

Erath County 4-H Youth Fair

2024 Rules & Guidelines

Red Text = New or Changed Rules

SCHEDULE

Friday, December 1, 2023 – ENTRIES and FEES DUE by 5:00 p.m.

Friday, December 1, 2023 – DEADLINE to submit digital photos (for all Photography entries-NO LATE PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED)

Friday, December 7, 2023 – LATE ENTRIES DUE (except photography)

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Check-in for Arts & Crafts and Shop Art Categories
- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Judging
- 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Showmanship Contest (Tentative Schedule)
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – All items must be picked up. *Qualifying items (1st – 6th place) must be returned to the Fair on Thursday, January 4th.*

Thursday, January 4, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Check-in for Foods Category prior to judging and qualifying items of Arts & Crafts and Shop Art (1st – 6th place items)
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Judging of Foods Category with Top 6 advancing to Silent Auction
- Conclusion of Foods Judging – 4:30 p.m. – Silent Auction Open
- 4:30 p.m. – Silent Auction Closed
- 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. – Buyers must pay for and pick up items won in auction
- 5:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. – Calls made to 2nd name on bid sheets for pick up and payment
- 6:30 p.m. – Remaining Silent Auction items must be picked up by exhibitor

AGE GROUPS

Clover Kids: K – 2nd (Non-competitive basis – participation ribbon only. Not eligible for Showmanship competition)

Junior: 3rd – 5th grade

Intermediate: 6th – 8th grade

Senior: 9th – 12th grade

GENERAL RULES

- Entry fees are **\$6.00** per item
- Entry forms and fees are due in the Extension Office on Friday, December 1st by 5:00 p.m.
 - All photography entries must be submitted **digitally** by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1st.
 - Late entries (except photography) will be accepted until Friday, December 8th with a late fee of \$30.00 per entry.
- Entry fees must be paid at the County Extension Office via cash or check (payable to Erath 4-H).
- Only one entry per class per exhibitor allowed
- All entries must be the original work of the exhibitor
- All entries must have been made within the past year by the 4-H member
- Entries cannot have been entered in a previous Erath 4-H Youth Fair, regardless of placing. Entries not adhering to this rule WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
- Entries must adhere to size requirements and additional requirements specified in each category; entries not adhering to this rule WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
- During judging, names will not be displayed
 - Each entry will be given a number
 - Names will be displayed after judging
- ITEM INFO CARD must accompany ALL items at check-in
 - Cards must be completed PRIOR to check-in. **No on-site cards will be provided during check-in!**
 - Cards may be typed or hand-written
 - Item Info cards may be picked up at the extension office anytime from **November 1-December 30th** and will also be available at <https://erath.agrilife.org>.
- This is a 4-H Youth Fair, open to currently enrolled Erath County 4-H members only
 - There will be a standard academic eligibility check as in any 4-H competitive event. Students who are ineligible per school guidelines will not be eligible to show.
- All Youth Fair exhibitors are encouraged to do at least one of the following:
 - Sell raffle tickets during the Youth Fair/Show (proceeds go to the Erath County United Way)
 - Help before, during, and after Silent Auction on Thursday, January 4th
- It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to read the 2024 Rules & Guidelines
- It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure entry is properly checked-in
 - Exhibitor DOES NOT have to be present to check-in item, but parents must ensure the entry is checked-in properly and accounted for.

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded to 1st – 3rd place in each category
- Ribbons will be awarded to the top 6 places
- Best of Show will be awarded in each Division (Arts & Crafts, Foods, Shop Art, and Photography). Best of Show winners will receive an additional award based on overall best appearance and most unique presentation. Best of Show winners will also be recognized before the JLSEC Sale on Saturday evening (exhibitor may bring item to the sale but is not required).
- Monetary prize amounts will be dependent on number of entries and sponsors
- Youth prize money will NOT be available the day of the event. Money will be available for pick-up at the Extension Office once sponsorship and silent auction funds have been processed. Exhibitors will be notified via email when funds are ready for disbursement.

SILENT AUCTION

- ONLY 1st – 6th place items qualify to participate in the Silent Auction
- Silent Auction will be held on Thursday, January 4th from the conclusion of Foods Judging (around noon) – 4:30 p.m.
- Buyers must pay for and pick up items between 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. on Thursday
 - At 5:45 p.m., second bid names will be called to pay and pick up item by 6:15 p.m.
- All proceeds from Silent Auction will go to the youth who entered the item
- Youth **must** write a thank you note to their buyer and bring it, a copy, or email a picture to the Extension Office prior to receiving their proceeds from the auction
- Any silent auction money left at the office after the announced pick-up due date will revert back to the 4-H Youth Fair account
- Clovers may participate in Silent Auction
- Online Silent Auction will be held on Facebook. Beginning bids may be made on the Facebook page if they meet the participant's minimum bid. Online bids will close by 2pm on Thursday, January 4th; all bids made from 2pm-4:30pm (Auction Close) will need to be made in person, along with arrangements for payment and pickup.

SUPERINTENDENTS

The following volunteered to serve as Youth Fair Superintendents:

- General Superintendent – DeAnna Powell
 - Responsible for overseeing placement of items, security, check-in, silent auction check-out, etc.

- Category Superintendents –
 - Arts & Crafts – Shannon Buchanan
 - Foods – Denae Dorris and Soncee Heard
 - Photography – Elizabeth Starnes
 - Shop Art - Amber Parks
 - Silent Auction – Katrina Brister
 - Category Superintendents are responsible for:
 - Overseeing check-in, placement and display of items in their category
 - Reviewing items at check-in to confirm proper category, age group, placement, adherence to rules & guidelines, size limitations, etc.
 - Overseeing placement of ribbons in their category
 - Coordinating silent auction pick-ups
 - Working with General Superintendent to secure judges for their category

ARTS & CRAFTS

- All Arts & Crafts will be judged on Tuesday, January 2nd
- Items must be checked-in between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd
- All items must be picked up between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday following judging; early pickup is permitted but please check the item out with a supervising attendant before taking it with you to ensure it's accounted for.
- ONLY 1st – 6th place items qualify to participate in the Silent Auction
- 1st – 6th place items must be checked in on Thursday between 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. for Public Viewing and (optional) Silent Auction
- All Silent Auction items that did not sell must be picked up on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- Items created from a “kit” are allowed, but HIGHLY DISCOURAGED and will be judged accordingly

CLASSES

- **Drawings** – all hand created with any drawing tool (pencil, charcoal, pastels, etc.). Work created with pencil, charcoal, or pastel should be sprayed with fixative to avoid smearing. NO BRUSHWORK allowed in this category (ex. watercolor pencils that have been wet and brushed to resemble painting). All artwork needs to be matted or on stretched canvas. Size limitations: no work larger than 18 inches x 24 inches including the mat.
- **Paintings** – all hand created with paint brush and medium (acrylic, watercolor, etc.). All artwork needs to be matte or on stretched canvas. Size limitations: no work larger than 18 inches x 24 inches including the mat.

- **Recycled Arts and Crafts** –includes any item made mostly or completely from a recycled or repurposed item and constructed into a new item. Please state on your entry card what the original item was and your process and inspiration for constructing this new item.
- **Textiles** – includes any item made from cloth, fiber, leather, etc. Please state on your entry card if you created your item from a pattern or if this was a freeform creation.
- **Open** – for any arts & crafts item that are created but do not fit in the above subcategories. This could include, but is not limited to, sculptures, floral arrangements, 3-D art, **digital art**, candles, paper crafts, or items made from household materials like Legos, popsicle sticks, straws, clay, mason jars, soap, etc. that would not otherwise qualify for the recycled arts and crafts category.
 - **Open Small** – items must fit into a 24 in x 24 in x 24 in cube.
 - **Open Large** – no size limit

FOODS

- All Foods will be judged on Thursday, January 4th, 2024.
- Items must be checked-in between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 4th.
- ONLY 1st – 6th place items qualify to participate in the Silent Auction
- Top 6 placings from each age group will be placed in the Silent Auction unless otherwise instructed
- All food items must be made from scratch
 - No mixes allowed!
- All food items must include the recipe used to make the item
- All food entries **must be submitted on a disposable plate (Youth Fair committee is not responsible for ensuring plates or carriers are returned, and items for sale will be sold with the plate they arrive on).**
- All food entries **must include a judge's sample on a separate plate and covered with plastic wrap**
 - Judge's sample may come from entry, but it is encouraged to keep entry whole if placing item in Silent Auction
- For food safety reasons, food items that require temperature control (including cream and custard pies) and do not comply with the Texas Department of State Health Services Cottage Food Production Operations law will NOT be allowed
 - For a list of allowed items and regulations to follow visit:
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/foodestablishments/cottagefood/faq.aspx>
 - **Recipes may be submitted to the office prior to December 15th for approval and to avoid disqualification**
- Items in this category will be judged based on both appearance and taste.

- All Silent Auction items that did not sell must be picked up on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Items remaining after this point will be discarded.

CLASSES

- **Desserts** – brownies, drop cookies, bar cookies, cakes, etc.
- **Candy** – brittle, praline, hard candy, fudge, sugar work, etc.
- **Decorated Desserts** – fondant cakes, gingerbread houses, royal icing, cupcakes, etc.
- **Breads** – quick or yeast, savory or sweet
- **Pies** – fruit, savory, etc.
- **Snacks** – crackers, trail mix, granola, flavored popcorn, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHY

- All photography entries must be submitted digitally by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1st. They will be judged prior to Youth Fair.
- **To submit photography entries, email them (one photo per email) to erath@ag.tamu.edu. Entries that are not received and labeled correctly will be disqualified.**
 - Be sure to include in the **email subject line:**
 - Name of Youth
 - Age Group
 - Photography Category
 - District 8 Contest Participation-**The 2024 Youth Fair will serve as the Erath County Photography Contest, and qualifying winning entries will automatically be submitted to the District 8 Contest. All categories have been updated to reflect current District 8 categories for Junior/Intermediate Entries. Senior participants will have additional opportunities to submit photos later in the Spring, and can contact Thomas Boyle, 4-H Agent, to make these arrangements prior to the District deadline.**
- Included in the entry fee is the matting fee
- 1st – 6th place winners will be notified via email
- 1st – 6th place winners' photos will be matted and on display for Public Viewing and Thursday, January 5th
- Photography entries will NOT be eligible for Silent Auction with the exception of the Best of Show winner. Best of Show entry will be sold at auction. Participants wishing to sell their photos may arrange to do so independently from the show. ****If you are unsure which category your entry best fits into PLEASE contact the office prior to the December 1 deadline and we will be happy to help you!**

Otherwise, entries will be entered at the discretion of the Erath County Extension office and judges/superintendents.**

CLASSES

- **Animals**– photos with animal emphasis
 - **Domestic:** Photos focusing on animals that have been tamed and made fit for a human environment (including pets, livestock, companion/service animals, etc.)
 - **Wildlife:** Category focuses on animals not tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wilderness or the bodies of water throughout the country and world. Photos can be of wildlife in nature, zoos, and/or petting ZOOS.
- **Details & Macro** – extremely close-up photos; small details that suggest a larger story
- **Plants:** Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors
 - **Nature**-close-ups of flowers, leaves, trees, etc. where the plant itself is the focus of the image
 - **Landscapes** – landscapes, outdoor scenic, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms.
- **People** – focus of photo is one or more persons
- **Catch-All** – photos that don't fit into any other category, such as night photography, marine, food, elements of design, dominant color, plant/flora, etc.
- **Elements of Design**-Photos that showcase line, form, shape, pattern, texture, perspective, tc.

SHOP ART

- All Arts & Crafts will be judged on Tuesday, January 2nd.
- Items must be checked-in between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd.
- All items must be picked up between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday following judging
- ONLY 1st – 6th place items qualify to participate in the Silent Auction
- 1st – 6th place items must be checked in on Thursday between 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. for Public Viewing and (optional) Silent Auction
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- Items created from a “kit” are allowed, but HIGHLY DISCOURAGED and will be judged accordingly

CLASSES

- **Woodworking** – items made from wood (bookends, shelves, birdhouses, wood carving, etc.)
 - **Small**- Item must fit in a 24x24x24 inch cube
 - **Large**- no size limit
- **Plasma Metal Art** – items made from metal using a plasma cutter/welder. Two types of Plasma Metal Art will be judged:
 - **Computer Cut**
 - **Hand Cut**
- **Traditional Metal Art** – items made from metal using a mig or stick/arc welder
- **Open** – items made using other materials (pvc pipe, wire, rubber, etc.) or a combination of materials
 - **Open Small** – items must fit into a 48 in x 48 in x 48 in cube
 - **Open Large** – no size limit

SHOWMANSHIP

- Showmanship will be judged on Tuesday, January 2nd
- Youth will be assigned a time slot between 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m (schedule tentative based on number of entries received)
- Youth may enter showmanship for their respective age division ONCE, regardless of how many total entries are submitted
- Youth may pick one item to submit in showmanship contest from any Youth Fair category
 - Item must be already entered in Youth Fair
 - For food items, a separate item must be made and presented for showmanship and the foods contest on Thursday
- Youth must provide a binder with details of their project, and steps they took to complete it. If they have questions on this, they may contact the County Extension Office for assistance.
 - This may include but is not limited to pictures, design plans, textile patterns, supply expenses, time spent, help received, etc.
 - Exhibitor must bring the binder with them for their judging interview, and take it with them when they complete the interview. **NO BINDERS WILL BE PERMITTED ON ITEM DISPLAY TABLES.**
- Exhibitor and Item will be judged for Showmanship by a separate group of judges from the category judging
 - Exhibitor – appearance, knowledge, presentation and self-demeanor
 - Item – finish and quality, degree of difficulty, documentation

- One winner from each age division (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) will be selected and presented with a showmanship belt buckle
- Announcement of winners will be given at the JLSEC sale on Saturday January 6th