



LARIMER COUNTY
FAIR AND PRCA RODEO

OPEN CLASS FAIR BOOK

 **THE RANCH**
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Instructions on How to Enter Open Class Exhibits and Overall Information

- 1. Fair Book:** The Fair Book contains all the entry guidelines, classes and descriptions. Access the 2026 Larimer County Fair Book online at: <https://www.treventscomplex.com/events/larimer-county-fair/4-h-and-open-class>. Each department is listed separately. Information follows regarding this specific department. Printed Fair Books may be requested from the Competitions Coordinator at 970-619-4034, rumseyta@co.larimer.co.us.
- 2. Schedule:** Read the Open Class Schedule at the end of this document.
- 3. General Information:** Read the general information and rules and follow the specific information for each departments. **Photography exhibitors should be sure to understand and follow the rules for size and mounting of photos before arriving at check-in.**
- 4. Exhibitors** do not need to be Larimer County residents to enter.
- 5. Online Entry:** Complete the Open Class Registration online through Fair Entry (not 4-H online) <http://lcfopenclass.fairentry.com>
If you entered last year, you are in the Fair Entry System as an exhibitor and you just need to add classes. If you are a new exhibitor, please sign up and follow the prompts to set you up as an exhibitor. Then add your classes. Everyone should make sure to hit the submit button and receive email confirmation of your entries.
- 6. Entry:** Pre-Registration Entry is recommended in all departments through the on-line Fair Entry system beginning **Tuesday, March 15th through Wednesday, July 22nd at 11:50 pm**. Written entry forms can be requested through the Competitions Coordinator at 970-619-4034, rumseyta@co.larimer.co.us. Printed entries can be emailed, delivered or mailed to the Larimer County Fair Office, 5280 Arena Circle, Ste #100, Loveland, CO 80538. Entry Office opens at 8:30 a.m. and closes at 4:30 p.m. Postmarks, faxes, or email pre-registration will be accepted only if posted on or before July 23rd at 4:30 pm.
- 7. Late Registration:** Late Entries Taken at Department Check-In, Tuesday, July 28th. Horticulture late entries will be accepted on Wednesday, July 29th from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 8. Check-In:** Park in the McKee Building parking lot or Lot A or B then enter the Northeast doors in Pedersen Toyota Center -South at The Ranch. Open Class exhibits (except Horticulture) must be received **Tuesday, July 28th between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** Horticulture exhibits check-in Wednesday, July 29th between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. At check-in, arrive in time to receive your exhibitor identification tag(s). Review the information on the I.D. tag and assign one tag to each exhibit. Take exhibit(s) to the respective departments.
- 9. Check-Out:** Please return to The Ranch Pedersen Toyota Center-South to pick up your exhibits on **Wednesday, August 5th between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Collect any awards won. If you are unable to pick up your exhibits that evening, please have someone else do it for you. Otherwise your projects are available for pickup in the Event office during normal business hours. Removal of any exhibit before the designated time requires written approval from the Superintendent or Exhibitor Coordinator. Violation of this rule shall cause the exhibitor to forfeit any awards due to him or her.
- 10. Judging:** Viewing of judging is open to the public. You are welcome to listen and learn from the judges.

11. All products exhibited must have been prepared since August 1, 2025, except for quilts or photography. Exhibits can be entered only once in the Larimer County Fair.
12. Any article may be tested to the satisfaction of the judges. All articles and garments entered must be clean.
13. Children's age is determined as of December 31, 2025.
14. Only one entry will be accepted in each class from each exhibitor except Arts, Photography, and Spinning and Weaving. No Champion or Reserve Champion will be awarded if the exhibit is not worthy.
15. Special awards will be chosen at the discretion of the judge(s) in each department and coordinated through the Superintendents.
16. All exhibits must remain on exhibit for the entire Fair, regardless of whether an award is given. An open class exhibitor schedule included at the end of this Fair Book.
17. **Special Awards:** Exhibitors may collect special awards for department winners. Collection of the award is as follows: Wednesday, August 5, 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Otherwise at the Ranch Events office Thursday, August 6, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Friday, August 7, 8:30 a.m.–noon. Special awards not collected will be forfeited. No Exceptions.
18. **Premiums/Money:** Premiums will be given for class placement in youth designated classes. No money is awarded for general/adult classes.
19. **The use of marijuana or CBD in any display, food item, or exhibit is prohibited and shall be rejected.**
20. Classes may be combined or divided at the discretion of the superintendents. If there are 3 or more items in a miscellaneous or "Any Other" class, a new class may be made.
21. **Responsibility:** The Ranch staff, the Larimer County Fair Board and Volunteers will use reasonable diligence to ensure safety of exhibits after their arrival and placement. Under no circumstance will the parties listed be responsible for any loss or damage done to, occasioned by, or arising from any articles on exhibit. The exhibitors shall indemnify The Ranch, Larimer County Fair Board and volunteers of all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto. The entry of any exhibits on the fairgrounds by any and all exhibitors shall signify his or her agreement to abide by this rule.

Photography

Superintendent – Ardeth Carlson
Competition Coordinator – Tara Rumsey

It Is Your Responsibility to Read All of the Photography Rules.

Key dates and times:

Check-in for Photography exhibits: Tuesday, July 28, 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Check-out for Photography exhibits: Wednesday, August 5, 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

ENTRIES THAT DO NOT MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS BELOW WILL NOT BE CHECKED IN. If you have young photographers, this is an opportunity to show them the importance of understanding the rules for any competition. Please don't assume you know what the rules are, even if you have participated in Larimer County Fair Open Class Photography in previous years! If you have questions about definitions or specifications, you can contact the Open Class Photography superintendent at 970-290-9550 or email ardeth.carlson@gmail.com.

Each division is judged by a two-person team of experienced photographers who award ribbons for each class in their division and write brief comments on each photo; the total panel of judges select the Special Award-winning photos.

1. Each exhibitor may participate in only one age division and may enter a **maximum total of three (3) photographs**; all three entries can be entered in the same class or in any combination of classes but this does not mean 3 photos in each class. Advanced photographers should enter the Advanced division even if they are older than 59 years of age.
2. The exhibitor must choose which class or classes to enter when registering. If the exhibitor wants to enter a different class than the one for which the photos were pre-registered, changes can be made at the Photography department check-in. Please check that the photo checked in matches the definition of the class on the exhibitor tag. If you have questions, the superintendent will be available to answer questions about the appropriate class.
3. Presentation is an important part of a print competition. **Photographs must be mounted on a solid backing, i.e. foam core, styrene, or gatorboard. Please do not use cardboard. Photos should not be printed or mounted on canvas, acrylic, glass, or metal.** Backing should not exceed ½" thick and must be cut to the same size as the photograph. This means the backing should not show outside the edges of the photograph. Photographs must be presented in final mounted form at check-in and cannot be fixed at the check-in table. Photos can be printed and mounted by professional printers such as Lefthand Printworks in Berthoud.

You can also mount your printed photo yourself. The Monticello Camera Club has created an excellent YouTube video "Mounting Photos Is as Easy as Pancakes." Click on the link or copy and paste it in the browser search bar: https://youtu.be/FcokEMDfw24?si=D6QdDK_iPqHNGys

Additional tips on DIY mounting:

- Use a spray adhesive that does NOT require you to spray both surfaces. It is much easier if you only have to spray the foam core.
- Expect a lot of overspray from the spray adhesive. Spraying outside is best, but if you must spray inside be sure to do it in a well-ventilated room and cover your work surface to protect it from overspray.
- Make sure your photo is nowhere near where you spray.
- IMPORTANT: Use a new cutting blade for each photo that you trim. A snap-off blade utility knife is perfect for this task.
- Protect your cutting surface with either a cutting mat or a couple layers of corrugated cardboard.

4. Entry should be a single image; see Creative class definition for composites and panoramas. Maximum size is no larger than 11"x14" or 14"x14" square; an exception is allowed for panoramic photos with a maximum of 8" high and 18" wide. Minimum size is no smaller than 8"x10" or 8"x8" square. Any sizes in between, such as 9"x12" for example, are allowed. **Photos that do not meet the size maximum or minimum will not be accepted. Size restrictions also apply to the Children age division.**
5. **Photos must not be framed or have photo mats on the front,** and do not attach any kind of hanger; hangers will be provided by the Photography department.
6. The photo front should not contain any writing, including watermarks, copyright symbol, name, title, or time or date stamp. **There should not be any identification or title on the back of the photo.**
7. Copyright infringement of any type will not be allowed. Photos should not include images of art, such as paintings or sculptures, unless the photo has other elements that are the main focus or tell a story. If in doubt, avoid entering such images or contact the Open Class Photography superintendent for help.
8. Superintendent has the right to reject subject matter of a sensitive nature. No photographs depicting violence or nude/seminude subjects will be accepted.
9. Judging will be based on impact, composition, lighting, technical quality, and appropriateness for the category. Due to the volume of Photography Department entries, judging will not be done publicly; brief written comments by the judges will be provided to exhibitors.
10. The judges reserve the right to move any submitted image to a different appropriate class during the judging process to balance the number of entries in a class.
11. Ribbons awarded will be 1st place blue, 2nd place red, and 3rd place white for each of the 6 classes in the 5 divisions. Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded for outstanding exhibits in the Youth, Amateur, Senior Amateur, and Advanced divisions. Special awards will be given for Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show. Photos and ribbons must remain in place during the fair except by permission of the superintendent.
11. Photographs must be picked up on Wednesday, August 5, between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Any photograph not picked up by then or otherwise arranged with the superintendent will become property of the Larimer County Fair. The computer entry tag stub will be needed to identify the entry and obtain the photographs and ribbons.
12. Payment of Awards: Exhibitors may collect special awards. See Open Class Division General Rules and Regulations for schedule. Special awards not collected before noon Friday, August 6th, will be forfeited. **No Exceptions.**

Definition of divisions:

Children—12 years and under (as of 12/31/2025)

Youth—13 through 18 years (as of 12/31/2025)

Amateur—Adults 19 through 59 years (as of 12/31/2025)

Novice casual or hobby photographers with little or no photography training and who have not previously been awarded Amateur Division Champion or overall Best of Show more than once at the Larimer County Fair. After receiving a second such award, photos in following years should be entered in the Advanced division.

Senior Amateur—Adults 60 years and up (as of 12/31/2025)

Novice, casual or hobby photographers with little or no photography and who have not previously been awarded Amateur Division Champion or overall Best of Show more than once at the Larimer County Fair.

After receiving a second such award, photos in the following years should be entered in the Advanced division.

Advanced – Adults 19 years and up (as of 12/31/2025)

Serious but nonprofessional photographers with training and experience but for whom photography does not constitute a significant source of income or who have been awarded Amateur Division Champion or overall Best of Show more than once at the Larimer County Fair. After receiving a second such award, the photographer should enter photos in the Advanced division in following years.

Definition of classes:

Animals: Domestic

Any pet or tamed mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish should not be digitally manipulated except for regular processing of sharpening, noise removal, contrast, dodging/burning, cropping. No cloning in or out, moving or replacement of objects, or multiple exposure.

Animals: Wild

Non-domesticated mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians; includes zoo animals or feral animals such as wild horses; should not be digitally manipulated except for regular processing of sharpening, noise removal, contrast, dodging/burning, cropping. No cloning in or out, moving or replacement of objects, or multiple exposure.

Creative

Photos utilizing both creative in-camera techniques and post-processing manipulation, such as macro, altered reality, abstracts, and special techniques such as intentional camera movement, multiple exposure, and composites. Also includes miscellaneous such as still life and vignette images. Composites should be a print in which multiple photos are combined to create a single image; this is not a collage with multiple individual photos arranged on a single sheet, which is not acceptable. Digital manipulation is allowed, including digital borders and filters, but must begin as a photograph and should not include AI-generated elements.

People

People or person should be the main subject in the frame; candid or posed, closeups or groups and includes action such as sports or entertainment.

Plants, Flowers, Insects

Not required to be a macro-type closeup, but plants, flowers, or insects should clearly be the main subject; wide-angle garden scenes should be entered in Scenic.

Scenic

Includes landscapes, seascapes, clouds & night sky scenes, city/urban scenes and architecture. Also includes large scale scenes such as festivals, concerts, or car shows. Focus/exposure stacking and subtle long-exposure images allowed but should still look natural; should not be otherwise digitally manipulated except for regular processing of straightening, sharpening, noise removal, contrast, dodging/burning, and cropping. No cloning in or out, moving or replacement of objects; fisheye photos should be entered in Creative class.

Our Nation, Our State

Your pictorial view of our country and our state, as the U.S.A. celebrates its semiquincentennial(250 years) and Colorado celebrates its sesquicentennial (150 years). Photos that reflect our rich diversity of landscapes, people, culture and history, such as characteristic geographic features of a region, iconic landmarks, and cultural festivities and traditions.

Enter photos in these classes:

Children – 12 years & under

Class

110. Animals, Birds, Insects

120. People

130. Trees & Flowers

140. Happy Birthday, U.S.A. & Colorado (see description for **Our Nation, Our State**)

Youth – 13 through 18 years

Class

210. Animals: Domestic

220. Animals: Wild

230. Creative

240. People

250. Plants, Flowers, Insects

260. Scenic

270. Our Nation, Our State

Amateur – 19 through 59 years

Class

310. Animals: Domestic

320. Animals: Wild

330. Creative

340. People

350. Plants, Flowers, Insects

360. Scenic

370. Our Nation, Our State

Senior Amateur – 60 years & over

Class

410. Animals: Domestic

420. Animals: Wild

430. Creative

440. People

450. Plants, Flowers, Insects

460. Scenic

470. Our Nation, Our State

Advanced – 19 years & over

Class

510. Animals: Domestic

520. Animals: Wild

530. Creative

540. People

550. Plants, Flowers, Insects

560. Scenic

570. Our Nation, Our State

Special Awards

These special awards are made possible by the following sponsors:

Best of Show—Open Photography

Lefthand Printworks

Reserve Best of Show—Open Photography

Lefthand Printworks

Champion Youth Exhibit—Open Photography

Whispering Pines Lodge, LLC

Champion Teen Photography Exhibit—Open Photography

Lefthand Printworks

Champion Amateur Exhibit – Open Photography

Lefthand Printworks

Champion Senior Amateur Exhibit—Open Photography

Lefthand Printworks

Champion Advanced Amateur Exhibit—Open Photography

Lefthand Printworks

1-year free membership to the Photographic Society of America awarded to all Champion Exhibits,
courtesy of the **Photographic Society of America**

2026 Larimer County Fair Schedule of Events for Open Class

SCHEDULE as of February 5, 2026

<u>WEDNESDAY, JULY 22</u>		
11:59 p.m.	OPEN CLASS EXHIBIT ENTRY/PRE-REGISTRATION FORM SUBMISSION DEADLINE-	
<u>SATURDAY, JULY 25</u>		
9:30 a.m.	LARIMER COUNTY FAIR PARADE	<i>Downtown Loveland</i>
<u>MONDAY, JULY 27</u>		
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibits Set Up – Superintendents only	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>TUESDAY, JULY 28</u>		
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibits - Check-In	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>WEDNESDAY, JULY 29</u>		
7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Open Class Horticulture (Garden Flowers & Vegetables, Fruit & Herbs) Check-In	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Open Class Arts, Baked Products, Creative Crafts, Knitting, Machine Work, Needlework, Preserved Food Products (& Honey), Quilting & Spinning & Weaving	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Open Class Garden Flowers & Floral Arrangements Judging	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Open Class Horticulture Vegetables, Fruits & Herbs Judging	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>THURSDAY, JULY 30</u>		
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Building open to Superintendents for display	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>FRIDAY, JULY 31</u>		
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>SATURDAY, AUGUST 1</u>		
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>SUNDAY, AUGUST 2</u>		
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Free Pancake Breakfast	<i>Party Tent outside Indoor Arena</i>
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>MONDAY, AUGUST 3</u>		
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>TUESDAY, AUGUST 4</u>		
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5</u>		
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Open Class Check-Out	<i>South Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>THURSDAY, AUGUST 6</u>		
8:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Open Class Unclaimed Items & Awards pick-up	<i>Event Office Pedersen Toyota Center</i>
<u>FRIDAY, AUGUST 7</u>		
8:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Open Class Unclaimed Items & Awards pick-up	<i>Event Office Pedersen Toyota Center</i>