinished, reclaimed, or restored wood items.

C) Welding

Constructed item or educational display that shows skills or learning about welding.

D) Mechanics

Any exhibit that shows skills or learning about general mechanics or engineering solutions or that involve a combination of skills. Educational display showing learning about an automotive idea including automotive maintenance, auto operations, auto safety, or automotive systems.

E) Robotics

Educational display or other exhibit (including working robots) that shows learning about robotics and robotic systems.

A Best of Show will be awarded in each of these Subcategories!

Entries MUST be submitted after 2024 fair.

DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR CREATIVE ARTS ENTRY FORM

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO: _____ OR

ENTER ONLINE AT WWW.DBQFAIR.COM

DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR ATIN: CREATIVE
ARTS DIVISION 14569 OLD HIGHWAY ROAD

DUBUQUE, IOWA 52002

PLEASE PRINT BELOW

ADULT COMPETITION STARTS AT THE AGE OF 15 TO ?

KIDS KORNER COMPETITION INCLUDES AND ENDS AT AGE 14

Please indicate Adult or Kids Korner entry :

FIRST AND LAST NAME:

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

DAY TIME PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

IF YOU WISH TO OPT OUT OF FUTURE EMAILS "X" THE LINE

	DIVISION	CLASS	SUB CLASS	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU ARE ENTERING
EXAMPLE	C	1	2F	My First quilt in colors or black and gold and white
1				
2				
3				
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Note: PLEASE FILL ALL INFORMATION OUT COMPLETELY! USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS WHEN NECESSARY!

DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR

artABILITY ENTRY FORM

Mail entries to:

Or Enter

Online at www.dbqfair.com

Dubuque County Fair

14569 Old Highway Road

Dubuque IA 52002

Print Please:

Name
Address
City, State, Zip Code
Daytime Phone
Email Address

Use additional sheets if necessary

Item Description:

1._

2._

**The DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR Presents:
The King Arthur Flour Baking Contest!
This year we will be featuring MUFFINS!
These muffins must use King Arthur Flour.
Let's not forget to have FUN!**

*Saturday, July 19th, 2025, 8am-
11:00am* Creative Arts Building

Open to:
Juniors- Ages (7 - 17)
Adults- Ages 18 and up

County Fair Prizes –

❑ **Adult:**

First = Gift certificate to the Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurfLOUR.com
Second = Gift certificate to the Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurfLOUR.com
Third = TBD

❑ **Junior:**

First = Gift certificate to the Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurfLOUR.com
Second = Gift certificate to the Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurfLOUR.com
Third = TBD

All winners will also receive a ribbon

❑ **Rules:**

1. Early registration is required (see below) and is due as follows: **Postmarked by July 14th, 2025, or received by July 17th, 2025. Register online at dbqfair.com/2025flour.**
2. Exhibitor must bring the opened bag of King Arthur Flour or submit a UPC label from the flour bag when he/she submits the entry.
3. All entries must be muffins. For recipe ideas visit www.kingarthurfLOUR.com. Served with 3 on a plate for the judges.
4. The recipe used must accompany the entry. Entries should consist of (3) Baked Good Items from the same recipe.
5. All entries must be submitted on a disposable plate/container for judging.
*** Drop off entries between 8am – 11am on Saturday, July 19th, 2025. Judging to follow. ***
6. **1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries will be displayed during the 2025 Fair. All remaining entries will be released immediately after judging. Pickup all non-placing items right after judging on Saturday, July 19th, 2025.**

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

a. Flavor	50 points
b. Overall Appearance	25 points
c. Texture	25 points
TOTAL	100 points

7. Failure to follow the rules may result in disqualification.

8. One entry per person

Save Paper! Please fill out this form online at dbqfair.com/2025flour.

_____Cut here and return the form below_____

ENTRY FORM DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR & KING ARTHUR
FLOUR BAKING CONTEST

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Check the one that applies: ☐ Adult or ☐ Junior

Email address: _____

☐ If you would prefer not to receive further email messages, please check this box.

This entry form must be received by mail or submitted online, no later than July 17th, 2025.

Send to: Dubuque County Fair – 14569 Old Highway Road – Dubuque IA - 52002



14569 Old Highway Road, Dubuque IA 52002-9602 Phone (563) 588-1406 Fax
(563)588-1162 E-mail: dbqfair@dbqfair.com website www.dbqfair.com