

Miniscape Competition

The Miniscape Competition is open to Individuals or teams of exhibitors who will come to Austin County Fairgrounds on Sunday, October 3, 2021 between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to create their competition entry. Check in and installation must be complete by 1:30 p.m. Entries are limited to the first 20 entry forms received via online entry. **Entries will close at 20 exhibitors or no later than September 1, 2021.** Teams are comprised of two exhibitors. Entry fees will be \$20 per individual or \$40 per team. Entry fees are non-refundable. Please see the ACF website for any updates or additional details at austincountyfair/menu/horticulture/miniscapes.

Competition Format: Each individual/team will compete in a design and execution of a miniscape, based on the theme to be released on the ACF website prior to entries opening online. Exhibitors must be 8 years old but not older than 19 years old.

Design Guidelines: Exhibitors should review the guidelines prior to preparing their entry. Questions may be directed to the Horticulture Committee at ACFHorticulture@gmail.com.

- Entries will be constructed in a planter that is approximately 24" deep.
- The planter will be provided by the Fair.
- Each planter will be pre-filled with approximately 20" of dirt.
- Plant materials should be able to withstand sunny, warm conditions.
- Planters will be displayed outside for 14 days.
- No living creatures may be used in the design.
- Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- Entries may not display signage that names the team's school, school district or FFA/4-H chapter. A sign will be provided upon completion of judging for display on the grounds.
- Exhibitors are responsible for bringing wagons, carts, wheelbarrows, etc. to transport their materials from the parking lot to the exhibit area.

Day of Competition: Check in for Miniscapes will be on the grounds of Austin County Fair on Sunday October 3, 2021 starting at 10 a.m. Check in, preparation, and construction must be complete by 1:30 p.m.

- Exhibitors will be met at the by the Horticulture Committee volunteers; the volunteers will assist with check in, direct the exhibitors to the exhibit area.
- Parents and adult leaders may assist with moving in supplies and planter materials to the competition area but must vacate the area once the competition begins.
- Carts/wagons are recommended for transporting materials from a vehicle to the competition area.
- The planting and design of the planter must be performed by the exhibitors ONLY.
- No cell phones, iPads, Watches, or any other type of communication device is allowed in the competition area.
- Paper sketches of design are allowed in the competition area.
- The exhibitor is responsible for providing the plants and any props to be used in the planter.
- The exhibitor is responsible for bringing all tools needed to prepare their planter.
- Entries will be watered and maintained by the Horticulture committee. Exhibitors will not have access to water on the day of installation.
- The Show is not responsible for lost, damaged or dead items. Small items, accessories, etc. should be securely fastened to their container. Items of great sentimental value should not

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be used.

Judging: The fair will select qualified judges for each competitive event. Any questions about the judging criteria may be directed to the Horticulture Committee.

- Entries will be judged on a 100-point system:
 - Up to 50 points may be awarded for design.
 - Up to 30 points may be awarded for variety of plants used.
 - Up to 20 points may be awarded for staging and quality.
- Winning entries will be announced on October 3, 2021, and winning exhibitors will be recognized.
- Judges decisions are final.

Awards: Buckles will be awarded to the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion winners. Placement ribbons will be given to those placing third thru tenth.

Removal: Exhibitors may remove their plants on Sunday, October 17th from noon to 3 pm. Any plants left after 3 pm will become the property of Austin County Fair. Containers will be moved to their storage location.