

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



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.

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- 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.