

FLORAL DESIGN CONTESTS

Petal Partners

The Floral Design Competition is open to two age divisions Juniors (3-8 grade) and Seniors (9-12 grade). The format allows single entry or teams of 2 exhibitors each to compete on Thursday, October 1, 2026. A maximum of 22 Teams/Single Exhibitors. **Entries will be accepted online with payment on the Austin County Fair website.** This will be considered an Austin County Fair project. Questions may be emailed directly to austinfofloraldesign@gmail.com. **Entry fees are nonrefundable and non-transferable.**

Please check online for Theme, updated information on schedule, rules, entry date deadline and fee!! Join the ACF Floral Design Facebook page!

Competition Format: Each individual/team will compete in the design and execution of a fresh floral arrangement centerpiece and table design, which may include but is not limited to such items as dishes, napkins, additional table coverings, etc. Exhibitors must be in the same age category.

Design Guidelines: Each individual/team should review the design guidelines prior to the Floral Design competition. Exhibitors will have one hour to execute their design.

- **All elements of the entry should reflect or enhance the contest theme. This year's theme will be announced on the Austin County Fair website. Please go to <https://austincountyfair.com/floral-design> for the theme for this year's contest.**
- Entries are arrangements of fresh floral cut materials and design elements that fit the theme and your design concept.
- All cut materials and table design elements will be provided by the Exhibitor.
- Each exhibitor will be furnished with a workstation, table and tablecloth.
- Entries will be displayed on a 36" round table with a black table covering. The exhibitor is responsible for positioning all elements of their design on the table. Exhibitors are required to use the table covering provided by the Fair.

- Entry should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- Each exhibitor must bring their own tools and flowers. Tools/ Flowers cannot be shared by exhibitors/teams.
- **No Advance Preparation.** Foam will be soaked during orientation. No Painting of florals prior to arrival, this must be done during the competition.
- Fresh flowers only. Small dry accents can be used (ex. wheat, lotus pods, and cotton)
- Exhibitors are required to bring two (2) copies of their Record book in a folder day of competition. This form can be found online on the floral design page on the ACF website.

Permissible tools include:

Floral Glue(s)	Scissors
Wire cutters	Knife
Floral Tape(s)	Measuring stick
Floral cutters	Wrapped Wires
Wired Wood Picks	Floral Wire

JUDGING: The show will select qualified judges for each competitive event. Any questions about the judging criteria may be directed to a committee member.

Judging will be based on the following seven categories:

- Design Aesthetics – Line/Form, Color, and Space
- Design Principles – Balance, Proportion, and Unity
- Mechanics – Creative Engineering of Mechanics Proper Coverage of Foam, and Sturdiness of Design
- Execution – Neatness and Cleanliness of overall Design,
- Creativity – Uniqueness of Design, Use of Theme
- Teamwork
- Record Book

Only judges and Committee members will be allowed inside the competition area while judging is in progress.

No cell phones, watches, ear buds or any type of communication devices are permitted during the competition. Any exhibitor found communicating with anyone outside of the competition could result in immediate disqualification.

Talking or gestures from outside the barrier will not be tolerated and result in immediate disqualification.

Judges' decisions are final.

Winning entries will be announced on Thursday, October 1, 2026, after the competition is complete.

Petal Partner entries will NOT be included in the Youth Supreme & Country Auction.

Additional Opportunity: Any Petal Partner pieces placing 3rd on may be entered into the Junior, Senior or Open Flower Show. Entry cards are available at the Expo Center on the day of entry. There is a power point online under Home Economics to help explain the entry procedure. There is a charge per entry. Team pieces will be entered by a designated exhibitor. Exhibitors are encouraged to exhibit in the Youth 4H/FFA/FCCLA/TAFE/Open Flower Show using any additional product they may have left over Exhibits must not exceed 30" W x 30" D. These arrangements will NOT be eligible for the Youth Supreme and Country Auction sale.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

Senior Division Grand Champion – Buckle
Senior Division Reserve Champion – Buckle
Junior Division Grand Champion – Buckle
Junior Division Reserve Champion – Buckle
Placing Ribbons – 3rd thru 10th

Grand and Reserve Entries must remain on display until Sunday, October 11, 2026. Grand and Reserve winners will be asked to freshen their arrangements on Friday morning before the Youth Auction Sale.

Entries must be picked-up by 2:00pm on Sunday, October 11, 2026. The Ausitn County Fair is NOT RESPONSIBLE for any items left after this time.