



*Dubuque County
Fair*



J U L Y 2 8 - A U G U S T 2 , 2 0 2 6

14569 Old Highway Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52002
Phone 563.588.1406 Fax 563.588.1162
Email: dbqfair@dbqfair.com website: www.dbqfair.com

2026 Dubuque County Fair Creative Arts Rules & Regulations

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

2026 Registration Information:

Save Paper! Please fill out the online forms by 12:01 AM July 17, 2026. (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
artAbility Registrations Form:	dbqfair.com/competitions

Paper entry forms will be available at the fairgrounds office and must be postmarked by July 17, 2026. **(NO PAST POST MARKED WILL BE ACCEPTED). ALL REGISTRATIONS NEED TO BE TURNED IN BY JULY 17, 2026.** 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 52001

2026 Check-in Information:

Saturday July 25, 2026: 8:00am-11:00am, Creative Arts Building

******Gardening will be brought in on Monday, July 27, 2026: 8:00am-11:00am, Creative Arts Building.**

THERE WILL BE NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED!!!

2026 Release Information:

Release of Creative Arts entries is scheduled for:

Monday, August 3, 2026 8:00am – 11:00 am and 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

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

****Projects can be picked up in the Grand Ballroom after August 3, 2026****

2026 Creative Activities Division is open to everyone!

Kid's Korner Dubuque County Fair

Kids Korner Registration Form: dbqfair.com/2026kids

Rules, Regulation & Division

Mission Statement

The mission of Kids Korner is to encourage and support the creative and artistic abilities of children in any medium they choose, Kids Korner provides children with an opportunity to display their work and that of their peers, while fostering a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of art and the many opportunities it offers.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Open to all children **up to and including age 14**
- **All exhibitors ages must be listed on the entry form**
- **Maximum of six (6) entries per child**
- **Nine Best of Show ribbons will be awarded**

Judging Criteria

Exhibits will be evaluated based on:

- Originality
- Expression
- Design
- Neatness and display condition
- Quality of work
- Innovation
- Workmanship
- Creativity
- Ingenuity

General Exhibit Requirements

- All exhibits must be the **original work of the exhibitor** completed within the past **12 months**.
- No portion of a previous year's entry may be entered.
- Entries maybe classroom projects or work completed at home.
- **Coloring book pages will not be accepted**
- Each exhibit must be clearly **labeled on the back or underneath** with the exhibitor's name
- The Fair and Fair workers are **not responsible for loss or damage to exhibits**

Kids Korner Divisions

Division A: Photography

- Maximum allowable entries per individual: 5
- The exhibitor must have taken photographs
- Photographs must be mounted on foam or matte board. No framed pictures will be allowed.

Division B: Sewing

Subdivisions:

1. Clothing
2. Pillowcases
3. Quilts/Blankets
4. Embroidery
5. Aprons
6. Other

Division C: Needlecraft

Subdivision:

1. Knitted Items
2. Cross Stitch
3. Crochet
4. Other

Division D: Fine Arts

Subdivision

1. Drawing & Painting (pencil, colored pencil, ink, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, other)
2. Sculpture (clay, ceramic, plaster).
3. Kits
4. Crafts
5. Jewelry

Division E: Garden and Flowers

These entries will follow the regular Creative Art Rules

Division F: Antiques & Collectibles

- Must include a **written history of the item**

Division G: Baking and Canning:

- All items must be displayed on a small paper plate in a clear plastic bag if exhibiting baked goods or candy.
- Each entry (except Can Goods) must be accompanied by the recipe with ingredient list and method.
- Pies must be made in disposable aluminum pie plate.
- Decorated Cakes will not be tasted and will be judged on the cake decorating abilities

Subdivision

1. Canning
2. Baking
3. Honey
4. Decorated Cakes
5. Candy

Division H: STEM

Subdivision:

1. Agriculture/Natural Resources
2. Woodworking
3. Welding
4. Mechanics
5. Robotics
6. Legos & K'NEX
7. Other

artAbility

artAbility Registration Form: dbqfair.com/2026art

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.
 - A. Photography
 - B. Sewing
 - C. Needlecraft
 - D. Fine Arts
 - E. Garden & Flower
 - F. Quilts
 - G. Antiques and Collectibles
 - H. Baking and Canning
 - I. Honey
 - J. Decorating Cakes
 - K. Applied Arts & Crafts & Hobbies
 - L. Stem

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 Friday, July 17, 2026, so we can plan for exhibits space. NO EXHIBITS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS AN ENTRY FORM HAS BEEN SUMITTED 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 28 – August 3, 2026 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 #5. 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, August 3, 2026 release time will be from 8:00am-11:00am and 4:00-6:00pm. 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 August 3, 2026.
9. Awards for “Best of Show” will be awarded in each division.
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 \$25.00; Blue \$3.00, Red \$2.00, 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, names of guild, scout troop, etc..... on entry blank.
13. Previously entered articles MAY NOT be entered again by ANY exhibitor.

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 photos 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 a foam board or matte board appropriate for the picture(s). Minimum size for the foam 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 within 1 calendar year of the pervious fair.**
9. One "Best of Show" award will be given in the Beginner, Advanced and Kid's Korner

This division has 2 sub-division

- 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 earn or receives financial gain from his or her photography**).

Division B: Sewing:

1. See General Rule – 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 projects.

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 Rule – 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.

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

- Beginner: Any person who draws/sculpts/paints/etc. as a hobby and has no financial gain.
- Advanced: Any person who 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 Monday July 27, 2026, See Rule #4 Open Class Exhibits.

Division E: Garden and Flowers

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 for two months.
3. **All exhibits must be entered at the Creative Arts Building on Monday, July 27, 2026, from 8:00am-11:00am.**
4. Exhibitors for Division E, there is **NO admission fee** for the day with your garden entry.
5. Release time on exhibits will be on Monday, August 3, 2026 from 8:00am-11:00am and 4:00-6:00pm. 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 ½ ". 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 vegetables you have, because unusual size frequently indicates poor quality due to over maturity. This includes over ripe 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 vase)
 - Kohlrabi – 3 specimens
 - Muskmelon – 1 specimen
 - Onions – 3 specimens

- Ornamental Gourds – 3 specimens
- Peppers – 3 specimens
- 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)
- Watermelon – 1 specimen
- Zucchini – 1 specimen

Fruits

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
 - Berries – 1 full cup
 - Grapes – 1 bunch
 - 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 Arrangements

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., Limited to 5 quilts.

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

1. See General Rules – open class.
2. No entries accepted from dealers or professionals.
3. 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.
4. Previously entered articles MAY NOT be entered again.
5. Articles to be judged on Condition, Suitability of Entry, Uniqueness and Worthiness of Preservation.
6. Items should not be cracked, broken or have tape on them.
7. Acceptable entries can include 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. Dates 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 size canning jar. Jar must include lid and ring. Decorated lid is optional. Must include the recipe
11. Note the following entry – specific rules:
 - Raised Doughnuts – 3 doughnuts
 - Cookies – 3 cookies on a plate
 - Cinnamon Rolls – 3 rolls
 - Candy – 4 pieces on a plate

Division I: Honey

1. Enter your honey products, Including jars/bears of honey, honey comb, beeswax, candles and spun honey.

Note: See Open Class Exhibits General Rules.

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 Cupcakes 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 Cookie: 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.

Decorated cakes will have Two Sub-Divisions: Professional and Amateur. 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 leaning 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

DUBUQUE COUTY FAIR CRATIVE ARTS ENTRY FORM

Mail Entry Form to:
 Dubuque County Fair
 Attn: Creative Arts Division
 14569 Old Highway Road
 Dubuque IA 52002

or online at:

WWW.DBQFAIR.COM

Adult Competitions starts at the age of 15
 Kids Korner Competition includes and ends at age 14
 Please indicate Adult or Kids Korner entry:

Please Print Below:

First and Last name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Day Time phone#:
Email Address:
If you wish to opt out of future emails, put "X" though this line

	Division	Class	Sub Class	Brief description of what you are entering.
Example	C	1	2F	My first quilt in colors or black, gold & white
1				
2				
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15				
17				
18				
19				
20				

DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR
artABILITY ENTRY FORM

Mail Entry Form to: or online at: WWW.dbqfAIR.Com
Dubuque County Fair
Attn: Creative Arts Division
14569 Old Highway Road
Dubuque Ia 52002

Please Print Below:

First and Last name:
Address:
City, State, Zip Code:
Day Time phone#:
Email Address:

Use additional sheets if necessary

Item Description:

1.
2.
3.
4.



The DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIR Presents:
The King Arthur Flour Baking Contest!
This year we will be featuring: Cherry Pie
The pie must use King Arthur Flour
Let's not forget to have FUN!

Saturday July 25, 2026 8am-11am
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 14, 2026 or received by July 17, 2026. Register online at dbqfair.com/2026flour.**
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 a Cherry Pie. For recipe ideas visit www.kingarthurfLOUR.com.
4. The recipe used must accompany the entry.
5. All entries must be submitted in a disposable pie tin. *Drop off entries between 8am – 11am on Saturday, July 25, 2026. Judging to follow.
6. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries will be displayed during the 2026 Fair. All remaining entries will be released immediately after judging. Pickup all non-placing items right after judging on Saturday July 25, 2026. 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/2026flour

_____ 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 __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 17, 2026

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