Pinal County FAIR

March 18-22, 2026

“Neon Nights & Carnival Lights!”

Central Arizona Fair Association

PINAL FAIRGROUNDS & Event center
at Eleven Mile Corner

Welcome!

We're so glad you're here to celebrate one of Pinal County's longest-standing and most beloved traditions. For five unforgettable days, the fairgrounds come alive with the sights, sounds, and spirit of our agricultural heritage — a time for families, friends, and neighbors to gather, reconnect, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

This year's theme, **"Neon Nights & Carnival Lights!"**, sets the stage for dazzling fun and excitement. From thrilling rides and delicious fair food to creative exhibits, unique shopping, and hands-on learning, there's something here for everyone.
Thank you for making us part of your story — we hope your fair experience fills your scrapbook with joy, laughter, and a little bit of magic.

Here's to another amazing year at the Pinal County Fair!

Sincerely,

Misti Todd

Executive Director
Central Arizona Fair Association

Pinal County Fair General Rules

1. LIABILITY WAIVER: All entries are accepted with the understanding that the Pinal County Fairgrounds/Central Arizona Fair Association will not be held responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to any items exhibited, or to any article of any kind. All exhibitors shall indemnify the Central Arizona Fair Association, Pinal County, Pinal County Fairgrounds, Fair Executives, their officers, agents, employees, and officials against all loss, damages, and liability thus occasioned, including any attorney fees which may be incurred as a result thereof. The submission of any entry form the Fair shall constitute an acceptance by each person signing same of the provision set forth.

2. The Pinal County Fair reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair.

3. The Fair reserves the right to amend or add to these rules, as it, in its judgment, may deem advisable.

4. Any person who violates any of the following or special rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the Fair may order.

5. A detachment of deputies will be on duty day and night during the Fair to provide security for the buildings and grounds. The Fair will take all precautions to ensure proper protection and care of the exhibits. Notwithstanding these precautions, the Fair will in no way be responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury, or damage done or occasioned by, or arising from any article exhibited. Exhibitors shall indemnify the Fair or any other officer or employee of the Fair against all legal proceedings in regard thereto. Exhibits and property of every description entered for competition, display, or on the grounds for any other purpose, shall be subject to the control of the Fair; but the owners, themselves, take the risk of exhibiting them. Should the exhibitors require their exhibits to be covered by insurance, they must make arrangements themselves. In no case will the Fair be responsible, in any way, for any loss, damage, or injury, of any character, to any property, article, or person, while same is on the Fairgrounds or at any time or place, nor be liable for any payment for damage, loss, or injury. The Pinal County Fair will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury caused by or arising out of strikes, riots, or acts of God.

6. All exhibits will remain in place until the close of the Fair. Release time for all exhibits is indicated in Special Rules, Building Exhibits or Designated Depts. Superintendents, attendants, gatekeepers, and the deputies are instructed to prevent any attempt to remove any exhibit before the hour of release.

7. Competition is defined as a contest for supremacy between two or more products or articles, owned by separate exhibitors.

8. The Fair reserves the right to reject any exhibit offered if it is objectionable in any way, if it requires an excessive amount of space, or if the capacity of the department has been reached.

9. Sale of Exhibits: The Pinal County Fair is proud to offer the opportunity for artwork to be displayed as well as sold at the Fair! If an entry is for sale, it must be clearly labeled as “for sale” on its entry tag as well as a price provided. Prices must be a specific amount; no ranges are permitted. There will be no negotiations between the buyer and the exhibitor for sale price. Buyers are on a first come, first serve basis. Buyers will indicate which piece they would like to purchase and pay those monies to the department coordinator. The Fair will collect a 10% sale commission and the balance of the purchase price will be given to the exhibitor at entry pick-up or remitted within 60 days from the close of the Fair. Despite being sold, artwork must remain on display until the close of the Fair. Distributing the artwork to buyers will be the responsibility of the department coordinator. Exhibitors may choose to offer their entries for sale. Exhibitors set their own prices at the time of entry. The Fair will retain a 10% commission on all items sold. Sale proceeds (less commission) will be issued by check within 30 days after the close of the Fair.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. All applications for competitive exhibits must be made on Official Entry Forms and in accordance with instructions thereon and rules of the Fair Book.

2. Entry forms may be obtained from the Fair Office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and by calling the Fair Office at 520-723-7881. Entry forms may also be accessed by internet at www.pinalfairgrounds.com

3. Official entry forms can be submitted by mail, by internet or in person. Entry forms must be filled out completely including accurate mailing address, telephone number, birth date, and signature. Mailed entry forms must be postmarked by Sunday, March 8, 2026. Mail entry forms to Pinal County Fair, Attn: Competitive Exhibits, 512 S. 11 Mile Corner Road, Casa Grande, AZ 85194. Do not mail the entry form to department superintendents. Make checks payable to CAFA (Central Arizona Fair Association). Entry forms may be emailed to misti@pinalfairgrounds.com by Sunday, March 8, 2026. All supporting documents and fee payments must be received within five (5) days of submitting your entry form. Entries will not be considered accepted until all supporting documents and payment has been received. Make checks payable to CAFA (Central Arizona Fair Association). Exhibits maybe entered online at www.pinalfairgrounds.com. Online entries will be accepted thru Sunday March 8, 2026. All supporting documents and fee payments must be received within five (5) days of submitting your entry form. Entries will not be considered accepted until all supporting documents and payment has been received. Make checks payable to CAFA (Central Arizona Fair Association).

4. Upon receipt of Official Entry Form, identification tags will be issued and held in department entered, unless otherwise specified in the Special Rules.

5. All entries are made with the distinct understanding that in no event will the Pinal County Fair become responsible for any loss or damage that may occur to any article. Presentation of entry form shall be deemed acceptance of this risk.

6. One entry form may be used for each department in which the exhibitor participates.

7. When “Entry” is used, it refers to the Entry Form. “Exhibit” refers to articles entered. Exhibits will be rejected unless entry forms have been received on or before closing date specified in each department.

8. All entry forms must be signed by the exhibitor. Entry forms must have exhibitor’s age and birth date listed in order to verify sub-class category.

9. All exhibitors are required to make advance entries on official entry forms, as each entry must be processed by the Fair Office prior to the date that exhibits are received. Be sure to list all items you expect to enter. There is no penalty for entering an item that you find you are unable to exhibit, but the deadline cannot be extended and no entries will be accepted after the closing date.

EXHIBITORS

1. Any exhibitor who, for the purpose of defrauding or misrepresentation, makes any fraudulent entry in the name of another exhibitor for the purpose of exhibiting, will be permanently barred from the show or any future participation in any event held in connection with the Pinal County Fair and proof of ownership may be demanded at any time at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

2. Exhibit building will be open to the public daily Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday 9:00-am-10:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. In all departments, exhibits must be uncovered and ready for inspection of visitors during the above hours.

3. Every exhibit must be adequately marked when brought to the fairgrounds. Exhibitors must remain with their exhibits until Superintendents accept them.

4. Two or more persons in the same family cannot exhibit the same article in the same lot.

5. Under no circumstances will exhibitors be permitted access to display cases.

6. Superintendents will make all assignment of space for exhibits.

7. When exhibit calls for a certain size, quantity, and so forth, it means exactly that.

8. Exhibitors may enter as many exhibits as there are classes in each division, but only two exhibits per class unless stated otherwise in individual departments.

9. The exhibitor is solely responsible for making his entry. Entries improperly classified or identified will not be accepted nor judged; and entry fee will be forfeited. There will be no exceptions.

10. Exhibits may only be entered in the Fair one year unless it is so stated otherwise.

PREMIUMS

1. The Fair positively will not pay premiums on any article not specifically mentioned in the Fair Book.

2. Judge's Books will be evidence for payment of premiums. Positively no ribbons, tags, or cards are accepted.

3. Check for premiums will be mailed as soon after the Fair as possible. If checks are not received within 90 days, the Fair director should be notified. All checks must be cashed within 60 days after the date of issue.

4. June 1, 2026, is the deadline for reporting any error in premium check or check not having been received by exhibitor. After that date, no changes will be made nor checks issued.

SUPERINTENDENTS

1. It shall be the duty of each Superintendent to inform the Judge(s) of his department of the rules and regulations governing awards and to urge them to read the rules carefully before judging.

2. Each Superintendent is charged with caring for the Judges' Books of his department. He or she must see that all awards are properly entered therein, as it is only upon this record that premiums can be paid. Ribbons and tags are not accepted for payment of awards. He or she must see that the Judges' Books are properly signed.

3. All Judges' Books must be returned to the Fair Office immediately after judging is completed.

4. Each Superintendent is responsible for the final disposal of exhibits in his or her department.

5. A Superintendent may reserve the right to reject any entry which he or she may deem unworthy of exhibition.

6. A Superintendent has the right to divide or combine classes.

7. The Superintendent shall, under no circumstances, allow the Judges' Books to go from their possession, or to be inspected by anyone except authorized personnel, until entries of the Judges' decisions have been made and recorded, the records audited, and closed.

JUDGES AND JUDGING

1. The Judges shall read carefully the general rules and all special rules under the heading of the department or class in which they are to serve; and especially note and mark those rules bearing on the classes to be adjudicated by them. Ignorance of rules is inexcusable with a Judge.

2. Judges must not award prizes to an unworthy exhibit. It is the intention of the management that no premium or distinction of any kind shall be given to any article that is not deserving. This rule must be strictly adhered to whether or not there is competition.

3. Judges shall report to the Superintendent any exhibitors who, in any way, whether in person or by agents or servants, interferes with them and show any disrespect to them during the judging. The Superintendent may, at his or her discretion, demand a proper apology from such exhibitor, or exclude him from further competition. The Fair may withhold from such exhibitor any or all premiums that have been awarded and expel him from further exhibiting at the Fair.

4. The Judges and persons acting as Clerks to the Judges must use special care, after an award has been made, to see that the same is properly entered in the award book, for it is upon this entry that the payment of premiums is made.

5. The Judge, Superintendent, and Clerk recording the awards of the department must sign the award book at the close of each class, immediately after all awards in said class have been made.

6. No person who is an exhibitor can act as Judge, Superintendent, or Clerk in a class in which he or she is showing.

7. If there is any question as to the regularity of an entry, or the right of an article to compete in any lot, the Judge(s) shall report the same immediately to the Superintendent in charge of that department.

8. A faithful observance of all rules governing the exhibit will be required; and when in doubt as to the application or meaning of a rule, the Superintendent in charge shall construe the same. This opinion, when required by either exhibitor or Judge, must be reduced to writing and returned to the Fair Office with the Judges' Books.

9. The decision of the Judges shall be final in all cases, except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, not discovered at the time of award, is apparent. In such cases, the Judge may make a decision or, with his approval, the matter may be referred to the Fair, from whose decision there can be no appeal.

10. Judging will be on the American System. Exhibitors will compete for first, second, and third place in each lot where they are exhibiting. Premiums will be paid for on only one first, one second, and one third place in each lot. This does not necessarily mean that there must be a first, second and third, etc., award made if item or article is deemed unworthy.

11. Judges are urged to consider that exhibits, in general, are exhibited by amateurs; and, if their work shows promise in any way, this should be considered in giving that exhibit an award of some kind to encourage the exhibitor to participate again next year, and to strive for better workmanship and higher award.

12. If competition does not justify the prizes for any lot, the Judge(s) have the right to omit such prizes.

PROTEST AND APPEALS

1. All protests from a decision of a Judge must be made to the Fair and filed within thirty-six (36) hours after the award has been made, it being considered that an award is made when the notation of the Judge is entered in the department's Judges' Book.

2. All protests must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a deposit of $40 which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. This deposit is to cover administrative costs in handling the protest. Protest must state plainly cause of complaint or appeal, with specific charges and recital of the facts relied upon on the rule violated, naming witnesses and their addresses to whom proof is to be made.

3. The right of an exhibitor to appeal the decision of a Judge to the Fair will be only when it is charged that the award has been made in violation of the rules governing the exhibit; or when it is charged that the decision of the Judge has been influenced or interfered with by another.

4. No protest or appeal based upon the statement that the Judge(s) are incompetent or have overlooked an article will be considered by the Fair.

5. All questions in dispute or differences not covered by these rules shall be referred to the Fair whose decision shall be final.

Special Rules Building Exhibits

Official Entry Forms Official entry forms can be submitted by mail, email, by internet (online entry) or in person. Entry forms must be filled out completely including accurate mailing address, telephone number, birth date, and signature. Mailed entry forms must be postmarked by Sunday, March 8, 2026. Mail entry forms to Pinal County Fair, Attn: Competitive Exhibits, 512 S. Eleven Mile Corner Road, Casa Grande, AZ 85194. Do not mail entry form to department superintendents. Make checks payable to CAFA (Central Arizona Fair Association)

Entry forms may be emailed to misti@pinalfairgrounds.com by Sunday, March 8, 2026. All supporting documents and fee payments must be received within five (5) days of submitting your entry form. Entries will not be considered accepted until all supporting documents and payment has been received.

Make checks payable to CAFA (Central Arizona Fair Association). Exhibits may be entered online at www.pinalfairgrounds.com. Online entries will be accepted thru Sunday, March 8, 2026. All supporting documents and fee payments must be received within five (5) days of submitting your entry form. Entries will not be considered accepted until all supporting documents and payment has been received. Make checks payable to CAFA (Central Arizona Fair Association). All exhibitors will be required to make advance registration. We will be unable to take registrations at time of entry. Be sure to list all divisions and classes you expect to enter on your official entry form. Entries will close early if capacity has been reached. Entry forms must contain all information in accordance with the instructions thereon.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS Identification tags (claim checks) will not be mailed to the exhibitor. Upon receiving the entry form, tags will be prepared and held in exhibitor's name in the department entered. On Receiving Day, the exhibitor can pick up the tags in the respective departments. Tags will be attached by the Building Superintendent.

RELEASING DATE Exhibits will be released upon presentation of claim check stubs to the Department Superintendent between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026. Exhibits not picked up within thirty (30) days will be disposed of.

EXHIBITOR PASSES Each exhibitor will receive one (1) complimentary, one-day pass to the fair. For those exhibitors who expect to attend the Fair every day, we will have exhibitor passes available for purchase through the Fair Office. Exhibitor passes will be sold for $25.00 for weeklong passes for ages 6 and above. Children aged 5 and under are free. These passes will be attached to the entry form and will be good for the duration of the Fair. Fees for passes must accompany the entry form and the appropriate place must be marked. These passes WILL NOT BE SOLD at the gate or Fair Office during the Fair. Passes will only be issued through the entry form purchase and issued from your superintendent, on receiving day, or purchased at the Fair Office until TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026.

CONDITIONS Only residents of Pinal County and adjoining counties are eligible to enter these departments. Regular winter visitors of Pinal County may also exhibit. The number of entries to be made by one person for competition shall not be limited; however, two or more persons from the same family cannot exhibit the same article in the same lot. Premium money will be paid only on two entries per lot. The Fair reserves the right to limit the number of entries made by an exhibitor. This will be done on a first come, first accepted basis. Any return of entries under this rule will be done generally and without discrimination. In all cases the management reserves the right to reject entirely or accept conditionally an application or entry. Exhibitor is responsible for selecting proper division and class. Entries improperly classified will not be judged. Any exhibit found offensive in any way will not be displayed or judged.

LOSS OR DAMAGE

The Fair will not be responsible for loss or damage; however, all possible precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of items entered. Insurance, if desired, must be arranged by the exhibitor. EXHIBITORS No exhibit will be accepted unless there is a class and lot covering it as listed in the Fair Book. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Superintendents will make all assignments for space with the exhibits. Every exhibit will be in the charge of the Superintendent who will arrange all exhibits in these departments. EXHIBITORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING THEIR EXHIBITS READY TO BE IDENTIFIED AND TAGGED WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE EXHIBIT BUILDING ON RECEIVING DAY!

JUDGING

Judging will be done prior to the opening of the Fair. Judging will not be open to the public or exhibitors. Information on winners will not be given out until the Fair opens. It shall be at the sole discretion of the Judge(s) whether the exhibits are awarded first, second, or third place ribbons and corresponding premium money. If any entries are judged not worthy of a premium, the Judge(s) are instructed not make an award. Exhibitors shall not be permitted in the immediate vicinity of the judging area during judging. The decision of the Judge(s) shall in all cases be final. No exhibitor or person will be allowed, under any circumstances, to interfere with the Judge(s) during their adjudications, or to offer any criticism of an entry or another exhibitor. Any exhibitor who shall attempt to criticize or interfere with them in any such manner, whether verbally or otherwise, shall be excluded immediately from competition. If it is ascertained that any exhibitor has, in an unsportsmanlike and public manner, taken exception to the findings of the Judge(s), the Superintendent may exclude said exhibitor or person from competing for premium or exhibiting on the fairgrounds.

PREMIUM AWARDS

Premiums are as follows, unless otherwise designated:

1st Place $3.00
2nd Place $2.00
3rd Place $1.00

Premiums are paid only from the records of the Judges' Books. Premium ribbons, tags, or cards have no value as to payment. Judge(s) may award a "Best of Class" rosette to outstanding entries. SEE DEPARTMENT ENTERED FOR ANY SPECIAL RULES PERTAINING ONLY TO THAT INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENT.

Exhibit Building Volunteer Needed!

Exhibit Building Guards are needed during the week of the Fair. A three-hour shift gets you a FREE ALL-DAY ENTRANCE PASS into the Fair. Volunteer Building Guards job description: Maintain order in the exhibit area and protect items from damage or theft. A sign-up sheet will be available at receiving of building exhibits.

Department C

Fine Arts

SUPERINTENDENT:
MaryEllen Simmons - 480-748-9108 - marysim@msn.com

Entry fee: $1.00 per item

Receiving Date:
Friday, March 13, 2026, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

JUDGING: All works will be juried by competent, noncompeting artists, or qualified experts selected by the Pinal County Fair Fine Arts Department. Artists whose works are not accepted will be notified by phone and may arrange art pick up at that time. Decisions of the judges are final.

AWARDS:

1. First place through fifth place will receive ribbons.
2. Honorable mentions will receive ribbons.
3. Best of Show and The People's Choice Award will receive a Rosette.
4. The People's Choice Award - selected by fairgoers - will be announced the final day of fair.
5. Premiums will be mailed to the address on the entry form, after the Fair.

Premiums: First place $3.00 Second Place $2.00 Third Place $1.00
A maximum of two (2) premiums per exhibitor per class will be paid

FINE ART EXHIBITORS ELIGIBILITY:
Exhibitor must be a Pinal County/seasonal resident 18 years and older. (Exhibitors under 18 may enter in the Youth & School Arts Department).

Read instructions carefully:

1. **All work must be original, entered by the artist, and created within the last 5 years. Art must not have been exhibited at any previous Pinal County Fair Fine Art Exhibit.** No Kits or commercial patterned work used or copied. Computer generated, photographic prints, copies and color copies are not accepted. Exceptions to this would be the AI Software-Generated Artwork Division.
2. Eligibility: Age 18 and older, Pinal County Resident (including seasonal)
3. Label each work (including unattached base or stand if applicable) with name, phone #, email address, title of work, & medium.
4. 2D Maximum size: 54" in either dimension, including frame.
5. 2D art must be under glass or Plexiglas with mat and frame. Wire firmly to frame for hanging. No saw tooth hangers.
6. Painting must be framed or use gallery wrap around canvas. Wire firmly to frame for hanging. No saw tooth hangers.
7. Poorly presented, incomplete, broken and extremely fragile entries will not be accepted. No mobiles.
8. Nude, obscene or violent entries will not be accepted. Management and judges reserve the right to remove entries which are considered obscene or harmful to minors as defined in the Arizona Criminal Code.
9. A class must have a minimum of 5 entries for judging. Classes with less than 5 entries may be combined with another class for judging. This is a juried art show; some items entered may not be accepted into the show. Decisions of the judges are final.
10. All accepted artwork will be exhibited and may not be removed until art release day at the end of the fair.
11. Exhibitors are allowed to enter unlimited number of entries per class as long as each is paid with a $1 entry fee prior to deadline day.

12. Items may be marked for sale on entry form. Prices are not negotiable. The fair will handle the sale and deduct 10%. Money for sold items will be mailed in a separate check from fair premiums within 30 days of the closing of fair.

*** The Fine Arts Department and the Pinal County Fair are *not* responsible for entries remaining after MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026, 3:00 pm.**

DEMONSTRATIONS: Attach a separate note to your entry form or email Superintendent. Indicate the type of medium you would like to demonstrate. Please include preferred date and time, and the amount of space needed. Contact Entry Supervisor for more information and scheduling.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME: We welcome any help with greeting the public, answering questions.

SHOW SITTING: The Fine Arts Show is monitored by the Fine Arts Department Superintendent and volunteers daily.

DIVISION 2600: DRAWING
Indicate size and title of entry.

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Black & White: Charcoal, Pencil, etc.
101	Pen & Ink: Black & White or Color
102	Color Pencil
103	Pastels
104	Other; please denote medium

DIVISION 2601: JEWELRY
Indicate size and title of entry.

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Open: bead, Carved, Cast, other

DIVISION 2602: PAINTING
Indicate size and title of entry.

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Acrylics
101	Oils
102	Watercolor
103	Porcelain Painting
104	Other: Please denote medium

DIVISION 2603: POTTERY AND CERAMICS

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Clay Pottery
101	Ceramics

DIVISION 2604: PRINTMAKING
Indicate size and title of entry

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Printmaking: Hand-pulled by artist; monoprints, linocut, etching, woodcut, linoleum, lithographs, silkscreen. Original art only; no commercial prints, color copies, photography prints or computer generated prints.

DIVISION 2605: SCULPTURE
Indicate size and title of entry

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Sculpture: Free-Standing
101	Sculpture: Relief or Wall Hanging
102	"Green": Creative use of found materials
103	Mixed Media: Combine 2 or more mediums

DIVISION 2606: FAIR THEME
Indicate size and title of entry

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Any Medium: Artistic interpretation of Fair Theme -

DIVISION 2607: MISCELLANEOUS
Indicate size and title of entry

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Graphic Art/Illustration: Fashion illustration, Anime, cartooning, poster, etc.
101	Open: All other techniques not listed above; Please denote medium

DIVISION 2608: THEATER ART
Oversize pieces may be accepted in this division; please denote size, materials and description

CLASS	DESCRIPTION		
100	Scenic Painting - Backdrops	102	Props Design
101	Set Design Elements	103	Costume Design
		104	Puppets

DIVISION 2609: Person(s) with Disabilities $1 entry fee
Oversize pieces may be accepted in this division; please denote size, materials and description

CLASS	DESCRIPTION		
100	Drawing	103	Pottery & Ceramics
101	Jewelry	104	Printmaking
102	Painting	105	Sculpture
		106	Fair Theme

New Division in 2025

DIVISION 2610: Artificial Intelligence Software-Generated Artwork
Indicate size and title of entry

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
100	Abstract AI Art: Artwork generated by AI that focuses on abstract forms and patterns.
101	Portrait AI Art: AI-generated portraits of people, animals, or fictional characters.
102	Landscape AI Art: AI-created depictions of natural or urban landscapes.
103	Conceptual AI Art: Art that explores concepts, ideas, or narratives through AI generation.
104	Mixed Media AI Art: Artwork that combines AI-generated elements with traditional media (e.g., painting, sculpture).