

2026

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exhibitor Handbook



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www.sdstatefair.com/participate

Table of Contents:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction..... | 3-4 |
| Static Exhibit General Rules..... | 5 |
| Dept 371 Photography General Rules..... | 6 |
| Professional Division 34, Photography..... | 7 |
| Amateur Division 35, Photography..... | 8 |
| Youth Division 36, Photography..... | 9 |
| Jr Youth Division 37, Photography..... | 10 |



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE FAIR PARK DIVISION
1060 3RD St. SW
Huron, SD 57350
Phone: 605.353.7340 Fax: 605.353.7348
www.sdstatefair.com



Dear Exhibitors,

Thank you for being a part of the 2026 South Dakota State Fair! We are thrilled to invite you back to Huron for the 2026 South Dakota State Fair on September 2-7! You are important to our fair, whether you are a long-time exhibitor or a first-year competitor. We love to see the Arts & Education Building brimming with your accomplishments and talents for fairgoers of all ages to enjoy.

In this book you will find familiar and new avenues of showmanship. Review the guidelines to entering your exhibits for display, judging and exciting prize winning opportunities.

The South Dakota State Fair exists to showcase the best of the great state of South Dakota and bring people together. We thank you in advance for sharing your ideas and talents with us. It is amazing every year to see how much creativity there is in our great state! We will be looking for you at the 2026 South Dakota State Fair.

The South Dakota State Fair will accept Static Exhibits entries between April 1- July 31. Literature entries will only be accepted through July 10.

Sincerely,
The South Dakota State Fair Staff and Commission



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SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR EXHIBITORS

ARTS & EDUCATION BUILDING

DEPARTMENT 370: LITERATURE

- Friends of the Huron Public Library \$25 Premium
- Literature Sweepstakes Award Plaque
- Best of Show \$15 Premium sponsored by the South Dakota State Fair

DEPARTMENT 371: ART/ PHOTOGRAPHY

- Lewis Southgate (Huron, South Dakota) \$10 Gift Certificate
- Lewis Southgate (Huron, South Dakota) \$10 Gift Certificate
- Best of Show \$15 Premium sponsored by the South Dakota State Fair

HIGHLIGHTS

- Featured Artists and Authors
- Jr Achievement Award sponsored by the South Dakota State Fair
- Sweepstakes Literature Contest
- Coloring Contests
- Lego Building Contest sponsored by the South Dakota State Fair

EXHIBIT CHECK-IN

- **Department 370 Literature:** Exhibits must be submitted by July 31 to the South Dakota State Fair office or postmarked by July 31 to be eligible for judging.
- **Department 371 Art/ Photography:** Exhibits may be checked in:
 - Friday, August 21– 10 AM to 6 PM
 - Saturday, August 22– 9 AM to 4 PM

EXHIBIT RELEASE/PICK-UP

- **Department 370 Literature & Department 371 Art/ Photography:** Exhibits will be ready for release:
 - Tuesday, September 8 from 9 AM to 5 PM

Mary Helen Wipf, Art & Education Building Superintendent,
rmhwipf@gmail.com

STATIC EXHIBIT GENERAL RULES

1. Starting in 2024, entries must be completed online at <https://sdsf.fairwire.com> . A step-by-step video with instructions on how to navigate the online entry platform, ShoWorks can be found here (<https://vimeo.com/922566991/66f0110c64?share=copy>). If you require further assistance after watching the instructional video, please contact the SD State Fair Office. For those with no access to a computer to make entries, please contact the State Fair office for a paper entry form. If using a paper entry form, please keep to 25 entries or less.
2. The South Dakota State Fair office will accept Static entries between April 1-July 31 in all departments except Literature which closes July 10.
3. REFUND POLICY: The fair may refund entry fees paid by an exhibitor if the exhibitor requests the refund in writing two weeks prior to the opening day of the fair and states the reason for requesting the refund. Following that timeframe, NO refunds will be issued.
4. Only one entry may be made in each class unless stated otherwise in rules for that division/class.
5. The entry must be exhibited in the name of the person doing the work and completed since the last South Dakota State Fair entry period between August 17, 2025, and August 22, 2026.
6. Junior is defined as 11-18 years of age prior to the 2026 State Fair. Youth is defined as 10 years of age and under prior to the 2026 State Fair. Junior and Youth may also enter in adult categories. Exhibits will be judged according to rules of the division.
7. Computerized entry tags will be mailed to exhibitors **immediately after the entry deadline**. Tags should not be altered. Exhibits having altered tags will not be accepted and will be disqualified.
8. For exhibit check-in and release information, refer to Horizon's Hall, Horticulture, and Arts/Education Building Static Exhibit Premium Books. There will be no early releases. No exhibits will be released without claim tag.
9. Entries may be mailed to the South Dakota State Fair. Entries must be securely wrapped and boxed to prevent damage. Exhibitor is responsible for insurance and shipping costs. Entry tag must be attached to exhibit with a copy of Static Exhibit Entry Form to serve as packing slip and for check-in purposes. Draw a line through any item on the entry form not included with mailed exhibits. Entries must be received by the South Dakota State Fair office by August 22, 2026 to qualify for judging, except literature which must be received by July 31, 2026.
10. The South Dakota State Fair is not responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
11. Exhibits may not be sold. Sales tags or advertising logos on exhibits will not be allowed.
12. Superintendents of the Horizons Hall, Horticulture, and Arts/Education Buildings may determine the eligibility of exhibits and may disqualify exhibits.
13. A division or class may be deleted if no entries are made for three years.
14. Items not claimed by December 31 will become property of the South Dakota State Fair.
15. Premium checks will be mailed to exhibitors within 60 days of the State Fair. If an exhibitor's earnings total \$600 or over, a W-9 must be completed by the exhibitor before their check will be issued. Premium checks for the amount of \$5 and under will not be mailed out (some exceptions apply). Affected exhibitors will receive instructions on how to collect premium winnings.

PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Entries are qualified for competition in Photography when the following rules are met in addition to the South Dakota State Fair General Static Exhibit Rules.

1. Photographs must be taken by the exhibitor. Photographs must have been taken after Aug. 17, 2025.
2. Exhibitor need not to be a resident of South Dakota.
3. Photography entries must be submitted online by July 31. Exhibitors may submit two entries per class. Entry fees for photography exhibits are as follows:
 - **Junior & Youth entry fee - \$2.00 per item**
 - **Amateur entry fee - \$4.00 per item or 3 for \$10.00**
 - **Professional entry fee - \$8.00 per item or 3 for \$20.00***Required 5% processing fee to be added to total amount due for each exhibitor.*
4. Exhibitors may only enter in one division. Cannot enter both Amateur and Professional division simultaneously. Once an exhibitor has entered into the Professional division, they cannot move back to the Amateur division.
5. Photography exhibits will be received:
Friday, August 15, 10 AM to 6 PM or Saturday, August 16, 9 AM to 4 PM.
6. Check-in area is marked off. Only commercial vendors and authorized workers are allowed in the check-in area prior to judging. Please allow sufficient time for checking in exhibits.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

1. Photograph finish is the choice of the exhibitor. Either matte or glossy finish will be accepted. There is no distinction between digital and film photos.
2. Remove or cover white borders on photographs. All edges should be cut straight.
3. Photographs must be at least 8"x10" with maximum size allowable to be 11"x17". All photographs must be mounted, not matted, on a 16"x20" WHITE mat board or poster board. Mat boards are available at office supply stores, arts/crafts supply stores etc. Framed or matted photographs will be not be accepted.
4. Attach entry tag with string to the back of the entry so the tag will hang over the upper left-hand corner of the mat. Do not staple or alter tags.
5. Preparation for hanging is not necessary. Staff will place uniform hanging materials on exhibits when they are received.
6. Photographs should be suitable for family viewing. The building superintendent reserves the right not to display or judge any photographs which are deemed not to be appropriate.
7. Photographs with business logos or signatures will be disqualified.
8. Photography exhibits may be picked up on Tuesday, September 8, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Exhibitor must have claim check to remove exhibit from the Art/Education Building. If personally unable to pick-up exhibit, exhibitor must sign a release authorizing an individual to pick-up exhibit. Exhibitors who cannot pickup their exhibit should make arrangements with superintendent if exhibit is to be returned COD.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Technique:** Focus, lighting, color rendition, exposure, print quality and mounting
- **Composition:** Arrangement of all elements within the picture area so the subject matter is presented as a harmonious, well balanced photograph.
- **Interest:** Originality, imagination, interpretation, subject, impact, mood, humor, etc.

Professional: Exhibitor takes photographs for the purpose of selling; or who has had three or more years of photography training or teaches in the photography media. Derives majority of income from being a photographer.

Amateur: Exhibitor takes photographs for pleasure and does not derive the majority of income from photography. Has had little to no training in photography.

Junior: Exhibitor is 11-18 years of age prior to the start of the Fair.

Youth: Exhibitor is 10 years of age or younger prior to the start of the Fair.

PROFESSIONAL – DIVISION 34 – PHOTOGRAPHY

Premiums: 1st - \$25 2nd - \$15 3rd - \$10

BLACK & WHITE

1. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
2. ***People**: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
3. People: *sports, action*
4. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
5. Birds, insects, fish, or marine animals
6. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi, or farm crops*
7. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
8. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
9. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
10. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*

Best of Show:

A \$15 premium will be awarded to the black & white photograph selected from PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY Division 34, Classes 1-10

***Lewis Drug of Huron, SD is awarding a \$10 gift card to the 1st place winner in Division 34, Class 2**

COLOR

11. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
12. People: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
13. People: *sports, action*
14. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
15. Birds, insects, fish, or marine animals
16. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi, or farm crops*
17. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
18. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
19. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
20. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*
21. Black & White or color: South Dakota State Fair sights
22. Black & white or color: photojournalism
23. Black & White or color: Digitally edited: *photos obviously edited for content or altered beyond normal straight out of camera photographs.*
24. Black & white or color: military/patriotic theme
25. Black & White or color: Aerial/Drone Photo
26. Black & White or color: Underwater Photo

Best of Show:

A \$15 premium will be awarded to the color photograph selected from PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY Division 34, Classes 11-26

AMATEUR – DIVISION 35 – PHOTOGRAPHY

Premiums: 1st - \$8 2nd - \$5 3rd - \$3

BLACK & WHITE

1. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
2. ***People**: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
3. People: *sports, action*
4. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
5. Birds, insects, fish or marine animals
6. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi or farm crops*
7. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
8. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
9. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
10. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*

Best of Show:

A \$10 premium will be awarded to the black & white photograph selected from AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY Division 35, Classes 1-10

***Lewis Drug of Huron, SD is awarding a \$10 gift card to the 1st place winner in Division 35, Class 2**

COLOR

11. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
12. People: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
13. People: *sports, action*
14. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
15. Birds, insects, fish, or marine animals
16. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi, or farm crops*
17. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
18. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
19. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
20. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*
21. Black & White or color: South Dakota State Fair sights
22. Black & White or color: Digitally edited: *photos obviously edited for content or altered beyond normal straight out of camera photographs.*
23. Black & white or color: military/patriotic theme
24. Black & White or color: Aerial/Drone Photo
25. Black & White or color: Underwater Photo

Best of Show:

A \$10 premium will be awarded to the color photograph selected from AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY Division 35, Classes 11-25

JUNIOR – DIVISION 36 – PHOTOGRAPHY

Premiums: 1st - \$6 2nd - \$4 3rd - \$2

BLACK & WHITE

1. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
2. People: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
3. People: *sports, action*
4. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
5. Birds, insects, fish or marine animals
6. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi, or farm crops*
7. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
8. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
9. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
10. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*

Best of Show:

A \$5 premium will be awarded to the black & white photograph selected from JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY Division 36, Classes 1-10

COLOR

11. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
12. People: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
13. People: *sports, action*
14. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
15. Birds, insects, fish or marine animals
16. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi, or farm crops*
17. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
18. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
19. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
20. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*
21. Black & White or color: South Dakota State Fair sights
22. Black & White or color: Digitally edited: *photos obviously edited for content or altered beyond normal straight out of camera photographs.*
23. Black & white or color: military/patriotic theme
24. Black & White or color: Aerial/Drone Photo
25. Black & White or color: Underwater Photo

Best of Show:

A \$5 premium will be awarded to the color photograph selected from YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY Division 36, Classes 11-25

YOUTH – DIVISION 37 – PHOTOGRAPHY

Premiums: 1st - \$3 2nd - \$2 3rd - \$1

COLOR

1. Scenic/Natural Scenes: *city/townscapes, nightscapes, skyscapes, sunrises, sunsets, waterscapes (rivers, lakes, oceans etc.), landscapes (mountains, prairie, etc.)*
2. People: *posed portraits, candid adult or children photographs*
3. People: *sports, action*
4. Animals: *pets, farm animals, zoo animals, wild animals*
5. Birds, insects, fish or marine animals
6. Plants: *growing plants, trees, fungi, or farm crops*
7. Flowers: *wild or domestic*
8. Architectural: *buildings, bridges, man-made structures, dams, towers etc.*
9. Vehicles: *cars, trucks, trains, tractors, motorcycles, or other motorized or non-motorized vehicles*
10. South Dakota State Fair sights
11. Other: photographs that do not fit in any other category. *Any photographs that qualify for another class will be disqualified.*

Best of Show:

A \$5 premium will be awarded to the color photograph selected from YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY Division 37, Classes 1-11