



FLORIDA GOURD SOCIETY FESTIVAL 2026 YOUTH DIVISION COMPETITION PACKET



2026 THEME: GOURD VIBES

February 20-22, 2026

Azan Shriners Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne

Entry Instructions, Check-In & Pick Up Details

ENTRY: The preferred method for entering the Gourd Festival is to **MAIL** entry forms.

Mailed entry forms must be postmarked by February 13, 2026.

Mail a two-page entry form to: **Johny Blunt. P.O. Box 521524, Longwood, FL 32752-1524**

CHECK-IN Friday, February 20, 2026

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS welcome to help set up the competition area on Thursday, February 19th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. They may also enter their gourds then.

MAILED-IN ENTRY FORMS- 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Bring entries with completed tags.

WALK-IN ENTRY FORMS- NOON – 4:30 pm. Teacher, Show Chairman, or students may bring the two-page entry form and entries with completed tags.

PICK-UP TIME

When the Festival ends at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 20th at 3:00 PM.

All entries must be picked up.

Youth Division Rules

1. No Entry Fees for Youth Competition.
2. The youth division is open to youth age 3-19 years old.
3. Entries will be placed into one of three levels, based on artistic ability. See Judging Criteria section for more information.
4. Artistry- The gourd must dominate. Entry must be 50% gourd. Entry can be any design. Copyright designs not permitted. Any medium or technique may be used. May use ANY paint medium. May use ANY material.
5. Maximum of 4 entries, one gourd per category.
6. Gourd must have an entry tag attached to it. Youth may choose to sell their gourd entry by indicating on their tag.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be placed into one of three levels, based on artistic ability, not by age. Gourd placement will be determined by the Registrar.

LEVEL 1- The joy of making marks and scribbling with the use of unique and creative materials in non-pre-planned ways. Also, the joy of physical connections including preplanned use of circles and lines to represent the environment around the student.

LEVEL 2- The joy of communication including art with defined order and demonstration of some knowledge of proper environmental placement. Also, the joy of spatial relationships and being able to critique their own work, demonstrating a little more realism in it.

LEVEL 3- The joy of realism and self-critiquing that accelerates a student into finding their niche through exploration of multiple techniques across 2- Dimensions and/or 3-Dimensions. Also, the joy of finding success withing their chosen niche and the ability to express complex feelings, emotions, and environmental specifications in more skilled ways.

Youth Division Awards

Each level will award the following:

- First Place- Ribbon, Certificate
- Second Place- Ribbon, Certificate
- Third Place- Ribbon, Certificate
- All others- Participation Ribbon

Additional Awards:

- Best of Youth Division- Ribbon, Certificate & \$25.00
- People's Choice for Entire Youth Division- Ribbon



YOUTH DIVISION ENTRY FORM

Office Use:

Youth Name: _____

Crafter # _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ Age _____

Youth Level: _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Phone _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SCHOOL: _____ If entering with a school please complete:

Teacher/or Advisor Contact Name: _____ phone _____

Teacher/or Advisor email: _____

Permission for Media Release:

____ **YES**, I give my permission for the Florida Gourd Society to use **photos of the youth's gourds** for publicity in the American Gourd Society magazine, The GOURDVINE newsletter, and advertising for future festivals. **It is a requirement to enter this show.**

____ **YES**, I give my permission for the Florida Gourd Society to use **photos of the above-named youth participant** for publicity in the American Gourd Society magazine, The GOURDVINE newsletter, and/or advertising for future festivals.

____ **NO**, I do not give my permission for the Florida Gourd Society to use **photos of the above-named youth entrant**.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____



YOUTH DIVISION ENTRY FORM

YOUTH NAME: _____

Total number of gourds entered _____

Maximum of 4 entries, one gourd per category.

Office Use:

Crafter # _____

Youth Level: _____

Division III Categories:

- a. _____ Dried Gourd – smallest
- b. _____ Painted Gourd
- c. _____ Combination of techniques
- d. _____ Festival theme

