

Fair Cup Competition

The Fair Cup competition is an individual exhibitor competition to be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026. A maximum of 70 Exhibitors per age division, Juniors (3rd – 8th) and Seniors (9th – 12th) may participate in the Fair Cup Competition. **Entries will be accepted online with payment on the Austin County Fair website. Entry fees are nonrefundable and are non-transferable.** This will be considered an Austin County Fair project. Questions may be emailed directly to austincofloraldesign@gmail.com.

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

Competition Format: Each exhibitor will compete in the design and execution of a floral arrangement.

Design Guidelines: Each exhibitor should review the design guidelines prior to the competition. Exhibitors will also have an opportunity to ask questions at the mandatory pre-event meeting.

- Exhibitors will have one hour to plan and execute their design.
- All materials will be provided by the Fair.
- Exhibitors MUST utilize items provided. Each exhibitor will be furnished with materials, including fresh flowers, foliage, container, and decorative elements. The flowers, foliage, and supplies will be the same for each exhibitor.
- Each exhibitor will receive the same type of decorative elements, but the design of each element can be different amongst exhibitors. The exhibitor is responsible for determining which materials they will use in the design of their entry.
- Entries will be displayed on eight-foot tables with a black table covering. The exhibitor is responsible for positioning all elements of their design in the required location on the table. No outside adornments are allowed.
- All elements of the entry should reflect or enhance the theme. Each exhibitor's design will be a sole effort with no assistance from anyone in any manner.

- **No cell phones, watches or other communication devices are allowed in the competition area during the competition.**
- **Any communication with another person outside the barrier will not be tolerated and may result in immediate disqualification from competition.**
- Entry should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- No paints, ribbons, or decorative accessories of any kind may be supplied by the exhibitor. Only the materials supplied by the fair will be allowed.
- Each exhibitor must bring their own tools. Tools cannot be shared by exhibitors.

Permissible tools include:

Floral Glue(s)

Knife

Floral cutters

Scissors

Wired Wood

Wire cutters

Measuring stick

Wrapped Wires

Floal Tape(s)

Picks Floral Wire

- Participants in the Fair Cup competition must check in on and attend the mandatory meeting held prior to the competition; competition will begin immediately after the meeting.
- Judging will begin during the competition as well as immediately after all exhibitors have completed their design and will be based on the following four categories:
 - o Design Aesthetics, Line/Form, Color, and Space.
 - o Design Principles – Balance, Proportion, and Unity.
 - o Mechanics/Execution – Neatness and cleanliness of design, proper coverage of foam and sturdiness of design.
 - o Creativity – inspiration with theme and container as well as usage of materials.

- Each exhibitor may receive a copy of their score sheet following the competition.
- Only Judges and Committee members, will be allowed inside the competition area while judging is in process.
- **Judges' decisions are final.**
- Buckles will be awarded to the Grand and Reserve Champion exhibitors. Placement ribbons will be awarded for places 3rd-10th immediately following the conclusion of judging.
- The Top Ten will be awarded ribbons and will stay on display the week of the fair, space permitting.

SUPREME FAIR CUP

Exhibitors placing Grand Champion will have the option to create a silk arrangement to enter into the Youth Supreme & Country Auction to be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

The Floral Design Committee will provide all of the materials for this entry. The committee will coordinate with the exhibitor to complete the entry and have it on display the week of the fair in the Youth Supreme designated area.

Supreme Champions will receive the auction price minus the reserve to cover the materials and the administrative fee from the fair. See the Youth Supreme & Country Auction section of this book for a full set of rules pertaining to the auction.

Buyers will pick up their purchase at the conclusion of the auction.