



PHOTOGRAPHY

Department 126— JR Open Show

Amount Offered: \$480.00

Entry Fee: \$1.00 per entry (2 entries per Class maximum)

\$1.00 per entry 250th USA Anniversary Peoples' Choice
(1 entry per class maximum)

Challenge: \$1.25 per entry (2 entries per Class maximum)

Late Registration Fee : \$25.00 per entry (Approval REQUIRED)

Judging Time: Wednesday, August 5th, 2026, at 2:30 pm

Location: Building E

Superintendent: Miki Myshkowec(847)417-9875

Email address.....mmyshkowec@gmail.com

Rules and Regulations

NEW THIS YEAR: Curfew Enforced – Quiet time and curfew is 12:00am midnight – 5:00am.

All exhibits are closed. This includes grandstands, midway, barns and campgrounds. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult during these times.

1. Entries must be filed with the fair office by 2:00 pm on July 19, 2026, or by midnight online. **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU REGISTER ONLINE!**
2. All exhibitors are required to purchase a weeklong exhibitor pass.
3. Home Arts General Rules apply.
4. Bring entries to **Building E** on **Sunday August 2nd, 2026**, between **12:00 pm and 7:00 pm**. Exhibitor's tags must be paper clipped to the upper right-hand corner of mounting. Exhibitor's name must NOT appear on exhibit front. Exhibitor tags will be given out when you drop off your photographs.
5. Photography exhibits will be released on the **SUNDAY of fair week between 7 pm and 8 pm OR MONDAY AFTER FAIR (AUGUST 10th) from 10 am-1 pm, exhibits may not be removed before that time.**
 - a. Ribbons and exhibits and photography premium checks will be available for pick up at these time slots only.
 - b. **Removal of photos is the responsibility of the exhibitor/exhibitor's designated adult. The fair board and superintendent are not responsible for exhibits damaged or lost by the exhibitor.**
 - c. **All Exhibitors MUST bring their claim checks or an ID to check out and sign out their checks and ribbons.**
 - d. Any exhibits that remain unclaimed after 4pm on the Friday following the Fair will be donated or discarded.
6. All photographs must be entered by amateurs and entered under the name of the person who took them. Professional photographers are NOT eligible to enter. For this exhibit, if one of the following apply you are considered professional: (1) Those who maintain a public studio, (2) Sells their work and/or advertises for business, (3) Derive more than 50% of their income from photography, (4) Have won two or more Best of Show (or similar) awards in a photography contest.
7. **Challenge Division:** there is Open category, open to all levels of photographers. Please review your status as a photographer. If you are starting to sell your work and/or advertise yourself as a photographer or taking photographs (employed by and paid) for a photography studio, then please enter in our Challenge Categories. It is not our intention to exclude anyone from entering their work, but we want to make sure the competition is fair to all.
8. Photographs are NOT to be altered by computers or any art media unless otherwise specified. Accepted forms: UV filter, polarized filter, soft filter, adding contrast color corrections, and cropping. No color saturation and no HD may be used. Photoshop or similar programs are allowed for the Challenge Division
9. Finished prints MAY BE printed from a home computer or a photo lab (i.e. Wal-Mart, Walgreen's, Shutterfly). If printed at home. Matte finish is preferred over glossy due to glare.
10. Photographs may be taken with any type of camera: Digital, 35 mm, point and shoot, phone.

11. Please check carefully when putting prints in OTHER category. Prints entered in “other” MUST NOT qualify for any other Division listed, or they may be disqualified.

12. Each print may ONLY appear in one Class (**photo may not appear in Home Arts Department**) and must not have been previously entered in the McHenry County Fair. Superintendents reserve the right and will disqualify ANY “suspicious” prints without any exception or discussion. NOTE: this includes images which have been changed slightly, cropped differently or is similar in concept.

13. Superintendents reserve the right and will disqualify prints that do not qualify for a specific category and/or photographs in bad taste; (i.e. nudes or suggestive photographs).

14. COLOR PRINTS ONLY:

- a. Finished prints are to be on 5”x7” ONLY with no white edges. They are to be mounted on a 7” X 9” WHITE POSTER BOARD ONLY (NO MAT BOARD IS ALLOWED). This will leave a 1” border on all 4 sides. This will allow the print to be mounted properly using staples.
- b. Scotch wrinkle free stick, liquid glue adhesive works well or Scotch PERMANENT double-sided arts and craft tape work well. DO NOT use Elmers school glue sticks.
- c. No other mounting materials or frames are allowed for JR Open. (**EXCEPTION 2026 ONLY ** 250th USA Anniversary People’s Choice see instructions in category)
- d. Junior Challenge – Full Frame: 8X10 print, MUST fit on a 9” X 12” poster board.
- e. No photo corners are allowed.
- f. A matte finish is preferred over glossy due to the glare.
- g. **No captions & NO printing on photographs in all Junior Divisions.**
- h. **Please remove any dates on front of photos.**

15. **Little Photo Bugs:** This Division is for anyone **7 years and younger**. There is no charge to enter HOWEVER you still need to register before July 19th, 2026. All entrants will receive a participation ribbon. Prints are to be a 4” X 6” or 5” X 7” mounted on a 7” X 9” WHITE POSTER BOARD.

16. NOTES ON JUDGING:

- a. This department has “open judging.” Exhibitors may watch the process; however, exhibitors may NOT disturb the process or speak to the Judge(s) or the Superintendent(s) during this time. Any infraction of this rule will disqualify ALL photography exhibits entered by the exhibitor.
- b. Judges’ decisions are final. In the event of indecision between Judges, the Superintendents reserve the rights to step in as an additional Judge for a final decision.
- c. Entries will be judged solely in competition and in comparison, with each other.
- e. Photographs will be judged with emphasis on clean presentation and adherence to specific rules for cropping, mounting, and editing, as judges look for a strong, well-executed image that tells a story.
- f. If the photo has obvious edits or filters, is excessively grainy or blurry, does not fit the category, or does not follow printing and mounting rules set forth, it will not place.

17. Superintendents reserve the right to disqualify any exhibits that do not abide by any of the Photography Rules and Regulations.

18. Exhibitors are encouraged to contact Superintendent(s) with any questions or to define categories if needed.

Color Print Premiums First-\$4; Second-\$3; Third-\$2; Fourth-ribbon

Color Print Premiums First-\$4; Second-\$3; Third-\$2; Fourth-ribbon

250th Anniversary of USA People’s Choice Premiums First-\$4; Second-\$3; Third-\$2; Fourth-ribbon

Challenge Division Premiums First-\$7; Second-\$5; Third-ribbon; Fourth-ribbon

Little Photo Bugs: Participations Ribbon (only) to all entered

Best of Show: (One per Division. Each first place within a Division will compete for this award): Rosette

Division		
A Ages 8-11 color prints	01 2026 Fair Theme: Stars, Stripes & Country Nights 02 A Walk in the Woods 03 Sunrise/Sunset (must have object in photo) 04 Dog(s) 05 Cats(s) 06 Other Animals (NO Dogs or Cats) 07 Worms Eye View (photos taken low as if from POV of a worm/ant) 08 Trees/Plants (NO Flowers)	09 Insects 10 Vacation 11 Floral 12 Scenic 13 Shadows 14 People 15 Seasons 16 Weather (clouds, rain, rainbows etc..) 17 Other (does not fit in any other class)
B Ages 12-15 color prints	01 2026 Fair Theme: Stars, Stripes & Country Nights 02 Sunrise/Sunset (must have object in photo) 03 Farm scenes 04 Horse(s) 05 Dog(s) 06 Cat(s) 07 Scenic 08 Food	09 Animals (NO Dogs, Cats or Horses) 10 A Walk in the Woods 11 Floral 12 Architecture (buildings, windows, doors, etc....) 13 People 14 Sports 15 Weather (clouds, rain, rainbows, etc....) 16 Reflections 17 Other (does not fit in any other class)
C Ages 16-21 color prints	01 2026 Fair Theme: Stars, Stripes & Country Nights 02 Cat(s) 03 Farm scenes/farm animals 04 Dog(s) 05 Horse(s) 06 Transportation (planes, trains, autos, etc....) 07 Landscapes 08 Water	09 Golden Hour Light 10 Travel 11 Architecture (buildings, windows, doors, etc....) 12 Reflections 13 Shadows 14 Digitally Manipulated (MUST be digitally manipulated to create Art - 3X5 of Original must be attached ON BACK with explanation of changes) 15 Black and white – any subject 16 Flowers 17 Other (does not fit in any other class)

Jr Challenge	
D Junior Challenge: color prints Ages 8-21	1 FULL FRAME – any subject. One subject matter filling the FULL frame Print must be 8X10 and matted onto 10" x 12" poster board. Photoshop or similar programs can be used.
Little Bugs	
E Little Photo Bugs - 7 and under	1 Your favorite shot (any subject.) Color prints are to be a 4" X 6" or 5" X 7" mounted on a 7" X 9" WHITE POSTER BOARD.
Jr (8-21) People's Choice 250th Anniversary Celebration of the USA	
F. 250th USA Anniversary - People's Choice	<p>This photo should honor and represent the 250th anniversary United States of America.</p> <p>Winner photos will be determined by votes taken from the patrons of the fair from Tuesday through Sunday at Noon. Superintendent count of votes in final.</p> <p>Rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All general Photography rules above apply EXCEPT Rule #7 (Challenge division rules) & #14 (mounting instructions.) 2) Only ONE submission per person 3) Mounting & Printing Instructions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Print MUST be NO LARGER than 5x7 b. Color OR Black & White allowed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. Finished prints MAY BE printed from a home computer or a photo lab (i.e. Wal-Mart, Walgreen's, Shutterfly.) d. MUST be framed in plain black frame NO LARGER than 5x7 e. MUST be a wire on back of frame to hang