



## 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 250<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>) 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 \*\* 250<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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

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**250<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

# Photography Open Junior Show Entry Form

*Use a separate form for each show.*

- Register online at [www.mchenrycountyfair.com](http://www.mchenrycountyfair.com) or in the office at 11900 Country Club Road, Woodstock, IL 60098 on Monday & Tuesday from 9 am – 2 pm. Additional in person registration dates: Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2-7pm and July 19<sup>th</sup> 11 am-2pm ONLY.
- Entries must be filed with the fair office by July 19, 2026, **INCLUDING** online entries. **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU REGISTER ONLINE!**
- Entries will NOT be taken by phone, fax, or email. NO REFUNDS!
- One entry per line. Note changes in Division and Class numbers!

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

	Dept. Number	Division Letter	Class Number	Description of Entry
1				
2				
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10				

I have read and understand, and in consideration for being permitted to exhibit at the 2026 McHenry County Fair, agree and consent to abide by the rules of the competition. This includes the McHenry County Rules and Regulations and the Home Arts Department Rules as stated in the Rule section in the McHenry County Fair Book and on the Website:

[mchenrycountyfair.com](http://mchenrycountyfair.com)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exhibitor (Owner/Exhibitor) Date

#	Fee	Total
	\$1.00 per Junior Open entry	
	\$1.25 for Photo Challenge	
	\$25.00 Late Registration Fee per entry	
	\$15 Exhibitor Pass (one required per Exhibitor)	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian/Parent of Exhibitor (if under 18 years of age) Date