

ESSAY

Sponsored By:
North Carolina
PTA
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Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM

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

Essay Submission Deadline:

 Friday, September 25th, 2026 by 5 PM

 Essays may be submitted by:

 Delivering to the NC State Fair Administration Building at 4285 Trinity Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607

 Mailing to NC State Fair Entry Department at 1010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

**Mailed entries must be received by Monday, September 21st, 2026*

ESSAY 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 that are currently enrolled in a K-12 school.
-  Exhibitors are allowed one entry per class.

ESSAY

DIVISION 101: ESSAY

CLASS

PREMIUMS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
01 - Kindergarten through 2nd Grade <i>Explain in 40 words or less what your favorite fair food is and draw a picture to go with it.</i>	\$50	\$35	\$25	\$15
02 - 3rd through 5th Grade <i>Essay - 150 words or less. "A Memory Worth Making. A Story Worth Telling" Write an essay about a memory or story you have from the N.C. State Fair.</i>	\$60	\$45	\$30	\$20
03 - 6th through 8th Grade <i>Essay - 500 words or less, must cite sources. Write an essay about the importance of how the N.C. State Fair connects urban and rural communities.</i>	\$75	\$60	\$45	\$25
04 - 9th through 12th Grade <i>Essay - 500-650 words, must cite sources. Write an essay about the importance of and how the N.C. State Fair can better educate fairgoers about agriculture.</i>	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$30