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Newspaper Column

State Fair of Texas - September 25th -October 18th

The State Fair of Texas “Good Food, Great Fun!” Creative Arts competition is just around the corner. Rusk County has many talented citizens, and now is a good time to decide which departments to enter.

The Creative Arts/Special Events Department offers more than 1100 categories in 12 departments to be entered before the fair begins. Additionally, contests take place during each day of the fair. So as the 2015 State Fair of Texas Creative Arts Handbook reveals, it truly offers something for everybody. From baking bread to exhibiting a collection of antique fishing lures, the Creative Arts Department has a competition just for you.

The following are the steps to enter in person:

1. Deadline to mail your entry form and fee is Friday, July 24th, 2015.
2. An entry receipt will be mailed or emailed to you.
3. Bring the receipt and your entry item to the Creative Arts Building on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, August 14, 15, 16, from 9 am to 5 pm.
4. You will be notified of your entry’s status after judging via mail or email.

The following are the steps to enter by mail:

1. Deadline to mail your entry form, fee, item and return-mail postage is Friday, July 24th, 2015.
2. You will be notified of your entry’s status after judging via mail or email.

During the next few weeks, entries will be judged, and contestants will receive notification as to its status. Entries that are awarded a ribbon are on display during the fair.

Departments include:

Department A - Art

Department B - Ceramics/Hand Painted China

Department C - Designer - Craftsman

Department D - Dolls

Department E - Foods (Canning)

Department F - Hobby Collections

Department G - Holiday Corner

Department H - Needlepoint, Crewel, and Counted Cross Stitch

Department I - Needlework and Sewing

Department J - Afghans, Rugs, Quilts and Bedspreads

Department K - Photography

Department L - Scale Model

Most departments have an Adult, Junior, and Children Section, and most departments offer a “Best of Show” in each section. Premium awards are offered in each class, and entry fees vary but are very inexpensive. The handbook states there is no entry fee charge for senior citizens, age 70+, or those in hospitals or nursing homes, who then become Honorary entrants. .

Daily competitions are in addition to the above listed Department Entries and last for one day. Each day there is a new daily contest. Some of the daily competitions include: “Glue a Shoe Contest”, “Cake Baking Contest”, “Tex-Mex Contest”, “Great American SPAM Championship”, “Southern Comfort Food”, “Ice Cream Freeze Off”, “Cooking With Cheese Contest”, “Texas Wine Competition Gold Medal Flour Cookie Contest”, “Farm to Fork Contest”, “ROTEL Tex-Mex Honey, The Magic Ingredient Contest”, “Speedy Dishes Contest”.

Premiums are awarded in each daily contest and many times the sponsors of each contest award gifts/prizes in regard to their particular food product.

For more information about the State Fair of Texas Creative Arts Competition or to obtain a 2015 entry form, please contact the Rusk County Extension Office. Also, the State Fair of Texas has a wonderful website with helpful information - <http://www.bigtex.com>.

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