

NEW for 2025! Entry limit increased to 40.
Plus an additional Fair-tastic day of culinary judging on August 7, 2025



Amateur Photography

Exhibitor Guide & Prize Listing

Judging Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Entries will open early April

Entry Questions: 414/266-7052

Entry Deadline: May 7, 2025

at 7 pm (central time)

Late Entry Deadline: May 14, 2025

at 7 pm (central time)



This year, we ask our exhibitors to dig deep into local crops, products, flavors and traditions. Construct your home-grown exhibits brick by brick, from the ground up and inspired by the great state of Wisconsin. As a proud exhibitor, bring the best of your talents to the Wisconsin State Fair and display your hard work for over a million happy Fairgoers to enjoy.

Visitors anticipate seeing your creativity through your entries. Join in the celebration of 174 years of Wisconsin State Fair happenings. We couldn't do it without your passion and contributions!

See you at the 2025 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular, July 31 – August 10.

Good luck,

Shari Black
Executive Director/CEO
Wisconsin State Fair

Table of Contents

Amateur Photography Schedule.....	4
Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct	5
Entry Information	6
Amateur Photography Special Rules	7
Amateur Photography Classes	9
New! Digging Local...Artwork Inspired	9
New! Digging Local...Landscapes	9
Digging Local...Color Wheel	9
Digging Local...Youth Classes, Color Photography	9
Digging Local...Color Photography	10
Digging Local...Back in Black & White	11
2025 General Rules and Regulations – Wisconsin State Fair.....	13

Amateur Photography Schedule

Open daily 10:00 am to 9:00 pm during the Fair.

Please review all delivery and judging dates carefully as they are subject to change annually.

All judging takes place in Grand Champion Hall unless otherwise noted.

 **Entry Deadline May 7, 2025 at 7 pm (central time)** 

Delivery and Judging Schedule			
Category	Location Drop-Off	Drop-Off Date & Time	Judging Date & Time
Barn Quilt Square Challenge – and Quilt-topia Theme Quilt Contest Digging Local... Class 001 & 002	Tommy G Thompson Youth Center Mail Square with Quilt Entry Form and W-9	Wednesday, February 26 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Thursday, March 20 Tommy G Thompson Youth Center (Closed to Public)
Amateur Photography Digging Local... Classes 1001 – 1204	Grand Champion Hall	Tuesday, June 17 9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Tuesday, June 24 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Quilting Digging Local... Classes 2001 – 2045	Grand Champion Hall	Tuesday, June 17 Noon – 6:00 pm	Tuesday, June 24 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Textile & Craft Digging Local... Classes 3001 – 3285	Grand Champion Hall	Thursday, June 19 Noon – 6:00 pm	Thursday, June 26 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Culinary Day 1 Digging Local... Classes 101 – 164	Grand Champion Hall	Wednesday, July 23 8:00 am – 10:30 am	Wednesday, July 23 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Culinary Day 2 Digging Local... Classes 201 – 288	Grand Champion Hall	Saturday, July 26 8:00 am – 10:30 am	Saturday, July 26 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Culinary Day 3 Digging Local... Lunch Box Bonanza Classes 301 – 310	Grand Champion Hall	Friday, August 1 7:30 am – 8:30 am	Friday, August 1 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Culinary Day 4 Digging Local... Fair Fun Family Reunion Classes 401 – 410	Grand Champion Hall	Sunday, August 3 7:30 am – 8:30 am	Sunday, August 3 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
All new culinary day! Culinary Day 5 Digging Local... Groundbreaking Grandeur Classes 501 – 505	Grand Champion Hall	Thursday, August 7 7:30 am – 8:30 am	Thursday, August 7 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct

Anyone attending Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits as an exhibitor, spectator, parent, superintendent, judge or Wisconsin State Fair official must always conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Conduct in a competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity.

Consequences of violating the Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct may include: removal from the Fairgrounds, suspension, reduction and/or loss of prize(s), loss of ribbon(s), loss of future exhibiting privileges, and/or permanent suspension from Wisconsin State Fair. If an exhibitor wishes to protest a decision, one must follow the protest procedures sequence as specified in the Wisconsin State Fair Park Competitive Exhibits Department Decision Review Procedures available online.

Goal

The goal of the Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits is to encourage creativity, showcase exhibitors' talents and celebrate the Wisconsin State Fair tradition. Good luck to all!

Ethics

1. Exhibitors agree to accept all systems/procedures selected by Wisconsin State Fair to verify rule compliance.
2. Exhibitors agree to accept all procedures used by Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits to select qualified judges for all competitions.
3. Tampering with the competition or judging process will be considered fraud and deception.
4. To maintain a high degree of confidence and integrity in the Competitive Exhibits, Wisconsin State Fair reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor for intentional tampering, deception or misinformation.
5. All exhibitors involved in breaking rules will be subject to award(s) and prize money forfeiture, which may include dismissal from the Fairgrounds and/or being barred from competition immediately and/or in future competitions at Wisconsin State Fair.
6. The act of entering an exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair gives verification that the exhibitor has read the Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct and understands the consequences and/or penalties for violating any rules. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state or provincial statutes, regulations or rules, may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

Entry Information

Entry form will be returned if not filled out completely.

1. **Entry form and fee** must be postmarked no later than **May 7, 2025** or entered online by **7 pm (central time)**.
2. **Fees:** A processing fee of \$20.00 will be charged to all exhibitors. An additional \$2.00 fee per item entered will be charged. All fees are non-refundable.
3. **Late fee:** May 7 after 7 pm (central time) – May 14, 2025 at 7 pm (central time); a \$40.00 late fee, plus the \$20.00 processing fee and the additional \$2.00 per item entered will cover up to a maximum of 5 items entered after the entry deadline of May 7, 2025 has passed.
See entry form.
4. **Delivery of Exhibits:** Deliver exhibits to Grand Champion Hall on the dates and times listed on the photography schedule. A detailed delivery map and information will be mailed to exhibitors in June.
5. Any exhibitor with more than five photos will receive their entry tags in the mail prior to exhibit drop-off day.

How to Claim Exhibits

1. **Prize Winners:** All winning exhibits **must be picked up between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025** at the Textile, Craft & Culinary (TCC) area in Grand Champion Hall. Prize winning exhibits cannot be picked up during the Fair.
No early pick-up of prize winners.
2. **Non-Winners:** Non-winning exhibits may be picked up **between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025** at the Textile, Craft & Culinary (TCC) area in Grand Champion Hall. During the Fair, non-winning exhibits may be claimed during building hours. Allow 30 minutes for pick-up. When claiming exhibits, present your claim checks to the office in the Textile, Craft & Culinary area in Grand Champion Hall.
3. Any exhibits or prizes not claimed **by 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025** will be disposed of and/or donated to charity.

No judging results will be given over phone, fax, or email. Please read all instructions carefully! Observe dates and times of entry and pick-up. Entries will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Be sure to allow enough time when bringing in or picking up your exhibit. Prize-winning exhibits will be exhibited throughout the entire eleven days of the Wisconsin State Fair.

Amateur Photography Special Rules

Read all rules and instructions carefully.

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 7 pm (central time)

Late Deadline: May 7 after 7 pm (central time) – May 14 at 7 pm (central time), 2025

Drop-off: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Judging: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 (10:00 am – 5:00 pm)

Exhibitor Information

1. **This is a competition for amateurs** (one who photographs for personal reasons, with no monetary compensation from any related source). Commercial enterprises or businesses are not eligible to enter.
2. Youth (ages 17 and under as of July 31, 2025) are encouraged to participate in all classes, especially the Youth Only classes.
3. Exhibitors are limited to 40 photos. Exhibitors will be permitted to submit **only one entry per class**. No additional items may be added. Entries can be switched to another class in the same division, but not added during check-in.
4. Any exhibitor with more than 15 exhibits for any one judging day must arrive at least two hours before closing time to allow for accurate registration.
5. Any exhibitor with more than five photos will receive their entry tags in the mail prior to exhibit drop-off day.

Entry Information

6. All photos must have been taken by the exhibitor within the past year.
7. Photos entered and judged in previous years are not eligible for competition.
8. Digital photos can be entered in any class, but they must be printed and mounted.
9. If any photo is entered in the wrong class and the mistake is discovered before judging, the superintendent may make the proper correction.
10. A photo can only be entered in one class. For example, the same photo cannot be entered in both color and black & white sections.
11. Entries will be disqualified if not entered under the name of the person who took the photo. All entries must be made by the exhibitor unless otherwise stated in the entry information.
12. All photos must be 8" x 10" mounted on 12" x 14" black Foamcore (spray mount recommended). Any photos not meeting the 8" x 10" size limit will be disqualified. Any Foamcore not meeting the 12" x 14" size limit will be disqualified.
13. The exhibitor may choose to display their photo in either the horizontal or vertical format, whichever suits the subject matter best.
14. **DO NOT submit photos with any hardware, eyehooks or string attached to the back of the entry.**
15. Do not submit photos with wet or sticky surfaces. No photo mount corners are allowed.
16. Photos entered in the Textile, Craft & Culinary photography section are not eligible for entry in another department (i.e. Young People's Art Exhibit, etc.).
17. Mailed entry forms and mailed exhibits must be postmarked no later than **May 7, 2025**.
18. Late fee applied May 7 after 7 pm (central time) – May 14, 2025 at 7 pm (central time) is \$40.00 up to a maximum of 5 items, plus the \$20.00 processing fee and the additional \$2.00 per item entered. See entry form.

19. Use the following address for mailing entries:

Wisconsin State Fair
Amateur Photography
640 S 84 St
West Allis WI 53214

Sender's name and address should be clearly written on the package and included on a card on the inside. Packages sent must have all the shipping charges prepaid to the Wisconsin State Fair, or they will not be accepted. Exhibitors wishing to have their exhibits returned to them via parcel post are to send a pre-paid postage label that must be included with their exhibits when they are mailed or delivered to the Wisconsin State Fair and placed in a sealed envelope with the exhibitor's name, address and with a note "Label for Return Postage."

Do not send cash, money orders or checks. Only a pre-paid postage label should be sent.

No refunds!

20. If an item is of great value, it is recommended that it be insured.

Judging & Awards

21. Only prize-winning entries will be exhibited.
22. Not all items will be behind glass or in a display case. All exhibits will receive the best care and protection in the surroundings. They are at all times subject to owners' risk and in no event will the department be responsible for damage or loss that may occur. All exhibits will be displayed at the discretion of the Textile, Craft & Culinary (TCC) Department.
23. Exhibitors are welcome to attend judging. A tentative judging schedule is listed in the front of each section. Space is limited. Only children with entries should attend judging.
24. Check with the Textile, Craft & Culinary (TCC) office about picking up special awards.

Pick-Up of Exhibits

25. All winning exhibits **must be picked up between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025** in the Textile, Craft & Culinary section of Grand Champion Hall. Prize winning exhibits cannot be picked up during the Fair. **No** early pick-up of prize winners.
26. **Non-Winners:** Non-winning exhibits may be picked up between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Textile, Craft & Culinary (TCC) area in Grand Champion Hall. During the Fair, non-winning exhibits may be claimed during building hours. Allow 30 minutes for pick-up. When claiming exhibits, present your claim checks to the office in the Textile, Craft & Culinary area in Grand Champion Hall.
27. Any exhibits or prizes not claimed by **6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025** will be disposed of and/or donated to charity.

Amateur Photography Classes – Division 120

2025 Theme: Digging Local

Exhibitors are limited to 40 photos.

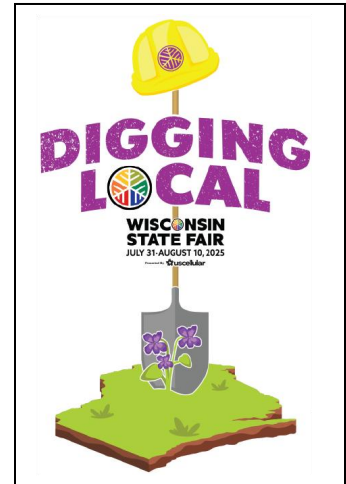
Prize Money 1st – \$25.00 2nd – \$24.00 3rd – \$23.00 4th – \$22.00

New! Digging Local...artwork inspired – Only color photos allowed in this section.

Inspired by the 2025 Digging Local artwork.

Class #

- 1001. **New!** Construction hard hat
- 1002. **New!** Shovel
- 1003. **New!** Violets
- 1004. **New!** Wisconsin



New! Digging Local...Landscapes – Only color photos allowed in this section.

The item (of described color or material) listed below should be the focal point.

Class #

- 1005. **New!** Farmland sunrise
- 1006. **New!** Gravel roads
- 1007. **New!** Lakeside
- 1008. **New!** Wisconsin city skylines

Digging Local...Color Wheel – Only color photos allowed in this section.

Photos that predominantly feature the color listed below (can include shades and tints of that color).

Class #

- 1010. **New!** Alluring amber ale
- 1011. **New!** Beautiful blue water
- 1012. **New!** Construction cone orange
- 1013. **New!** Cotton candy pink
- 1014. **New!** Cranberry red
- 1015. **New!** Gravel gray
- 1016. **New!** Lovely lavender
- 1017. **New!** Safety vest yellow

Digging Local...Youth Classes – Color Photography – Only color photos allowed in this section. (Youth 17 and under as of July 31, 2025.)

Class #

- 1020. **Youth Only New!** Construction
- 1021. **Youth Only New!** Construction truck
- 1022. **Youth Only New!** My favorite fun food
- 1023. **Youth Only New!** Pet photo

Color Photography – Only color photos allowed in this division. (No black and white photos accepted.)

Class #

1101. **First-time entry** (This class is for first-time entrants in this division)

1102. **New!** Aisles

1103. Animals, baby

1104. Animals, birds, game birds, waterfowl

1105. Animals, birds, raptors, hawks, eagles

1106. Animals, birds, songbirds, perching birds

1107. Animals, cats, domestic

1108. Animals, dogs

1109. Animals, farm

1110. Animals, mammals

1111. Animals, reptiles, amphibians

1112. Animals, zoo

1113. **New!** Antique

1114. Beach

1115. Beads

1116. Berries

1117. Botanical, flowers close up, garden flowers

1118. Botanical, flowers close up, wild flowers

1119. Botanical, fungi/mushrooms

1120. Botanical, trees, bark, shrubs

1121. Botanical, weeds

1122. **New!** Boulders

1123. Building/architectural – rural

1124. Building/architectural – urban

1125. Cacti and succulents

1126. Cameras, as still life or in use

1127. Chairs, benches

1128. Chandelier, lights

1129. Circles

1130. Clouds

1131. **New!** Construction cone

1132. Corners

1133. **New!** Denim

1134. Doors

1135. Eyes

1136. Garden art or garden sculpture

1137. **New!** Gates

1138. Geometric shapes

1139. Glass

1140. Glow

1141. **New!** Highway

1142. Icicles

1143. Ingredients

1144. Insects, butterflies or moths only

1145. Insects, not butterflies or moths

- 1146. **New!** Jam and jellies
- 1147. Landscapes at national park, list location
- 1148. Landscapes with bridge
- 1149. Landscapes with water
- 1150. Lanterns
- 1151. Leaves
- 1152. Lighthouse
- 1153. Night scenes
- 1154. **New!** Opaque
- 1155. **New!** Porch
- 1156. Portrait, head shot only
- 1157. Railroads
- 1158. Repetition in nature
- 1159. Rest and relaxation
- 1160. Rust
- 1161. **New!** Rustic road
- 1162. Seashore
- 1163. Shadows
- 1164. Signs, street, etc.
- 1165. Stained glass
- 1166. Spiral
- 1167. Stump
- 1168. Transportation, air, land
- 1169. Transportation, ships, boats, watercraft
- 1170. Umbrella
- 1171. Water
- 1172. Waterfalls
- 1173. Weather, fog, mist
- 1174. Weather, ice
- 1175. Windows
- 1176. **New!** Yield sign

Back in Black & White – Only black and white photos allowed in this section.

Class #

- 1201. **New!** Barn
- 1202. **New!** Bridges
- 1203. **New!** Farmhouse
- 1204. **New!** Fences

Special Awards

Visual Image Photography Inc. – \$100.00 Best of Show Award

Visual Image Photography (VIP) of Cedarburg and Wauwatosa is proud to sponsor the Amateur Photography Best of Show Award. For more information about Visual Image Photography, visit them at www.vipis.com.

Wisconsin State Fair Judges will select the winners based on the following criteria:

Overall impression	40
Subject matter	30
Technique	30
Total	100

<i>Number of Awards</i>	<i>Selected from Classes</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
1	Best of Show Award from first place winners 1001 – 1023 1101 – 1176 1201 – 1204	\$100.00 cash prize	Visual Image Photography, Inc.

Visual Image Photography Inc. Picture Perfect Award – Youth Only

Visual Image Photography (VIP) of Cedarburg and Wauwatosa is proud to announce the Picture Perfect Award for the best photos by youth. Any photography by a youth (ages 17 and under as of July 31, 2025), is eligible for this award in classes 1020 – 1023. For more information about Visual Image Photography, visit them at www.vipis.com.

Wisconsin State Fair Judges will select the winners based on the following criteria:

Overall impression	40
Subject matter	30
Technique	30
Total	100

<i>Number of Awards</i>	<i>Selected from Classes</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
1	1 st Place Winner 1020 – 1023	\$100.00 cash prize	Visual Image Photography, Inc.
1	2 nd Place Winner 1020 – 1023	\$75.00 cash prize	Visual Image Photography, Inc.
1	3 rd Place Winner 1020 – 1023	\$50.00 cash prize	Visual Image Photography, Inc.

Best of Division Ribbon – Division 120, Amateur Photography

Commemorative ribbon and \$30.00 cash prize.

2025 General Rules and Regulations – Wisconsin State Fair

Exhibitors are expected to read and understand all rules prior to submitting an entry.

General Rules and Regulations

Wisconsin State Fair management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regards thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to Wisconsin State Fair. It further reserves the right to determine unforeseen matters not covered by these rules, to amend or add to these rules as they, in their judgment, may deem advisable.

All exhibitors are expected to conform with Wisconsin State Fair General Rules and Regulations. Any person who violates any of the special rules will forfeit all privileges and prize money and be subject to such penalty as the management may order. Failure to comply may result in award(s) and prize money forfeiture, dismissal from the Fairgrounds, and being barred from competition immediately in the department in which the violation occurred and from all departments entered, and/or in future competition in Wisconsin State Fair. In the event of conflict between the general rules and the special rules governing the various departments, the special rules will govern.

The following due process will be used in the questions of rule violation: the exhibitor and/or parties involved will be questioned by the Department Superintendent. If it is felt that a violation has occurred, the Department Superintendent will make a ruling. The ruling of the Department Superintendent will be final. See Wisconsin State Fair Park Competitive Exhibits Department Decision Review Procedures available online.

Administrative Offices

Any correspondence should be addressed to:
Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S 84 St, West Allis, WI 53214.

Admission Tickets

See entry form to order tickets. Ticket orders will be limited to 50 tickets per exhibitor. Tickets will be mailed out beginning in mid-June.

Entry Questions

For information and questions, please call: 414/266-7052.

Entry Requirements

Application for entries in all departments must be made on the printed entry form (or online) and must be in full compliance with the printed instructions. **There are no refunds of entry fees or late fees.** Entries will be disqualified if not entered under the name of the person who made the item. All entries must be made by the exhibitor unless otherwise stated in the entry information. Violation of this rule will forfeit any prize money awarded to such exhibitor in all departments at the Wisconsin State Fair. Wisconsin State Fair management reserves the right at any time to refuse entries or items entered. Entry deadlines are specified under each department's rules/schedule. Exhibits that have been erroneously entered in a division, and/or do not meet the specifications of the class can be transferred to a proper class or disqualified by the superintendent prior to judging. If such classes already have been judged, they shall not be reopened. No employee of the Wisconsin State Fair, or member of their immediate family shall be allowed to exhibit in the department in which they are employed. Any exhibitor's check(s) returned from a financial institution for any reason will be charged a \$20.00 service fee.

Note: Entry forms will be returned if not filled out completely.

Exhibit Release

Exhibits will be released according to each department's regulations. The Wisconsin State Fair Director or their designee may change the time of release in any department at their discretion. Competitive exhibits which have not been claimed by exhibitors by 6:00 pm on the Tuesday after the Wisconsin State Fair will be disposed of and/or donated by management as they see fit.

Judging of Exhibits

Judges have been carefully selected. All exhibitors submitting exhibits for the Wisconsin State Fair accept these judges and agree to abide by their decisions. The judging schedule is printed at the beginning of each department in the Exhibitor Guide & Prize Listing. If any exhibitor attempts to interfere with the judge in any manner, the exhibitor shall forfeit all prize money awarded and will be excluded from further competition. Judges will not be permitted to show in divisions they judge. Unworthy exhibits will not be placed by the judge. The decision of the judge will be final in all cases.

Prize Money/Awards

Prize money will be mailed starting in September, 2025. In paying prize money, no evidence of awards will be recognized except the signed Judging Sheets. Any prize money discrepancies must be mailed to Wisconsin State Fair no later than October 1, 2025. Exhibitors should contact Wisconsin State Fair in writing at 640 S 84 St, West Allis, WI 53214. Please include your name, department, division, class and explanation of the discrepancy. All checks are void one (1) year after they are issued. Any checks not cashed causes automatic forfeit of prize money won.

Liability

Wisconsin State Fair will take reasonable precaution to protect the safety of the exhibits sent to the Wisconsin State Fair, but owners themselves take the risk of exhibiting them. Should any exhibit or portion thereof be injured, damaged, lost or stolen, Wisconsin State Fair personnel will give assistance toward recovery of the same, but will not be liable or make any payment for the value thereof.

Neither the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Fair, its agents or employees shall be liable for any loss to an exhibitor occasioned by fire, accident, condition of structure, or damage caused by weather to any exhibit, article, item, equipment or commercial exhibit left in the building or on the grounds after the close of the Wisconsin State Fair.

Exhibitors and/or machinery, while stationary or in motion, and any other exhibits or equipment which may cause accidents, injury or damage to persons or property coming in contact with or in proximity to them, shall guard their exhibits or machinery, and protect the public from coming in contact therewith at all times while on the Fairgrounds. Every such exhibitor or owners shall indemnify the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Fair Park Board, its agents and employees from and against claims and demands, costs, charges and expenses which it or they might incur, suffer or be put to by reason of failure to take the precaution above referred to or failure to comply with Wisconsin State Fair rules, policies or directives. Liability insurance to comply with indemnity provisions is required. Presentation of an exhibitor's receipt shall be deemed acceptance of this provision.

Wisconsin State Fair Park Competitive Exhibits Department Decision Review Procedures available online at: www.tinyurl.com/25m44xfh