

DEPARTMENT 44 - HOBBIES

To be shown in the Hobbies, Arts & Crafts Building
Superintendents: Laurie Leuenberger (#217-820-7733) & Steve Youngblut
Premiums Offered: \$3,555.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per exhibit Entry Fee and a \$3.00 per exhibitor Office Fee. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Wednesday, July 15
Late Entry Deadline	Friday, July 31
Entry check-in	Sunday, August 9, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 10, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Exhibit Pick-up	Sunday, August 23, 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 24, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. Entries in this department are limited to residents of Illinois.
3. All exhibits must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor. This applies for open and youth exhibitors.
4. No exhibit or part thereof may be entered in more than one class.
5. Only one entry may be made in each class.
6. An exhibitor or anyone in the immediate family winning first prize in a division one year is restricted from exhibiting the same article in that division at any subsequent Illinois State Fair for four years. However, exhibitor may show a completely different exhibit. Any item that has received first place between 2023 and 2025 cannot be shown individually or in any other collection at the 2026 Illinois State Fair.
7. Antiques must have information card stating age as nearly as it can be established and any other information that would be of interest to the public. Card must be firmly attached.
8. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at the time of check-in.
9. All items must fit on the shelf in cases to be judged.
10. Exhibits will be received at the north entrance of the Hobby, Arts and Crafts Building. All exhibitors, including children, must place their own exhibits.
11. After an entry has been placed, changes will not be allowed (additions, deletions or substitutions).

Division 4401 – Antiques

Items must be from 1950 or prior. Information card stating age as nearly as it can be established and any information that would be of interest to the public must be firmly attached to the entry tag. Lids count for completeness. Cups and saucers count as one piece.

Antiques will be judged as follows:

- 50% - Authenticity
- 25% - Condition of article
- 25% - Rarity

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Banks	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
02	Berry set - bowl and two saucers	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
03	Bottles - Commercial	Max. 3, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
04	Bride basket	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
05	Bud vase	Max. 3, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
06	Cane	Only 1, not to exceed 38" in length	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
07	Carnival glass	Only 1, not to exceed 10"	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
08	Children's books	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
09	Child's cooking utensils	Max. 5, no stoves	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
10	Child's or doll's dishes - China	5 pieces, no baby bottles	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
11	Coin Purses	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
12	Covered dishes	Only 1, no soup tureens	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
13	Cracker jars	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
14	Cream pitcher	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
15	Dairy jars	Max. 3, quarts, pints or half pints, no accessories	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
16	Demitasse cups and saucers	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
17	Dick & Jane books	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
18	Dolls	Max. 3, not to exceed 18"	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
19	Figurines	Max. 2, not to exceed 11"	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
20	Glass - pressed, colored	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
21	Glass – pressed pattern, clear	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
22	Glass - art	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
23	Glass - cut	Only 1, no accessories	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
24	Hand painted China dishes	Max. 2	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
25	Handkerchiefs	Max. 3, mounted on 12" x 14" card	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
26	Hen on a basket	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
27	Hot chocolate set - pot and two cups	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7

28	Illinois State Fair souvenirs or ribbons	Max. 5, no duplicate of years, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
29	Inkwell set	Only 1, any material	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
30	Ironstone	Only 1, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
31	Majolica	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
32	Meat platter	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
33	Men's jewelry or accessories	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
34	Mesh or beaded purse	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
35	Milk glass	Only 1, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
36	Miniature kerosene or other oil lamps	Only 1, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
37	Most unusual antique	Only 1, not to exceed 15" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
38	Oriental pieces	Only 1, not to exceed 18"	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
39	Oyster dishes	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
40	Postcards	Min. 3 – Max. 5, mounted on a 12" x 12" card	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
41	Quilts	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
42	Religious book	Only 1, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
43	Relish dishes	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
44	Salt dips	Max. 5, may be displayed on doily or cloth	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
45	Sewing items	Max. 5	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
46	Small tool	Only 1, not to exceed 10"	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
47	Small World War I memorabilia	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
48	Small World War II memorabilia	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
49	Small World's Fair souvenir items prior to 1945	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
50	Soda pop bottles	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
51	Stamps	Displayed on one 8" x 10" mat	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
52	Stemmed goblet	Only 1, any glass, crystal, pressed glass, milk glass, etc.	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
53	Sugar and creamer set	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
54	Teapots - China	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
55	Tins - commercial or tobacco	Max. 4, not to exceed 10" in height	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
56	Tobacco Pipes	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
57	Toothpick holders	Max. 5	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
58	Toys - one toy or small set	Mounted on 8" x 11" mat, not to exceed 10"	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
59	Tumblers - pattern glasses, no replicas	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
60	Vinegar cruets	Max. 3	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7

61	Water sets - pitcher and two tumblers	Only 1	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
62	Women's costume accessories	Max. 3, jewelry	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
63	Women's dresser items	Max. 3, no perfume bottles	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7
64	Valentines	Max. 5	\$13-\$10-\$8-\$7

Champion Antique will receive an additional \$20.00 premium award from the Illinois State Fair.

Division 4402 – Ceramics and Porcelain Art

All entries must be hand decorated and cast from a mold, unless specified otherwise, and shall not exceed 10" in height. No felt on bottom pieces. Pieces should be done in year proceeding the show. All porcelain art must have been done by the exhibitor.

A professional is anyone who sells ceramics and porcelain art for profit and/or who teaches classes.

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Ceramics, Amateur - any piece, glazed	Hand-molded or wheel thrown	\$9-\$7-\$5-\$4
02	Ceramics, Amateur - special technique		\$9-\$7-\$5-\$4
03	Ceramics, Professional - any piece, glazed		\$9-\$7-\$5-\$4
04	Porcelain Art - Painted China		\$9-\$7-\$5-\$4
05	Porcelain Art - Miniature Objects	Not to exceed 6" in height	\$9-\$7-\$5-\$4

Champion Ceramics and Porcelain Art will receive an additional \$15.00 premium award from the Illinois State Fair.

Division 4403 - Collections

No antiques (must be after 1950). Unless otherwise noted, exhibits must have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 articles per entry and must not exceed 10" width, 12" length, and 10" height.

Collections will be judged as follows:

75% - Value of collection

25% - Variety (this includes sizes, media and types within the collection)

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Angels or cherubs	Max. 5	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
02	Animals	Min. 3 – Max. 5	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
03	Bells	Min. 3 – Max. 5	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
04	Christmas jewelry	Max. 5	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
05	Collector's plates	Max. 3	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
06	Cookie jars	Max. 3	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
07	Cup and saucer sets	Max. 3 sets	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2

08	Disney pins	Max. 20, mounted on card not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
09	Doll house furniture	Mounted on 8" x 11" mat	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
10	Dolls	Max. 5, not stuffed, may include accessories	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
11	Illinois State Fair souvenirs or ribbons	Max. 5, no duplicates of years	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
12	Kentucky Derby glasses, no decorations	Max. 3	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
13	Music boxes	Max. 3	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
14	Paperweights	Max. 3	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
15	Political buttons/Advertising buttons	Mounted on 12" x 15" card	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
16	Refrigerator magnets	Max. 12, mounted	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
17	Salt & Pepper sets	Max. 5 sets	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
18	Spoons - souvenir and/or commemorative	Max. 5, mounted on 9" x 12" card	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
19	Stamps	Displayed on one 8" x 10" page	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
20	Steins	Min. 3 – Max 5, no mugs	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2

Champion Collections will receive as an additional \$15.00 premium award from the Illinois State Fair.

Division 4404 - Crafts

All articles must be the handiwork of the exhibitor and must have been made during the past year.

Crafts will be judged as follows:

60% - Craftmanship

40% - Originality

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Adult Lego creation (no kit)	Lego brand only	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
02	Article made from natural materials	Only 1, not a wreath, includes items such as seeds, husks, etc.	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
03	Christmas tree ornaments	Set of 5, display ornaments only	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
04	Craft from paper	Max. 3, 2- or 3-dimension, quilling, etc.	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
05	Decoratively painted bird house	Only 1, not to exceed 10" x 12" x 11"	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
06	Diamond Dot art	Kit or original design, only 1, not to exceed 18" x 23"	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
07	Handcrafted wooden item	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
08	Holiday centerpiece	Any season, not to exceed 12" in height	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
09	Holiday door decoration	Any holiday, with hook for hanging	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
10	Leather craft	Max. 3, belts, wallets, coin purses, etc.	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
11	Seasonal decorations (other than Christmas)	Max. 3, must fit in 12" x 12" x 12" space	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2

12	Stained or other glass work	Only 1, maximum 10" x 10"	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
13	Wrapped gift box	Any occasion, only 1, 8.5" x 11" x 10" or smaller	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
14	Wreath made from natural materials	Only 1, with hook for hanging, no size limit	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
15	Wreath made from wood	Only 1, with hook for hanging, no size limit	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2
16	Wreath with hand-painted wooden cutouts	Only 1, wood, grapevine or straw, with hook for hanging	\$7-\$5-\$3-\$2

Champion Craft will receive an additional \$15.00 premium award from the Illinois State Fair.

Division 4405 – Woodworking

CNC Carvings are not currently allowed in any of these classes. No Lichtenburg pieces will be allowed due to the danger of this process.

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Boxes and covered vessels	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 18"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
02	Chip carving	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
03	Inlay and Marquetry	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
04	Intarsia	Only 1	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
05	Scroll Saw project	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
06	Wood carving (3-dimensional)	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
07	Wood turning	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
08	Wooden toy	Only 1, not to exceed 12" in height	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
09	Any other article	Only 1, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7

Champion Woodworking will receive an additional \$15.00 premium award from the Illinois State Fair.

END OF DEPARTMENT 44 - HOBBIES

DEPARTMENT 45 – HOBBIES - YOUTH

To be shown in the Hobbies, Arts & Crafts Building
Superintendent: Laurie Leuenberger (#217-820-7733) & Steve Youngblut
Premiums Offered: \$566.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$1.00 per exhibit Entry Fee and a \$3.00 per exhibitor Office Fee. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department.
2. All rules for Department 44 – Hobbies, will apply to the Youth Department, however only exhibitors 18 years of age and under as of August 13, 2026, are eligible for entry in this Department.

Special Awards

Best Exhibit – Youth Hobbies: Champion of the best exhibit will receive an award and an additional \$15.00 premium.

Division 4501 – Collections

Unless otherwise noted, exhibits must have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 articles per entry and must not exceed 10" wide by 12" long.

Collections will be judged as follows:

35% - Value of collection

30% - Originality of display

25% - Variety (this includes sizes, media and types within the collection)

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Banks	Min. 3 – Max. 5	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Baseball cards	Displayed together on one mat, not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Basketball cards	Displayed together on one mat, not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
04	Buttons - souvenir or campaign	Min. 10 – Max. 25, mounted on card not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
05	Comic books	Max. 3	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Disney pins	Max. 25, mounted on card not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
07	Dolls	Max. 3, not to exceed 11", not boxed, no accessories	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
08	Farm machinery	Max. 3, machinery only, not mounted	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
09	Keychains	Mounted on card not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
10	Leather craft	Max. 3, Belts, purses, wallets, etc.	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
11	Miniature figurines	Max. 12, not to exceed 4" in height	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
12	Miniature vehicles	Min. 3 – Max. 5, must all be the same type, no Lego or Transformer, not over 4" length and 3" height	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
13	Model railroad collection	Max. 3 pieces	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
14	Novelty and/or souvenir pencils	Max. 12, mounted	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
15	Scrapbooking	Max. 1 page, not to exceed 12" x 12", may use decorative paper, embellishments, paint, stamping, etc.	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
16	Shells	Max. 25, mounted on card not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
17	Trading cards	Displayed together on one mat, not to exceed 12" x 18"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3

Division 4502 – Constructed Articles

Must be the work of the exhibitor. *Only one item per entry unless specified otherwise.*

Articles will be judged as follows:

50% - Workmanship

25% - Beauty & originality of design

25% - Quality of materials

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Bird house or bird feeder	Not to exceed 15" x 12" x 10"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Ceramic item, molded and glazed	Not to exceed 10" in height	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Christmas ornaments	Min. 3 – Max. 5	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
04	Lego - constructed from kit	Not to exceed 10" in height, Lego brand only	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
05	Lego - no kit	Not to exceed 10" in height, Lego brand only	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Models - made from kit or original design	Max. 3, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 10", materials must be constructed and glued parts, no Lego	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
07	String art	Not to exceed 10"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
08	Textile painting – shirt or another article		\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
09	Tin punch - picture or decorated pie tin		\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
10	Toothpick, popsicle stick or clothespin creation	Not to exceed 10" in height	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
11	Woodworking	Max. 3, not to exceed 12" x 12" x 20"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3
12	Miscellaneous articles	Max. 3, not to exceed 10" x 12"	\$7-\$5-\$4-\$3

END OF DEPARTMENT 45 – HOBBIES - YOUTH