

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Superintendent: Don Gowin

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM

**Mailed entry forms must be postmarked by September 1st, 2026*

Entry Take-In:

🎨 Enter through Gate 12.

🎨 Saturday, October 10th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Kerr Scott Building

🎨 Sunday, October 11th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Kerr Scott Building

**Mailed exhibits must be received by Monday, October 5th, 2026*

Judging:

🎨 Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 9 AM

Entry Pick-Up:

🎨 Monday, October 26th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Kerr Scott Building

**Claim ticket from entry tags are required to claim your entries.*

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY RULES & REGULATIONS

- 🎨 The General Rules and Regulations of the Fair will govern this department, except in cases of conflict, where the following Rules and Regulations will prevail. Please read all rules & regulations carefully before submitting your entries.
- 🎨 Submit questions to: NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov
- 🎨 Pre-registration is required, either [online](#) or by mail. Make your entries early.
- 🎨 Open to all residents of North Carolina.
- 🎨 Entries not ready to hang with a wire hanger secured by screws **will not be accepted**.
- 🎨 Entries must be original works, no AI generated artwork permitted.
- 🎨 No copies or prints of Paintings, Drawings, or Pastel art can be entered as original art.
- 🎨 Shipped exhibits must be received by Monday, October 5th, 2026. If you want your entry to be returned after the fair, a prepaid postage return address label must be included in your original package. Your work will be returned to you in the same manner and packaging material in which it was mailed to us. Shipped entries will be placed in the mail to be returned to exhibitors by Saturday, October 31st, 2026.
- 🎨 Unclaimed art will become the property of the NC State Fair if not picked up at the Entry Department by Saturday, October 31, 2026.
- 🎨 Judging will be based on the following criteria:
 - I. Impact - effect on viewer, catches the eye and holds attention, mood and story telling techniques
 - II. Composition - arrangement, completeness and balance of picture elements
 - III. Technical Quality - sharpness, clarity, etc.
 - IV. Workmanship - prepared, mounted neatly and securely to meet requirements
- 🎨 The NC State Fair reserves the right to refuse to exhibit any work that it deems inappropriate.
- 🎨 The NC State Fair is under no obligation to display every entry.
- 🎨 For concerns about entries released from other fairs, please call the Entry Department 919-839-4513.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY RULES AND REGULATIONS CONTINUED...

- 🎨 All categories have an entry fee except Schools and Coloring Book Pages.
- 🎨 All entries in these categories must be framed and ready to hang with a wire hanger secured by screws.
- 🎨 Wrapped canvas with finished sides are acceptable (no staples visible, no exposed canvas panels, no clip frames). Metal Print and Acrylic Print do not have to be framed.
- 🎨 All entries must be original works (no kits or published patterns, no AI generated artwork), except Coloring Book page entries.
- 🎨 No entry will be accepted that is wet, perishable, or deemed unstable in any way.
- 🎨 Only artist signatures can be visible on the front of the entry in the Professional class.
- 🎨 Names and phone numbers must be on the back of entries.

IMPORTANT:

- 🎨 ALL ENTRIES in Classes 101-103 must be framed and ready to hang with a **WIRE HANGER secured by SCREWS** (as shown below).
- 🎨 Any other hangers, such as sawtooth hangers, tape, or string, are NOT acceptable. Any entries that do not meet these requirements will **NOT be accepted**. Class 104 School Entries and Class 105 Coloring Book pages are exempt from these requirements.



*All entries must be ready to
hang with a
wire hanger secured by screws*

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

- 🎨 **Entry Fee:** \$10.00 per entry (*nonrefundable*)
- 🎨 A **professional** is an artist who has a great amount of experience, earns income from selling their work, or teaches art.
- 🎨 You may submit up to TWO (2) total entries.
- 🎨 Paintings/Drawings/Print Entry cannot exceed 36" X 40" including frame.
- 🎨 Paintings/Drawings/Print Entry must weigh less than 25 lbs
- 🎨 Photography entry cannot exceed 25" X 25", length and width including frame.
- 🎨 Photography entries must weigh less than 25 lbs

DIVISION 101: PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

PREMIUMS

1st - \$300 2nd - \$200 3rd - \$100 4th - \$75

CLASS

- 01 - Paintings - *Oil, Acrylic, & Water Color*
- 02 - Drawings, Pastels, Print Making - *Lithographs, etchings and other prints made by artist's hand, and mixed media*
- 03 - Photography *Single Photo*

AMATEUR ARTIST

- 🎨 **Entry Fee:** \$10.00 per entry (*nonrefundable*)
- 🎨 An **amateur** is an artist who creates a very limited amount of art, does not earn an income from selling their work, or does not teach art.
- 🎨 You may submit up to TWO (2) total entries.
- 🎨 Paintings/Drawings/Print Entry cannot exceed 25" X 25", including frame.
- 🎨 Paintings/Drawings/Print Entry must weigh less than 25 lbs
- 🎨 Photography Entry cannot exceed 25" X 25" length and width including frame.
- 🎨 Photography Entry must weigh less than 25 lbs

DIVISION 102: AMATEUR ARTIST

PREMIUMS

1st - \$120 2nd - \$95 3rd - \$80 4th - \$55

CLASS

- 01 - Paintings - *Oil, Acrylic & Water Color*
- 02 - Drawings, Pastels, Print Making - *Lithographs, etchings and other prints made by artist's hand, and mixed media*
- 03 - Photography *Single Photo*

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

YOUTH ARTIST

-  **Entry Fee:** \$10.00 per entry (*nonrefundable*)
-  The Youth Category is open to all individual artists ages 18 and under. School entries for youth are in Division 104.
-  Exhibitors may only submit **one** entry in this division.
-  No entry may exceed 25" x 25", including frame.
-  Entry Must weigh less than 10 lbs.

DIVISION 103: YOUTH ARTIST

PREMIUMS

1st - \$50 2nd - \$25 3rd - \$10

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01 - Youth Art (Grades K-2) | 03 - Youth Art (Grades 6-8) |
| 02 - Youth Art (Grades 3-5) | 04 - Youth Art (Grades 9-12) |

SCHOOL ART: PUBLIC, PRIVATE, HOME SCHOOL

-  **Entry Fee:** None
-  Open to all K-12 schools in North Carolina, Public, Private and Home Schools.
-  Registration can be completed by TEACHERS ONLY. Please enter under your SCHOOL'S NAME.
-  Each school in North Carolina is invited to enter up to six (6) individual pieces of artwork by six (6) different individual students currently enrolled in the participating school for their entry. Artwork should have been completed as part of a school assignment within the last year.
-  No entry may exceed 18" x 24".
-  Entry Must weigh less than 10 lbs.
-  All entries must be properly mounted with a wire hanger secured by screws or matted onto heavyweight paper with two hole punches. No glue or tape will be accepted.
-  Each work should have the student's name, age, and grade placed in the lower right front corner of the work.
-  School entries must arrive together in a group at one time and should be boxed or wrapped for ease in handling and identification.
-  Any entry not in compliance with requirements will not be accepted and/or disqualified.

DIVISION 104: PUBLIC, PRIVATE, HOME SCHOOLS

PREMIUMS

1st - \$650 2nd - \$550 3rd - \$450 4th - \$350 5th - \$250 6th - \$150 7th - \$100 8th - \$50

CLASS

- 01 - Elementary School (Grades K-5)
- 02 - Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- 03 - High School (Grades 9-12)

ART COLORING PAGES

- 🎨 **Entry Fee:** None
- 🎨 Any North Carolina resident of any skill level is eligible to participate.
- 🎨 Entry tag must be taped to the back of each entry.
- 🎨 This competition is limited to only the coloring pages provided by the N.C. State Fair. You may access them [here](#), view them on the following pages, or by emailing NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov.
- 🎨 Pages cannot exceed 8½ X 11 inches.
- 🎨 You can enter as many pages as you wish, but you can only win once.
- 🎨 Entries in this category do not need to be framed. We will insert them into protective sleeves for display.
- 🎨 Display space is limited. There is no guarantee that every entry will be displayed.

DIVISION 105: ART COLORING PAGES

CLASS

PREMIUMS

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
01 - Child A, Ages 5 -7	\$10	\$8	\$6
02 - Child B, Ages 8 -10	\$10	\$8	\$6
03 - Youth A, Ages 11 - 13	\$12	\$10	\$8
04 - Youth B, Ages 14 - 18	\$12	\$10	\$8
05 - Adult, Ages 19 and over	\$15	\$12	\$10
06 - Special Needs, Any Age	\$10	\$8	\$6
07 - Group Home, Any Age	\$10	\$8	\$6

ART SPECIAL AWARDS

Open to Divisions 101-104 only

AWARD

PREMIUMS

Best of Show	\$500 and Ribbon
Commissioner of Agriculture's Choice Award	\$200 and Ribbon
Best North Carolina Scene*	\$250 and Ribbon
Best NC State Fair Scene*	\$250 and Ribbon
Best Agricultural Scene/Still Life*	\$250 and Ribbon

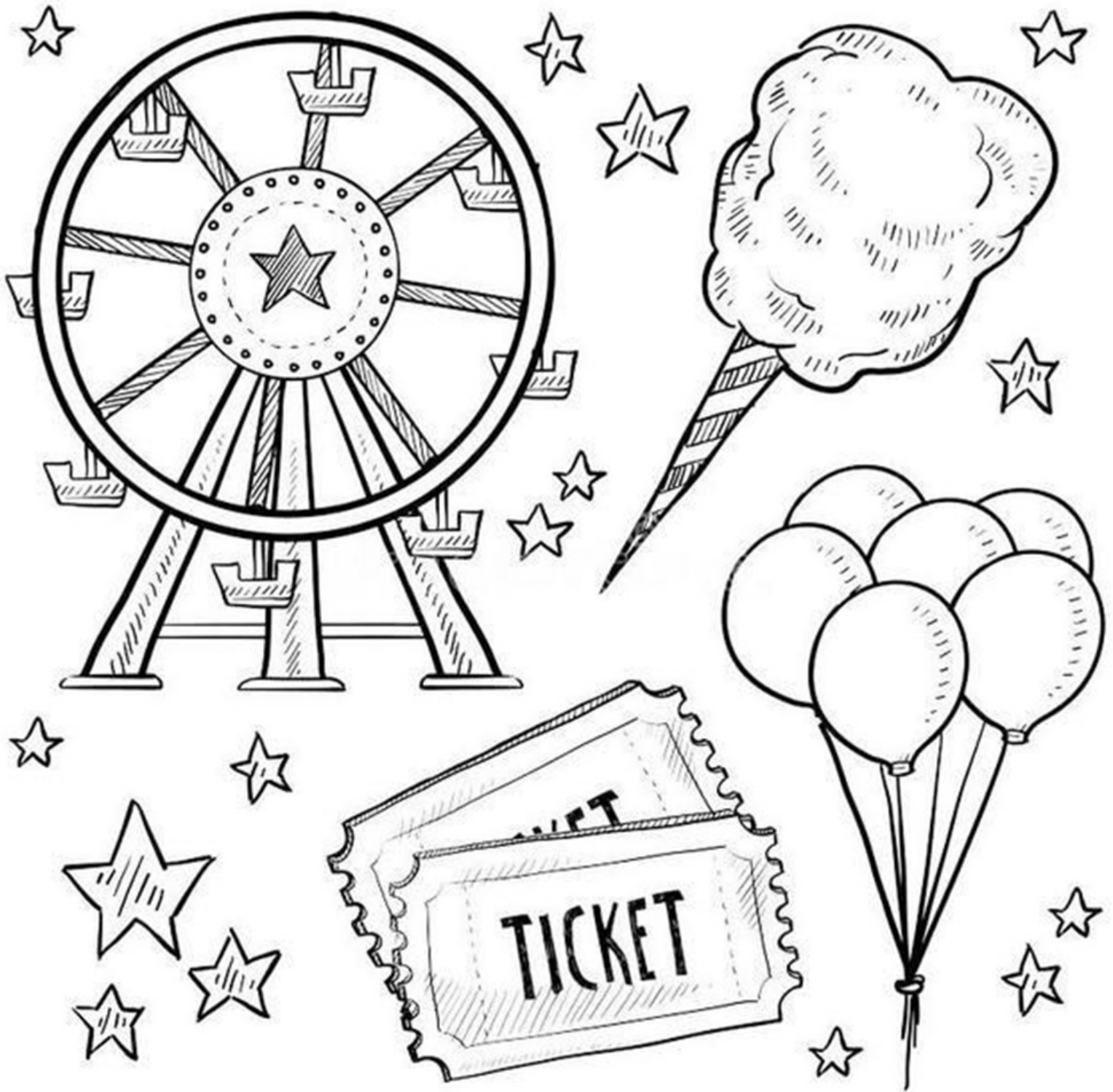
**If your artwork qualifies and you wish to submit it for consideration for the Best North Carolina Scene, Best NC State Fair Scene, or Best NC Agriculture Scene/Still Life awards, you need to note the category on the back of your piece along with a brief description.*

JERRY'S ARTARAMA®
Empowering Artists Since 1968!

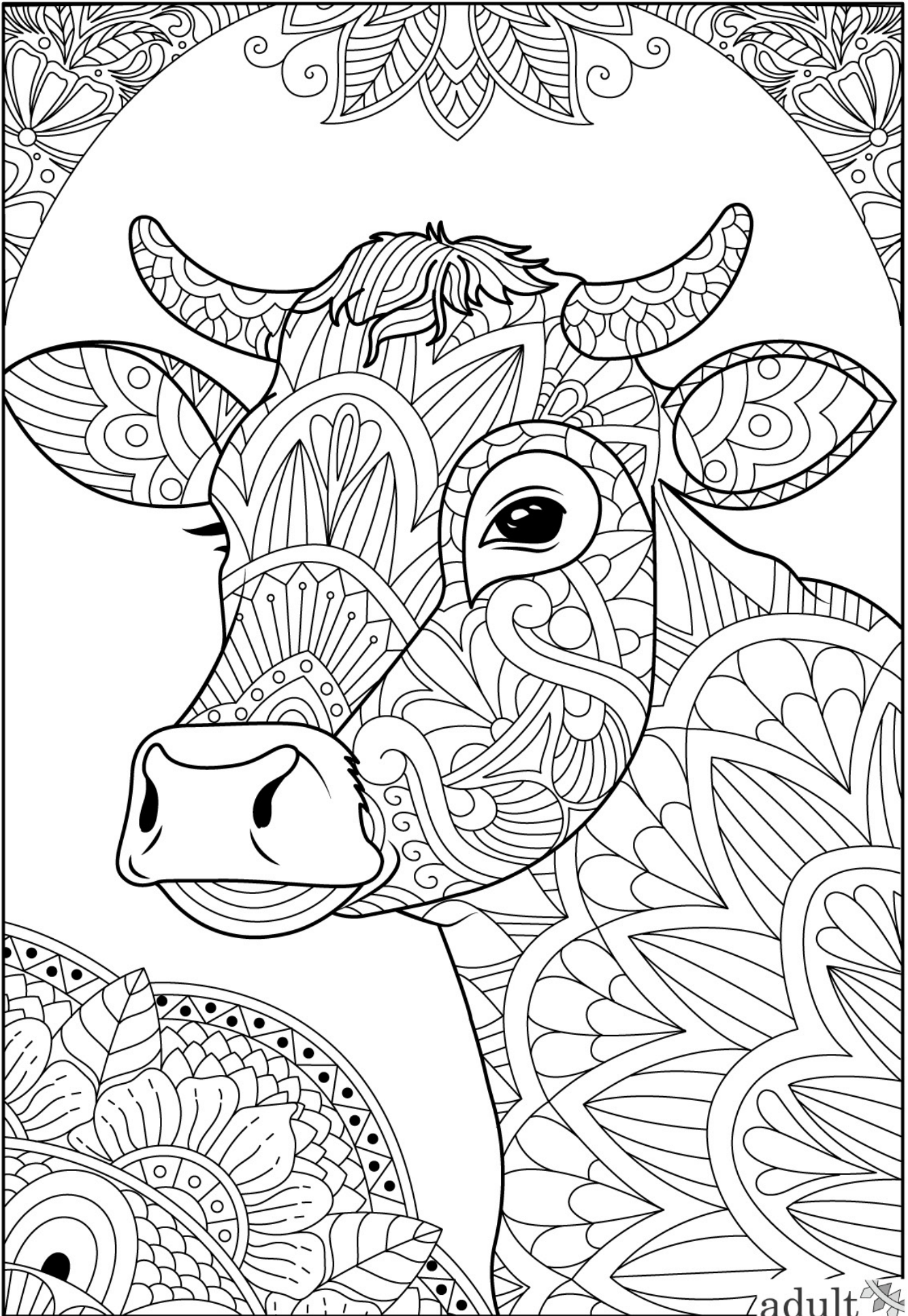
Jerry's Artarama Outstanding Young Artist Award

🎨 Elementary School Div. 104 Class 01-02	\$50 Jerry's Artarama Gift Certificate
🎨 Middle School Div. 104 Class 03	\$50 Jerry's Artarama Gift Certificate
🎨 High School Div. 104 Class 04	\$50 Jerry's Artarama Gift Certificate
🎨 Non-School Youth Div. 103	\$50 Jerry's Artarama Gift Certificate

2026 N.C. STATE FAIR COLORING PAGE



2026 N.C. STATE FAIR COLORING PAGE





PLEIN AIR AT THE NC STATE FAIR

Registration Opens: Wednesday, July 1st, 2026 at 9 AM.

Registration Closes: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM or the **first 25 entries**.

Entry Fee: \$25

Check-In & Material Stamping:

🎨 Monday, October 19th, 2026 from 12 PM-1:30 PM at Gate 12.

Submission Deadline:

🎨 Monday, October 19th, 2026 before 9 PM - Kerr Scott Building

Judging:

🎨 Tuesday, October 20th, 2026 at 8 AM

🎨 People's Choice: Tuesday, October 20th - Friday, October 23rd, 2026

Entry Pick-Up:

🎨 Monday, October 26th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Kerr Scott Building

🎨 The fair reserves the right to retain entries for up to 1 year for display before being released to exhibitors.

**Claim ticket from entry tags are required to claim your entries.*

PLEIN AIR ADDITIONAL RULES & REGULATIONS

- 🎨 Plein Air at the NC State Fair is an opportunity for artists to capture the atmosphere, light, and mood of the NC State Fair by creating artwork in the moment on the fairgrounds during the fair.
- 🎨 Pre-registration [online](#) is required. The first 25 artists to register will be accepted.
- 🎨 Open to residents of North Carolina.
- 🎨 Artwork must be completed entirely on the fairgrounds in an area accessible to the general public on the day of the competition between 12 PM and 9 PM on Monday, October 19th, 2026.
- 🎨 Entries will be disqualified if the artist:
 - 🎨 Submits artwork that is not stamped.
 - 🎨 Is found using a photographic device or has photos on their easel.
 - 🎨 Is not completing artwork in an area on the fairgrounds open to the general public.
 - 🎨 Intentionally impedes the sightlines of other artists.
- 🎨 Ribbons and premiums will be awarded to the top 5 winners and the People's Choice Award winner.
- 🎨 Regardless of cause, the artist agrees to bear all risk and expense for any loss, theft, or damage to their artwork or other personal property or injury to their person.
- 🎨 Participating artists and all paintings submitted may be photographed and videotaped by the NC State Fair for promotional purposes.

CHECK-IN & MATERIAL STAMPING

- 🎨 An entry tag and parking pass will be mailed to the accepted exhibitors. The entry tag will serve as admission to the fair. Accepted exhibitors will be contacted with more detailed instructions.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

- 🎨 Check-In and Material Stamping will be located at Gate 12 from 12 PM - 1:30 PM. Entry tag is required for check-in.
- 🎨 Each exhibitor is allowed **one** stamp on the art material of their choice to be used for their artwork. The art material must be blank at the time of stamping.

MATERIALS

- 🎨 Exhibitors are responsible for providing their own art material, easels, media, frame, hardware for hanging, and any other materials needed for completion and submission of artwork.
- 🎨 Allowed media: oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, gouache, pens, pencils, or inks.
- 🎨 Submission Size Requirements:
 - 🎨 Minimum:
 - 🎨 154 square inches
 - 🎨 Maximum:
 - 🎨 Unframed Art/Canvas Area: 320 square inches
 - 🎨 Framed Art Area: 480 square inches

For the purposes of this competition, square inches refers to the standard formula of length multiplied by width. For example: 16" x 20" canvas = 320 square inches.

SUBMISSION

- 🎨 Completed artwork must be taken to the Kerr Scott Building before 9 PM for submission. Artwork submitted after 9 PM will be at risk for disqualification.
- 🎨 All artwork must be appropriately **framed, mounted, and securely wired for hanging** with the **entry tag attached to the back** upon submission.
 - 🎨 Framing is required, unless it is a wrapped canvas with finished sides (no visible staples, exposed canvas panels, or clip frames).
 - 🎨 Any artwork not properly framed or ready to hang with a wire hanger secured by screws will be at risk for disqualification.
- 🎨 The fair reserves the right to retain entries for up to 1 year for display before being released to exhibitors.

PLEIN AIR

DIVISION 106: PLEIN AIR

PREMIUMS

1st - \$300 2nd - \$200 3rd - \$150 4th - \$100 5th - \$75

CLASS

01 - Plein Air

PLEIN AIR SPECIAL AWARDS

AWARD

People's Choice Award

PREMIUMS

\$150 and Ribbon

The People's Choice Award will be determined through online voting and social media. Voting will open Tuesday, October 20th at 9 AM and close on Friday, October 23rd at the close of the Fair.