

SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
INNOVATION**

CASH PRIZES AVAILABLE!



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**2025 CONTEST BOOK**

# ENTRY DEADLINE

FRIDAY, MAY 9 AT  
11:59 p.m.

DEPARTMENT  
SUPERVISORS:

MATTHEW & FOLOLA  
MALELE

[INNOVATION@SMCEC.CO](mailto:INNOVATION@SMCEC.CO)



[@SANMATEOCOUNTYFAIR](https://twitter.com/SANMATEOCOUNTYFAIR)

**MATTHEW & FOLOLA MALELE**

*Department Supervisors*

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***LET'S CREATE, SHARE & HAVE SOME FUN TOGETHER***

**WELCOME, ALL!**

San Mateo County is a wonderfully diverse community of brilliant minds - Innovators, Scientists, Makers, Artists & Engineers of all ages. We have a lot of exciting exhibits this year and can't wait for you to join in on the fun.

We invite you to choose from one or more of our INNOVATION contests for a chance to win a cash prize, a San Mateo County Fair rosette and/or ribbon.

**How to Join the Fun**

Step 1: Choose a contest or contests you would like to participate in.

Step 2: Complete your on-line entry/entries before the deadline:

- **Friday, May 9 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Step 3: Drop off your entry/entries in person:

- **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**

❖ *If your entry requires an upload, the entry AND upload deadline is **Friday, May 9 @ 11:59 p.m.***

Step 4: Join us for some fun during the County Fair as we celebrate your work and other exhibits for all to see:

- **Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 8**

Step 5: Pick up your entry/entries:

- **Monday, June 9 between 2 to 7 p.m.**

*Entry Fees: \$5.00 per entry*

# ***RULES***

1. All state, local and department rules apply.
2. All entries must be completed by the exhibitor within two years of the opening date of the Fair. Any item(s) determined to have been entered in any previous year's Fair will not be eligible for judging or awards.
3. Exhibitor's age on entries is as of opening day of this year's San Mateo County Fair.
4. If a contest division requires on-line entry submission, that portion of the entry must be uploaded by midnight on Friday, May 9, 2025. **There are NO late entry options for any contest division that requires on-line submission.**
5. There must be 3 entries in a class for the class to be judged. If there is only one entry in a class, the item may be moved to another class.
6. The American system of judging is used unless otherwise noted.

# ***AWARDS***

## **AWARDS OFFERED DIVISIONS 051, 055-060 & 062**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$100 Rosette
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Ribbon
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Ribbon

## **AWARDS OFFERED DIVISIONS 050, 052-054, 061 & 063**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$50 Rosette
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Ribbon
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Ribbon

# SCIENCE

## DIVISION – 050 - DID YOU KNOW...

Share an interesting or strange science fact. This can be anything from Earth being a giant magnet to an octopus having blue blood. Provide additional details and include a picture to illustrate the facts.

### **RULES:**

1. Submit documentation in PDF format through the Online Entry Process by the deadline: **Friday, May 9, 2025.**
2. Fact must include a detailed explanation, citing at least 3 credible sources. Simply stating a scientific fact is not sufficient.
3. Include at least one image. Documentation must be no larger than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.

### **CLASS:**

1. Interesting or Strange Science Fact – all ages

## DIVISION – 051 – CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT

What type of slime stretches the farthest without breaking? How high can a homemade rocket launch into the sky? How do seals keep warm in ice cold water? Can plants grow without sunlight? Conduct an experiment using the scientific method! Each presentation must include: a question, your research, hypothesis, experiment, observation, and your results/conclusion.

### **RULES:**

1. Project must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. The display board must be the standard fair size of 48x36 or smaller.
3. Must include the experiment name/title.
4. Each step of the scientific method must be clearly labeled.
5. Display must be suitable for transport from Entry Receiving to display areas and be appropriate for display throughout the fair (for example: loose parts, food or plant material, liquids etc. should be represented by photographs instead)

### **CLASS:**

1. Life Science (Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Mammalian Biology, Microbiology, Plant Biology, Zoology)
2. Physical Science (Chemistry, physics, Astronomy, Alternative Energy, Mechanics & Structures, Electronics & Electro magnetics)
3. Environmental Science (Earth Science, Environmental Engineering, Toxicology)
4. Behavior Science (Behavioral, Social, Cognitive)

# TECHNOLOGY

## DIVISION – 052 – CREATE YOUR OWN APPLICATION OR GAME

Have you ever created your own application or game that can be played on a smartphone, iPad, laptop or computer? Don't worry if you haven't, there is no better time to learn than now! Technology is always advancing and here in San Mateo County there are many resources available at your local libraries and on-line that can help you get started.

### **RULES:**

1. The application or game must be submitted through the Online Entry Process by the deadline: **Friday, May 9, 2025.**
2. The application or game must be playable/useable on an IOS or Android device.
3. The application or game must be available through the Google Play Store, iTunes or an accessible website by the deadline to upload on-line entries.
4. The application or game must be free to download.
5. Submit documentation in PDF format through the on-line entry process. Include a brief description of the application, its format, where/how it can be downloaded, and at least one screenshot. Documentation must be no larger than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.

### **CLASS:**

1. Drag and Drop language for Youth (up to age 12) (Scratch, Snap, etc.)
2. Game App (age 13 and up)
3. Utility App (age 13 and up)

## DIVISION – 053 – CREATE A WEB PAGE

Show off your skills using HTML, CSS and JavaScript to create a web page. Design a single web page (not a multi-page site) on a family-friendly topic of your choosing. Your page can showcase a favorite hobby, an about or tribute page, or even something informational. Pages can be shared for free on codepen.io or on another hosted site.

### **RULES:**

1. The web page must be complete and ready for judging by the deadline to upload entries: **Friday, May 9, 2025.**
2. The text "San Mateo County Fair 2025" must be either displayed on the page or in an HTML comment.
3. The page must be viewable on a recent version of Chrome.
4. The page must not use any external plugins, e.g. Adobe Flash.
5. Judging will favor pages that are accessible with proper semantic tags.
6. Submit documentation in pdf format through the online entry process. Describe the web page and include at least one screenshot (may highlight only a part of the web page) and a QR code for the page URL (at least 2" square)
7. Documentation must be no larger than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 13)
2. Youth (ages 14 to 18)
3. Adult (ages 19 & up)

## **DIVISION – 054 – DIGITAL ART ANIMATION**

Let your imagination soar with digital art animation. Have fun creating digital artwork with moving components. Think of something you might find used as a screensaver, animated greeting card, or GIF.

### **RULES:**

1. Animation must be completed and ready for judging by the deadline to upload entries: **Friday, May 9, 2025.**
2. Submit a link to a YouTube video of animated art no longer than 2 minutes in length through the on-line entry process.
3. Submit documentation in PDF format through the on-line entry process. Include your inspiration, explanation, storyboard or sketches that would be helpful for judging and audience viewing.
4. Documentation must be no larger than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 13)
2. Youth (ages 14-18)
3. Adults (ages 19 & up)

## **DIVISION – 055 – PRODUCE A SHORT FILM OR VIDEO**

Ever made your own Stop Motion movie? Create a fun music video or scary short film? If you have, great! Showcase your creativity within 10 minutes or less. If not, now is a good time to learn! Shoot and edit your own short film or video and showcase your work at the fair. Your project can be a comedy, drama, horror, animation, documentary, or educational and tutorial. As long as it's family-friendly and suitable to be displayed during the fair.

### **RULES:**

1. Project must be complete and ready for judging by the deadline to upload entries: **Friday, May 9, 2025.**
2. Entry must be submitted as a link to a YouTube video through the on-line entry process. See Department Rules and notes for Online Entries.
3. Entries shot on film must be digitized.
4. The video must not be longer than 10 minutes in length.
5. Submit documentation in PDF format through the on-line entry process. Include the film/video title and genre summary or description (a few sentences) and at least one screenshot.
6. Documentation must be no larger than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
7. Copyrighted material used without permission or outside-of-fair use is strictly prohibited. Video credits or description must include licensing information if copyrighted material is used.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 13)
2. Youth (ages 14-18)
3. Adult (ages 19 & up)

# **ENGINEERING & DESIGN**

## **DIVISION – 056 – BEST FISHING CART/BIKE**

*VIVID SNARES & FISHING*

*website: [vivid snares.com](http://vivid snares.com)*

## **VIVID SNARES & FISHING**

San Mateo County is home to some of the Bay Area's greatest fishing locations. Sponsored by Vivid Snares & Fishing, the first-place winner in each class will receive an exclusive title belt for the most innovative and aesthetically appealing fishing cart/bike. Second and third place awards will be presented with plaques by Vivid Snares & Fishing. Participants are encouraged to unleash their ideas and imagination within the framework of the competition rules. The primary focus is on innovation, decoration, and functional design while ensuring usability for fishing activities.

### Judging Criteria:

- **Innovation and Creativity:** Emphasis will be placed on the creativity and innovation exhibited in decorating the fishing cart/bike.
- **Originality:** Contestants are encouraged to display unique designs while ensuring cart functionality. Prior to showcasing modifications, participants must provide Before/After photos, showcasing creative enhancements and personal fabrications. Pre-made or purchased carts are permitted, but judging will prioritize inventive alterations, such as painting, LED lights, music speakers, stickers, etc.
- **Functionality:** The cart's practicality for fishing activities must be maintained while showcasing creativity.

### **RULES:**

1. Cart must be complete and ready for judging by the deadline to upload entries: **Friday, May 9, 2025.**
2. Cart Functionality:
  - All fishing carts must be fully functional, capable of movement by pushing or pulling, suitable for either beach or pier terrains, including minor bumps.
3. Rod Storage Capacity:
  - Each fishing cart must securely accommodate a minimum of two fishing rods, ensuring stability while in motion.
4. Cart Type and Accessories:
  - **Prohibited Vehicles:** No gas vehicles or automobiles allowed.
  - **Wheel/Tire Limit:** Carts must have a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 tires/wheels.
  - **Cart/Bike Types:** Accepted designs include pull carts, electric carts, bikes, or electric bikes.
  - **Cart/Bike Dimensions:** Maximum size restrictions apply: 5ft width, 7ft length, 5ft height.
  - Participants may opt to design either a beach or pier cart/bike for the competition.
  - Optional use of lights on the cart is permitted.

### **CLASS:**

1. Adults (18+)

## **DIVISION – 057 – METALWORKING DIY**

Calling all Makers! Submit a do-it-yourself project for all to admire.

### **RULES:**

1. Project must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. In addition to the project, exhibitors must submit documentation including a description and the methods and tools that were used to create it. Plans, sketches and photos (before, in-process and after) are encouraged and will positively impact judging. Use no more than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
3. If an entry is larger than 2 feet in any direction, heavier than 10 lbs., or requires special mounting/displaying considerations, the exhibitor must notify the Department Coordinator at least one-week prior to Entry Receiving date, or the entry may be refused.
4. If the entry is an installation a photographic display mounted on poster or foam board, no larger than 2 x 3 feet must be submitted at Entry Receiving. The documentation required in rule 1 may be included in the 2 x 3 display or may be added page(s). Include the location of the object for verification.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 12)
2. Adult (13+)

## **DIVISION – 058 – WOODWORKING DIY**

Calling all Makers! Submit a do-it-yourself project for all to admire.

### **RULES:**

1. Project must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. In addition to the project, exhibitors must submit documentation including a description and the methods and tools that were used to create it. Plans, sketches and photos (before, in-process and after) are encouraged and will positively impact judging. Use no more than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
3. If an entry is larger than 2 feet in any direction, heavier than 10 lbs., or requires special mounting/displaying considerations, the exhibitor must notify the Department Coordinator at least one-week prior to Entry Receiving date, or the entry may be refused.
4. If the entry is an installation a photographic display mounted on poster or foam board, no larger than 2 x 3 feet must be submitted at Entry Receiving. The documentation required in rule 1 may be included in the 2 x 3 display or may be added page(s). Include the location of the object for verification.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 12)
2. Adult (13+)

## **DIVISION - 059 - OTHER MATERIALS DIY**

Calling all Makers! Submit a do-it-yourself project for all to admire.

### **RULES:**

1. Project must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. In addition to the project, exhibitors must submit documentation including a description and the methods and tools that were used to create it. Plans, sketches and photos (before, in-process and after) are encouraged and will positively impact judging. Use no more than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
3. If an entry is larger than 2 feet in any direction, heavier than 10 lbs., or requires special mounting/displaying considerations, the exhibitor must notify the Department Coordinator at least one-week prior to Entry Receiving date, or the entry may be refused.
4. If the entry is an installation a photographic display mounted on poster or foam board, no larger than 2 x 3 feet must be submitted at Entry Receiving. The documentation required in rule 1 may be included in the 2 x 3 display or may be added page(s). Include the location of the object for verification.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 12)
2. Adult (13+)

## **DIVISION - 060 - 3D PRINTING DIY**

Calling all Makers! Submit a do-it-yourself project for all to admire.

### **RULES:**

1. Project must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. In addition to the project, exhibitors must submit documentation including a description and the methods and tools that were used to create it. Plans, sketches and photos (before, in-process and after) are encouraged and will positively impact judging. Use no more than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
3. If an entry is larger than 2 feet in any direction, heavier than 10 lbs., or requires special mounting/displaying considerations, the exhibitor must notify the Department Coordinator at least one-week prior to Entry Receiving date, or the entry may be refused.
4. If the entry is an installation a photographic display mounted on poster or foam board, no larger than 2 x 3 feet must be submitted at Entry Receiving. The documentation required in rule 1 may be included in the 2 x 3 display or may be added page(s). Include the location of the object for verification.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 12)
2. Adult (13+)



## **DIVISION – 062 – CREATE WITH “TOY” CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS**

What amazing things can you make using a “toy” construction system? Construction toy systems such as Lego and K’Nex provide an accessible and fun way to build anything you can think of, from mythical creatures to prototypes or useful objects. Any commercially available construction toy system elements are eligible.

### **RULES:**

1. Model must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. Include display information with the model’s title/name and a brief description. Use no more than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
3. The model must be an original design; commercial sets or purchased building instructions are not allowed.
4. Model must be built entirely from unmodified construction toy elements. Elements from different systems may be combined.
5. The model must be sturdy enough for transport from Entry Receiving to the display area and to last the duration of the fair. Loose parts will not be reconnected.
6. If an entry is larger than 2 feet in any direction, heavier than 10 lbs., or requires special mounting/displaying considerations, the exhibitor must notify the Department Coordinator at least one-week prior to Entry Receiving date, or the entry may be refused.

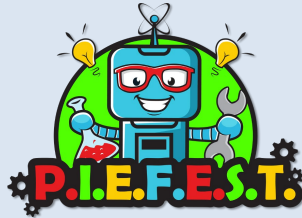
### **CLASS:**

1. Art (mosaics, sculptures)
2. Buildings (architecture, famous sites)
3. Mechanical/Motorized (automation, kinetic art, robotics)
4. Utility/Functional (models built to provide useful function [such as a phone stand] or solve a problem)
5. Vehicles (boats, cars, spacecraft, trains, trucks)
6. Others (anything not covered in classes 1-5)

## DIVISION – 063 – MATAIO’S MAKER CHALLENGE

*P.I.E.F.E.S.T.*

*website: wearepiefest.org*



Mataio has been asked to help design & build homes for his friends who live in different countries all over the world, and he needs your help!

Your challenge is to create a model house using supplies you have at home (popsicle sticks, playdough, cardboard, etc.) or any commercially available “toy” construction set (Lego, Duplo, K’nex, Lincoln Logs, etc.).

Select a country and choose a setting/landscape in which you will be building a home. Consider the environment, the different elements and weather conditions that could impact this new home. You can research past and present engineering techniques from different cultures around the world to gain insight on helpful design ideas. Winners will receive an awesome STEM toy construction set.

### **RULES:**

1. Model must be submitted at Entry Receiving: **Friday, May 23 (2 - 8 p.m.)** or **Saturday, May 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)**
2. Include display information with the model’s title/name and a brief description. Use no more than two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 paper.
3. Model must be an original design. Commercial sets or purchased building instructions are not allowed.
4. Model must be built entirely from unmodified construction toy elements. Elements from different systems may be combined.
5. Model must be sturdy enough for transport from Entry Receiving to display area and last the duration of the fair. Loose parts will not be reconnected.
6. If an entry is larger than 2 feet in any direction, heavier than 10 lbs., or requires special mounting/displaying considerations, the exhibitor must notify the Department Coordinator at least one-week prior to Entry Receiving date, or the entry may be refused.

### **CLASS:**

1. Youth (up to age 13)
2. Youth (ages 14-18)
3. Adult (ages 19 & up)

