



# Education Department

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH  
**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR**

August 28 – September 7, 2026

Grand Island, NE



The Education Department of the Nebraska State Fair invites all students who have completed Kindergarten through Grade 12 in the spring of 2026 to participate in the educational activities offered at the Nebraska State Fair. Students do not need to qualify at the County level to enter the State Fair.

Special Thanks to

**NEBRASKAland Foundation Inc.** for providing T-shirts and co-sponsoring the Statehood Day recognition event.

**Nebraska State Fair** for providing premiums, plaques, medallions, ribbons, and rosettes and for co-sponsoring the Statehood Day Recognition event.

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## New For 2026

- Division 3334 T-Shirt Competition! Submit a design to be featured as the 2026 Education Exhibitor t-shirt. See page 26. Entries due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Entry Date Changes
  - July 15<sup>th</sup> for essays, short stories, poetry, and penmanship
  - August 11<sup>th</sup> for all other divisions
- Changes
  - 3313 History Board Class Changes - Person or Event/Place
  - 3315 Visit Nebraska (Nebraska Attraction)
  - 3315 Know Nebraska Other: Nebraska Table Game
  - 3320 Quiz Bowl – New dates Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> & Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - 3329 Story Board – My Hometown
  - 3331 Warmth for Veterans – any item that warms the heart of veterans
  - 3332 Wax Museum – Local Legend

## Important Notes

- If you have students entering a project as a group, please enter them as a group and not each student individually.
  - Example: First Name: Group Last Name: Student A & Student B, etc.
- **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number located:**
  - Upper right-hand corner for written entries
  - Bottom right-hand corner for all other exhibits.

|   |
|---|
| John Smith<br>Smith Elementary<br>Grade 4<br>Division 3301 3-D Art<br>Class 0102 Grades 3-5 |
|---|

## Important Dates

- **Entry Deadlines (NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED):**
  - **T-Shirts**
    - **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:59 pm**
  - **Essays, Poems, Penmanship, and Short Stories**
    - **Wednesday, July 15, at 11:59 pm – Entry Form and Entry**
  - **All Other Divisions**
    - **Tuesday, August 11, at 11:59 pm**
    - **To ensure receiving an Education T-Shirt please enter by July 15th**
- **Exhibit Delivery:**
  - **Essays, Poems, Penmanship, and Short Stories**
    - **Wednesday, July 15, at 11:59 pm – Entry Form and Entry (hard copy or digital)**
  - **All Other Divisions**
    - **Friday, August 21, 4 pm – 8 pm and Saturday, August 22, 12 pm – 4 pm**
  - **They may also be delivered to the Nebraska State Fair office Monday through Friday 8 am - 5 pm.**
- **Exhibit Release: Monday, September 7, 6 pm - 8 pm & Tuesday, September 8, 8 am-noon.**

| 2026 Themes                          |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Brick Art, Computer Graphics, Poetry | It All Happens Here (Focus on America/Patriotic) |
| Essay                                | My America Story                                 |
| Nebraska Art, Photography            | It All Happens Here (Focus on Nebraska)          |

## Class Premiums and Overall Awards

Unless otherwise specified, awards given in each division of the various Education competitions will be.

| Place  | Ribbon | Div.<br>3305,3311,<br>3320,3324 | Div. 3307<br>3310,3316<br>3319,3322<br>3326,3327 | Div. 3301<br>3302,3303,<br>3308,3309,<br>3313,3314,<br>3315,3318,3323,<br>3325,3328,3329,<br>3330,3331,3332 | Div. 3306,<br>3312,3317,<br>3321,3333 |
|--|--------|---------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Blue   | \$100                           | \$50   | \$25  | \$15                                  |
| 2  | Red    | \$50                            | \$25   | \$20  | \$12                                  |
| 3  | White  | \$25                            | \$10   | \$15  | \$9                                   |
| 4  | Pink   |                                 |  | \$10  | \$6                                   |
| 5  | Yellow |                                 |  | \$5   | \$3                                   |
| Honorable Mention                              | Teal   |                                 |  |   |                                       |
| A student will receive a maximum of 1 T-shirt. |        |                                 |  |   |                                       |

## Overall Sweepstakes

These are based on a point system from static exhibits. 1<sup>st</sup> place – 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 3 points, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 1 point.

Warmth for Veterans classes is our 2026 featured division and will be awarded double points towards their sweepstakes points total.

1st place - \$300

2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$200

3rd place - \$100

The first-place winner will then go in for a people's choice Overall Sweepstakes Winner receiving a plaque and their name engraved on a trophy that will be displayed each year during the fair. The voting will begin the final weekend of the fair after all static events are complete. It will be a Google form on kiosks located in Bosselman Conference Center, the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse, and the Quilt Room that will be used to submit a vote.

## Individual/School Sweepstakes

The Education Department of the Nebraska State Fair will have both individual and school sweepstakes competitions.

1. The Individual Sweepstakes competition will be divided into the following divisions:
  - Grades K-2
  - Grades 3-5
  - Grades 6-8
  - Grades 9-12
2. Five students in each division will be awarded trophies. In addition, the 1<sup>st</sup> place student in each division will receive \$100, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place student in each division will receive \$50, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place student in each division will receive \$25. Checks will be mailed to the sponsor listed on the entry form. For students who have graduated please email your mailing address to [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com)
3. The trophy winners will be determined by the total number of points the students earn.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 5 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 3 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 1 point
4. Students will be awarded points for all static entries and for all live competitions they compete in.
5. The School Sweepstakes will be divided into the following divisions:
  - Elementary School – Grades K-5
  - Middle School – Grades 6-8
  - High School – Grades 9-12
6. School trophy winners (three in each division) are determined by adding the points each student in the division in the school earns.

## Department Rules

It's the Exhibitor's responsibility to be familiar with the [General Rules & Regulations](#) linked here which apply to all Nebraska State Fair open class departments of Competitive Exhibits and to the specific rules for each department.

### Additional Rules Specific to the Education Department are:

- Competing in the Education Department is limited to students enrolled in Nebraska schools and home schools.
- All exhibits must remain displayed until the scheduled release time or awards are forfeited.
- An erroneously entered exhibit may be transferred to the proper competition class.
- Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
- Any person, whether an exhibitor or observer, who interferes with live competition or duties of judges may be removed, disqualified and subject to forfeiture or any awards.

## Ticket Policy

Each competitor and each sponsor in an Education Department live competition requiring admission to the Nebraska State Fair will be given one (1) complimentary gate admission ticket for each day the student is competing. Teachers will be asked to return all tickets for students who do not compete.

Exhibitors/competitors, parents, and sponsors may purchase Exhibitor Gate Tickets at a reduced price. A maximum of 5 exhibitor tickets per family is allowed. No refunds will be given on any unused or lost tickets. To purchase these tickets, [CLICK HERE](#) and use the password CVENT. Exhibitor tickets go on sale Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 11:59 pm.

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## How to Enter

[Entry forms](#) will be sent out as a Google form and will also be available on the website. Any questions email [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com) or call Kourtney Lingeman, Competitive Exhibits Manager at 308-385-3938. Entry forms for T-shirt Competition must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:59 pm. Entry forms for Essays, Penmanship, Poetry and Short Stories must be received by Wednesday, July 15, 11:59 pm. All other Entry Forms are due by Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm.

## Delivery of Exhibits

Essays, poems, penmanship, and short stories are due on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Options of delivery include:

- USPS to Nebraska State Fair, PO Box 1387, Grand Island NE 68802
- UPS or FedEx to Nebraska State Fair, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island NE 68803
- Hand Delivery to the Nebraska State Fair, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island NE 68803 during normal business hours
- Emailed to [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com)

All other exhibits must arrive in the Education Department exhibit area by Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> by 4 pm.

## Release of Exhibits

Early release is prohibited.

When picking up entries bring a list of your entries with you or a copy of your entry form. Check in with a staff member and she or he will locate your entries and bring them to you.

Entries may be picked up on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm – 8 pm or Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 8 am-noon in the Education Department.

Exhibits not picked up during the above designated times must be retrieved from the Nebraska State Fair Office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE before Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. After that, they will be donated to charity.

## Live Competition Schedule

Awards will be handed out directly after the competition where that competition is being held.  
Academic testing awards will be given after all testing once results are calculated each day in the Fonner Park Concourse.

### Grades 3-8

#### Saturday, August 29

| Event                | Start Time              | Location                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Construction Science | 8:30 am – 3:00 pm (all) | Fonner Park Clubhouse             |
| Poetry Recitation    | 10:00 am (grades K-3)   | Bosselman Conference Center Stage |
| Poetry Recitation    | Noon (grades 4-8)       | Bosselman Conference Center Stage |

#### Sunday, August 30

|                |                     |                       |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Spelling       | 8:00 am – 8:30 am   | Fonner Park Concourse |
| Math           | 8:30 am – 9:30 am   | Fonner Park Concourse |
| Social Studies | 9:45 am – 10:45 am  | Fonner Park Concourse |
| Grammar        | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Fonner Park Concourse |
| Science        | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm   | Fonner Park Concourse |

### Grades 9-12

#### Saturday, August 29

|                   |                       |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Spelling          | 8:00 am – 8:30 am     | Fonner Park Concourse             |
| Math              | 8:30 am – 9:30 am     | Fonner Park Concourse             |
| Social Studies    | 9:45 am – 10:45 am    | Fonner Park Concourse             |
| Grammar           | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm   | Fonner Park Concourse             |
| Science           | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm     | Fonner Park Concourse             |
| Poetry Recitation | 2:00 pm (grades 9-12) | Bosselman Conference Center Stage |

#### Sunday, August 30

|                      |                         |                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Construction Science | 8:30 am – 3:00 pm (all) | Fonner Park Clubhouse |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|

### Grades 6-8

#### Tuesday, September 1

|           |         |  |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Quiz Bowl | 9:00 am | Fonner Park Gus Fonner Executive Suite |
|-----------|---------|--|

### Grades 9-12

#### Wednesday, September 2

|           |         |  |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Quiz Bowl | 9:00 am | Fonner Park Gus Fonner Executive Suite |
|-----------|---------|--|

**The Foods Department is hosting a Kids Cupcake Decorating contest on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> between 10 am – 2:45 pm. You can sign up on the spot! For ages 0-17 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. See the Foods Entry Book for more information.**

## **Division 3301: 3-D Art Competition - A “NEBRASKAland” Competition**

### Class

- 0101 Grades K-2
- 0102 Grades 3-5
- 0103 Grades 6-8
- 0104 Grades 9-12

1. Entry can be a sculpture or other piece of 3-dimensional artwork designed to sit on a table or shelf.
2. Any medium may be used. For example, paper mache, recycled materials, natural materials, pottery, weaving, glass, plastic, wood, and metalworking. No perishable food items may be used to make the art. If you have a question about whether a medium is acceptable, please email [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com) and ask.
3. Please be sure to secure all pieces of the sculpture to help ensure proper display.
4. Entry should fit within a 12”x12”x12” space. If the piece your student is making is larger email [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com) to see if the piece can be accommodated.
5. Judging Criteria:
  - Craftsmanship – media choice and honesty to media: realistic, expressive, idealistic, or abstract.
  - Use of Elements – line, shape, color, texture
  - Use of Principles – contrast, balance, etc.
  - Creativity – flexibility, uniqueness
  - Expression – content (theme, idea, etc.)
  - Neatness
6. Each student may enter up to two (2) 3-D art items.
7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number.** Attach the label securely to the artwork with a string, twist-tie, address label, or rubber band.

## **Division 3302: Brick Art Competition – A “NEBRASKAland” Competition**

### Class

- 0201 Grades K-2
- 0202 Grades 3-5
- 0203 Grades 6-12

1. The entry will consist of a piece of art created from LEGO-type bricks following the theme: It All Happens Here (Focus on America/Patriotic). Use your creativity!
2. The artwork may be a sculpture or a flat creation on a sturdy base. No more than 50% of commercially designed kits may be used.
3. Brick art exhibits tend to be fragile, please take extra care to consider transport, set up, and labeling. Consider stabilizing your exhibit with rubber cement for a temporary repositionable bond to keep all pieces in place. Pictures of exhibits are helpful to ensure proper set-up. Nebraska State Fair staff is not responsible for reconstructing the exhibit.
4. Entries will be judged on creativity, representation of the theme, neatness, and overall effect.
5. The actual brick entries must be entered. To protect the entries, they will be displayed in a glass case at the fair.
6. Each student may have up to two (2) entries in this category.
7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number.** Attach the label securely with a string, twist-tie, address label, or rubber band.

## **Division 3303: Capstone Project**

Class

0301 Grades 9-12

1. This competition is for students who have a passion for an education focused project of their choice.
2. The competition must include a one page written or typed narrative including:
  - a. Project Title
  - b. What did you do and why?
  - c. What was your plan including time and resources?
  - d. How would you evaluate / judge your results?
3. Students should choose something different from other competitions or more advanced if the project is a current competition above a student's age class.
4. The size of the project will vary, be mindful to keep it comparable to other Education Competition entries.
5. Judging Criteria:
  - a. Uniqueness
  - b. Craftsmanship/Quality
  - c. Educational Connection
  - d. Written Explanation
  - e. Overall Appeal
6. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in both the project and the written narrative.**

## **Division 3305: Group Science Project**

Class

0501 Grades K-5

0502 Grades 6-12

1. The entry will consist of a science project a school class completes. Some suggestions are egg drop, mousetrap vehicle, or catapult where groups of students make a contraption and test it against the others in the class; a plant experiment, where each student does something different with the same type of plant.
2. Make sure to enter as a group, not each student. Example First Name: Group Last Name: Student A Student B.
3. Data is to be collected for each student or pair of students, recorded, and analyzed. Grades 6-12 students should include graphs.
4. The project is to be displayed on a tri-fold display board following the guidelines for Science Display. Photos are encouraged to further illustrate what was done.
5. To rank the projects from a wide range of age groups, expectations for different grade divisions will be taken into consideration. Projects will be awarded points compared to a standard for the grade division and the project with the highest point total will be the champion.
6. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front lower right-hand side of the display.**

### **Awards**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place                  | Plaque, \$100 grant to class |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place                  | \$50 grant to class          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place                  | \$25 grant to class          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Place | Ribbons                      |



## **Division 3306: Computer Graphics Competition – A “NEBRASKAland” Competition**

### **Class**

- 0601 Grades K-5  
0602 Grades 6-12

1. The theme is It All Happens Here (Focus on America/Patriotic). The entry will be a computer-generated advertising campaign that promotes the Nebraska State Fair.
2. For grades K-5 the entry will consist of one (1) item selected from a, b, or c. For grades 6-12 the entry will consist of two (2) items selected from a, b, or c.
  - a. A poster (8 ½ x 11)
  - b. A tri-fold brochure (8 ½ x 11 before folding)
  - c. A postcard mailer (5 ½ x 8 ½, a horizontal half sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper) or a promotional card (4 ¼ x 11, a vertical half sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper). Keep in mind that a postcard must have space for addressing the card on one side.
3. All items should include text using available fonts. Photographs, clip art, or original artwork should be included and used in compliance with copyright laws.
4. The items must be mounted on a half sheet or full sheet of 22” x 28” poster board. To mount the brochure, attach it to the center back, then attach a printout of the back as well. For the mailer and promotional card, print each side and attach it. These items should be printed with a computer printer and should not be commercially printed.
5. Punch poster board for hanging according to instructions on page 27.
6. Entries containing items that were entered in a previous year will be disqualified.
7. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
8. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the lower right-hand of the poster board.**

## **Division 3307: Construction Science Competition**

### **Class**

- 0701 Grades 3-5  
0702 Grades 6-8  
0703 Grades 9-12

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. The students will be given 30 minutes to observe an object built from wooden pieces (like those manufactured by Kapla, Keva, and CitiBlocs). During this time the student will write instructions on how to build the object. The instructions must contain only words, no sketches. Pencils and paper will be furnished.
3. The object will then be removed from the student's view and the student will be given the pieces needed to build the object. The student will then recreate the object using his/her written instructions. When finished, the student will submit the object and the instructions.
4. Scoring will be based first on accuracy and secondly on the time taken to build the object. The writing portion time will not enter the scoring but may not exceed 30 minutes.
5. The competition will be in the Fonner Park Clubhouse and will be available to start from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm on Saturday, August 29, and on Sunday, August 30. Students may drop in to complete at their convenience during the given time range. Students can only compete on 1 of the 2 days.
6. Awards will be given out directly after the competition Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.
7. Students HAVE to be entered by the August 11<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## **Division 3308: Career Display Competition**

### Class

- 0801 Grades 6-8  
0802 Grades 9-12

1. Career Display Competition will consist of a trifold display or poster board illustrating a career investigation.
2. Students should research various sites for information and then produce an eye-catching display. Allowable artwork may include:
  - a. Student produced illustrations, designs, and/or computer-generated graphics.
  - b. Clip art or other graphics used in compliance with copyright laws.
  - c. Photographs used in compliance with copyright laws.
  - d. Handwritten, computer, or machine-generated lettering.
3. In addition to the presentation board, the display may include models, mannequins, pamphlets, brochures, or any other method or combination of physical objects to display the project. Label all accessories and attach a picture of the setup on the back of the display.
4. Information should include the following:
  - a. Title of career and why it was selected.
  - b. Nature of the job and responsibilities.
  - c. Education/Training Requirements (in Nebraska or elsewhere).
  - d. Entry-level salary at the local/national/global levels.
  - e. Benefits/Challenges associated with this career.
  - f. Any additional relevant information.
5. Judging Criteria:
  - a. Neatness/Creativity
  - b. Information Included
  - c. Appeal to Viewers
  - d. Overall Effect
6. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the lower front right-hand corner.**

## **Division 3309: Essay Competition – A “NEBRASKAland” Competition**

### Class

- 0901 Grades K-2  
0902 Grades 3-5  
0903 Grades 6-8  
0904 Grades 9-12

1. The theme of the essays is: My America Story
2. Essays should use good essay form with an introduction previewing three main points, followed by a discussion of the three points, and a conclusion summarizing the main points.
3. Judging criteria
  - Introduction
  - Topic Development
  - Word Choice
  - Sentence Fluency
  - Structure
  - Ideas
4. Each competitor must prepare his or her essay. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the writing must be identified. Entry must be double-spaced, written in ink, or typed on one side of the page. Handwritten entries must be legible.

5. Essay Length
  - Grades K-2 shall have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
  - Grades 3-5 shall have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 250 words.
  - Grades 6-12 shall have a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 300 words.
6. Essays will not be returned.
7. **All essays must be received by 11:59 pm Saturday, July 15.**
8. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
9. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the upper right-hand corner.**

### **Division 3310: Grammar Competition**

#### Class

- 1001 Grades 3-5  
 1002 Grades 6-8  
 1003 Grades 9-12

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. The competition will consist of an examination testing the student's knowledge of the correct usage of grammar. The students will not be asked to identify parts of speech.
3. Areas covered:
  - Grades 3-5: subject/verb agreement, plurals, verb tense, capitalization, possessiveness and correct word choice, sentence end punctuation.
  - Grades 6-12: all the above plus commas, colons, and semicolons.
4. The competition for Grades 9-12 will be held on Saturday, August 29 at 11:00 am in the Fonner Park Concourse. The competition for Grades 3-8 will be held on Sunday, August 30 at 11:00 am in the Fonner Park Concourse. Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in.
5. The test will be timed. Tests will be graded directly after the competition. Rankings beyond 5<sup>th</sup> place will not be disclosed. Academic testing awards will be given after all testing once results are calculated each day.

### **Division 3311: Group Art Competition**

#### Class

- 1101 Grades K-2  
 1102 Grades 3-5  
 1103 Grades 6-12

1. The entry will consist of a 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional piece of art.
2. Entries will be judged on creativity, artistic quality, and overall effect. The artwork will be judged in the age group of the oldest student in the group.
3. Please be sure to enter on the entry form as a group instead of entering each individual student. For example, First Name: Group Last Name: Class/School/Group Name.
4. Contact [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com) if entry requires space greater than 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet.
5. **Label all exhibits with each student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front bottom right-hand corner.**

#### Awards

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place                  | Plaque, ribbon, \$100 grant |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place                  | Ribbon, \$50 grant          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place                  | Ribbon, \$25 grant          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Place | Ribbons                     |

## **Division 3312: Health Poster Competition**

### **Class**

- 1201 Grades K-5  
1202 Grades 6-12

1. The entry will consist of a 14" x 22" poster (half sheet of standard poster board). The poster may be designed in either a vertical or horizontal format.
2. The poster should present a message promoting health. It can relate to any aspect of health such as healthy eating, eye health, hygiene, dental health, exercise, abstinence from tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, etc. The purpose of a poster is to call attention to a subject. The poster must focus on only one idea.
3. The poster should have an eye-catching illustration and a message in words. The illustration can be either hand-drawn, clipart, or a photograph printed from a computer. The poster itself should not be printed from the computer.
4. Poster should convey the message in as few words as possible between 7-10 words. Let the illustration do the talking. Do not put lists of health tips. Try to create a catchy phrase.
5. Any medium can be used: crayons, markers, computer graphics, ink, watercolor, paint, cut paper, stick-on letters, etc. The poster must be flat and not have any 3-dimensional objects attached.
6. Judging Criteria:
  - Idea: simple, clear message, appropriate for a poster
  - Lettering: appropriate size in proportion to the art, spaced evenly, all letters at least ½ inch from all edges of the poster, readable from a distance, neatly done, and easy to read
  - Arrangement: makes good use of the entire poster space without being too crowded
  - Color: use of bold and contrasting colors, neon-bright colors are generally not appropriate
  - Quality of Construction: neatly done, pencil marks erased, no visible glue, etc.
  - Completeness: The poster contains both lettering and illustration(s)
  - Overall Effect: eye-catching
7. Punch poster for hanging according to directions on page 27.
8. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
9. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front bottom right-hand corner of the poster board.**

## **Division 3313: History Display Competition**

### **Class**

- 1301 Grades K-5 Person  
1302 Grades K-5 Place/Event  
1303 Grades 6-12 Person  
1304 Grades 6-12 Place/Event

1. The entry will consist of a tri-fold display or poster board illustrating some person or event in history.
2. The display board should have eye-catching illustrations and/or photos and messages in words. Note: if the exhibit has accessories those accessories must be clearly labeled as what they go to and a picture must be submitted of the exhibit put together for reference to staff when displaying items.
3. Title display with person or event/place and other relevant information.
4. Judging Criteria:
  - Completeness: display thoroughly covers the person or event in history
  - Arrangement: makes good use of the entire space without being too crowded
  - Quality of Construction: neatly done, pencil marks erased, no visible glue, etc.
  - Color: The display is colorful and attractive
  - Illustrations: enough photos and/or illustrations to attract interest and visibly present the topic, but not so many as to overpower the message being presented

- Overall Effect: eye-catching, making fairgoers want to view and read the display.
5. The display board can be completed by an individual student or by a team of two. If two students work together any premiums won will be divided evenly.
  6. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category. For example, student must choose between a person or a place/event.
  7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the bottom right-hand corner of the display board.**

### **Division 3314: Illustrated Book Competition**

#### Class

- 1401 Grades K-2  
1402 Grades 3-5

1. The entry will consist of a book with illustrations, a story, and a cover.
2. Book Criteria
  - Grades K-2: at least 3 illustrations and at least 5 pages total
  - Grades 3-5: at least 5 illustrations and at least 10 pages total

These are the minimum requirements. Books can be as long as the student needs to tell the story.
3. It is acceptable for one student to write the story and another student to illustrate it. If the author and illustrator are two different students, any premium received will be divided equally and it must be entered as a group, not each individual student.
4. In addition to the story, each book should contain an "about the author" page or pages for more than one student. This page does not count in the total mentioned above. The About the Author page can tell such things as the author's age, school, hometown, family, pets, favorite activities, etc.
5. The book can be a true or fictional story or a report. Some ideas for reports are dogs, Nebraska flowers, state flags, vegetables, farm machines, camping, grasshoppers, turtles, cows, Nebraska seasons, Nebraska landmarks, Nebraska crops, etc.
6. The cover can be hardcover or card stock. The book and cover can be made by the student, or the students may use a purchased blank book. Blank books can be found online or at some craft stores.
7. The book is to be the work of the student and not commercially printed. Books for students in grades K-2 should be hand-printed. Grades 3-5 students may use a computer to print the pages. If using a purchased book, students can neatly trim their hand-printed or computer-printed pages and glue them onto the book pages.
8. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
9. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number.**

### **Division 3315: Know Nebraska Competition – A "NEBRASKAland" Competition**

#### Class

- 1501 Grades K-5 Story From the Past  
1502 Grades 6-12 Story From the Past  
1503 Grades K-5 Visit Nebraska  
1504 Grades 6-12 Visit Nebraska  
1505 Grades K-5 Nebraska Art  
1506 Grades 6-12 Nebraska Art  
1509 Grades K-5 Photography  
1510 Grades 6-12 Photography  
1511 Grades K-5 Other (Including Nebraska Game Option)  
1512 Grades 6-12 Nebraska Game

1. Competitors will be grouped into various divisions depending on category and entry numbers.
2. The following categories will be offered: Divisions K-5 and 6-12 for all.

- a. **Story from the past** – One (1) entry per student in this category. Relate a story from the childhood of a person who is at least 40 years older than you. Ask him or her about a memorable event from his/her childhood such as the first day of school, high school graduation, a family camping trip, a family vacation, a favorite pet, a holiday celebration, battling a blizzard, getting his/her driver's license, a competition entered, an injury or illness, etc. No minimum words. Maximum 2,000 words.
- b. **Visit Nebraska** – One (1) entry per student in this category. Visit a Nebraska attraction and have your picture taken. Include the photo and information about the attraction on an 11x14 sheet of poster board. Describe the attraction – where it is and what it is about. Also, why did you choose this place, and what did like and/or learn, etc.
- c. **Nebraska Art** – Maximum of Two (2) entries per student in this category. Art may be 3-dimensional, or wall art. **The Theme is It All Happens Here (Focused on Nebraska)**. Wall art and 3-dimensional art should follow the submission guidelines of the 3-dimensional art and wall art categories.
- d. **Photography** – Maximum of Two (2) entries per student in this category. Photos must represent Nebraska. Buildings, landmarks, animals, and landscapes are all acceptable. Photos will be judged on the quality of the photo and the relevance of **The Theme: It All Happens Here (Focused on Nebraska)**. Photos should be 8" 10" and mounted on a half or a full sheet of 22" x 28" poster board. Multiple photos may be mounted on the same board if the photographer of each photo is identified. Photos may be black and white or in color. Printing from a computer is fine. Commercial printing is NOT necessary. Punch holes in the poster board following directions on page 27.
- e. **1511 Other (Including Nebraska Game Option) K-5 Only** – One (1) entry per student in this category. Any project that relates to knowing Nebraska that does not fit in Categories A-D OR a Nebraska Game as stated for Grades 6-12.
- f. **1512 Nebraska Game 6-12**
  - i. Create a board or card game about Nebraska – One (1) entry per student in this category. Focus on Nebraska's unique geography, history, and/or culture to create engaging gameplay. It may be a style of game familiar to you (modify an original game) or a new creation.
  - ii. Research information to incorporate in your game. Be sure to include questions and answers. Sketch a plan for your game. Free game templates are available online (on sites like Canva) to help design your cards and board.
  - iii. Gather materials needed such as your game board, player pieces, action cards, tokens, dice, etc. Use cardboard or paper, or other appropriate materials to create your board and pieces.
  - iv. Name your game and include the rules: number of players, objective of the game, how to play and win, and any additional information the judges may find helpful.
  - v. Create a box or container to put your game into.

3. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number**

### **Division 3316: Mathematics Competition**

**Class**

1601 Grades 3-5

1602 Grades 6-8

1603 Grades 9-12

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. The competition will be divided into three divisions with the following topics:
  - Grades 3-5: Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, and percentages
  - Grades 6-8: Math computations, pre-algebra, and algebra
  - Grades 9-12: Algebra, geometry, trigonometry, probability, combinatorics, and number theory

Note: All exams may have questions where the work to attain the answer must be shown and will be graded. The problems will draw from any area of mathematics that the student has been exposed to up to this point of his/her education but will not include calculus.

3. No calculators will be allowed.

4. The competition will take place on Saturday, August 29 for Grades 9-12 and on Sunday, August 30 for Grades 3-8. The testing will take place in the Fonner Park Concourse. The tests will begin at 8:30 am. Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in.
5. The test will be timed. Tests will be graded directly after the competition. Rankings beyond 5<sup>th</sup> place will not be disclosed. Academic testing awards will be given after all testing once results are calculated each day in the Fonner Park Concourse. Tests will not be returned.

### **Division 3317: Penmanship Competition**

#### Class

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 1701 | Grades K-2  |
| 1702 | Grades 3-5  |
| 1703 | Grades 6-8  |
| 1704 | Grades 9-12 |

1. Students in Grades K-2 must use hand printing. Students in Grades 3-12 must write in cursive. If students in Grades K-2 know how to write in cursive, they are welcome to enter both the Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5 Competition.
2. Paper for all divisions should measure 8 ½" x 11" and have no decorations or holes for binders.
  - Grades K-2 may use paper with a dashed middle line to help in the uniform printing of letters.
  - Grades 3-12 lined penmanship paper is preferred but unlined paper is acceptable. If penmanship paper is not available paper from an 8 ½" x 11" white legal pad works. Such paper can be found in many stores carrying office supplies including discount stores like Walmart. Lined penmanship paper can also be printed from the Internet. Paper with a dashed center line and colored paper are not acceptable.
3. For students in Grades K-2 a pencil is recommended. Students in Grades 3-12 must use blue or black ink. A Ballpoint pen is recommended, not a felt tip or fountain pen.
4. The entry should not be mounted on construction paper, poster board, or any other material.
5. Entries for Grades K-2 double-spaced and Grades 3-12 must be single-spaced.
6. Judging criteria to include:
  - Correct formation of letters
  - Even spacing between letters, words, and lines
  - Appropriate margins (at least ½ inch on all sides of the paper)
  - Adherence to one method of writing
  - Exactness to excerpt presented (punctuation, no omitted words, no misspelled words, etc.)
  - Overall neatness
7. Excerpts
  - Grades K-2
    - i. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States. (Article IV, Section 2)
  - Grades 3-5
    - i. No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen. (Article IV, Section 3)
  - Grades 6-8
    - i. We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. (Preamble to the United States Constitution)
  - Grades 9-12
    - i. In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or

Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected. (Article II, Section 1)

8. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
9. **All penmanship entries must be received by 11:59 pm Saturday, July 15.**
10. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the top right-hand corner of the entry.**

### **Division 3318: Poetry Competition – A “NEBRASKAland” Competition**

#### Class

- |      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 1801 | Grades K-2  |
| 1802 | Grades 3-5  |
| 1803 | Grades 6-8  |
| 1804 | Grades 9-12 |

1. **The theme of the poetry for all divisions is It All Happens Here (Focus on America/Patriotic).**
2. Length
  - Grades K-2 shall have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
  - Grades 3-5 shall have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 250 words.
  - Grades 6-12 shall have a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 300 words.
3. Each competitor must prepare his or her poem. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the writing must be identified. Entry must be double-spaced written (must be legible) in ink or typed on one side of the page.
4. Judging Criteria:
  - Introduction
  - Topic development
  - Word choice
  - Structure
  - Ideas
  - Fluency
  - Organization
  - Overall effect
5. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
6. **All poetry entries must be received by 11:59 pm Saturday, July 15.**
7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the upper right-hand corner.**

### **Division 3319: Poetry Recitation Competition**

#### Class

- |      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 1901 | Grades K-3  |
| 1902 | Grades 4-8  |
| 1902 | Grades 9-12 |

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. Students in all grades may select a poem between 8 and 25 lines. For ideas check out [PoetryOutloud](#).
3. The poems must be memorized. There will be a prompter to assist the student if necessary; however, points will be deducted each time the speaker requests a prompt. The prompter will be seated in the front row. The speaker must signal the prompter if a prompt is wanted.
4. No props or costumes are allowed.
5. Judging will be based on the following with the maximum points for each in parentheses.
  - Physical presence (15)
  - Voice and articulation (15)
  - Dramatic appropriateness (15)



- Level of complexity (10)
  - Evidence of understanding (15)
  - Accuracy (10)
  - Overall performance (20)
6. Accuracy points will be deducted as follows:
    - Skipping a word, adding a word, using “a” for “the”, juxtaposing two words (1 point deduction)
    - Pluralizing a word or vice versa, using a synonym (1 point deduction)
    - One line out of order or repeating a line (2-point deduction)
    - Skipping a line, receiving a prompt (3-point deduction)
    - Reversing two stanzas (5-point deduction)
    - Skipping a stanza (6-point deduction)
  7. Recitation of poems should be preceded by stating the title of the poem and its author.
  8. Students should bring three copies of the poem with them on competition day for the judges and the accuracy judge and prompter.
  9. All competitions will take place in the Bosselman Conference Center stage on Saturday August 29.
    - Grades K-3 will begin at 10 am
    - Grades 4-8 will begin at noon
    - Grades 9-12 will begin at 2 pm

Please arrive 15 minutes early to your start time for check-in.  
All awards will be given out shortly after the conclusion of the 9-12 competition.
  10. The Outstanding Performer from all Poetry Recitations will receive a plaque.

## **Division 3320: Quiz Bowl Competition**

### Class

2001 Grades 6-8

2002 Grades 9-12

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. Teams must be entered by August 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm. No late entries will be accepted.
3. New Dates: Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> for Grades 6-8 and Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Grades 9-12.
4. The coaches’ meeting starts at 8:45 am with the competition scheduled to begin at 9:00 am both days. Teams will be paired at random and competition times will be assigned after check-in. The size of the school will not be a consideration in the draw for pairings. No late check-ins will be allowed.
5. Schools may enter any number of teams. When entering please put Name of School as first name and team Number as last name.

Student's First Name \*

If this is a group, type "Group" in first name box below. For Quiz Bowl put School Name

Short answer text

Student's Last Name \*

If this is a **group**, type either the group's name (preferred) **or** list the individual students' first names in the last name box below. For Quiz Bowl put Team Number

Short answer text

6. Each team must have a sponsor. Sponsors must attend the rules meeting at check-in and must stay with the students throughout the competition or the team will be disqualified.
7. Teams will consist of exactly four students: a captain and three members. Alternate players (maximum of 2) are allowed, but no substitutions may be made during a match. Alternate players may enter play only at the beginning

of a new match. The players on each team do not need to be from the same school, but each student may be a member of only one team.

8. The moderator will read the question and recognize the team that will answer the question. A scorekeeper, timekeeper, and tournament judge will also be present.
9. The State Fair Quiz Bowl will consist of round-robin play. Round-robin schedules will be provided after all teams have checked in.
10. Each game will consist of 30 questions (total toss-up and bonus) unless the game time limit is reached. In the event of a tie at the end of a round, a toss-up question will be used as a tiebreaker. The first team to correctly answer a tiebreaker toss-up question will win the game.
11. Two (2) types of questions are used during a match: toss-up and bonus. Points are scored by correctly answering a question. A correct answer to a toss-up question is worth 10 points and a correct answer to a bonus question is worth 5 points.
12. After the toss-up question is given, 10 seconds will be allowed for any team to respond. To answer a toss-up question, a player must be the first to signal by pushing his/her signal switch of the electronic control system. There may not be any conferring among team members during a toss-up question response. If there is a conferring, the team will be disqualified from that question.
13. The toss-up process consists of four (4) parts: the question, the signal, the recognition of the player by the moderator, and the answer. If a player answers without either of the two (2) middle parts, the answer is treated as an incorrect answer. The player must wait until he/she is acknowledged by the moderator before answering.
14. A team member giving a correct toss-up answer entitles the team to a bonus question. The team members have 20 seconds to confer on bonus questions before the answer is given. The answers to bonus questions must be given by the team captain. Answers from other team members will not be acknowledged by the moderator unless the team captain specifically requests that another team member be allowed to answer.
15. When a player gives an incorrect answer to a toss-up question and the question has not been completely read, the question will be read again in its entirety and the other team will have 10 seconds to answer by the normal sequence of signaling, being recognized, and answering. If neither team gives the correct answer, the next question will be read.
16. Decisions of the tournament judge will be final. The official declaration of the outcome of the match shall be irrevocable. As in any contest, a match shall not be replayed – even if the outcome could have been altered by judgment errors.
17. If a team feels that a challenge is necessary, the team captain is the only one who may make the challenge and must make the challenge at the time of the answer (before the next question is given). Make certain that all challenges are legitimate as each challenge lengthens the day. There shall be no questions raised by anyone except the team captain, moderator, or officials. The decision of the judge will be final.
18. Violations of the rules (such as consulting after pressing the signal button, or blurting out an answer before being recognized) will disqualify a team on that question and
  - On the toss-up question the other team will be allowed to answer the question for the full point value
  - On the bonus questions, no points will be awarded.
19. In the case of equipment malfunction, it shall be the judges' discretion to modify the timing and/or signaling.
20. No calculators or resource material may be used during the competition. Paper and pencils will be provided. The reader will tell students which questions will allow the use of pencil and paper.
21. The tournament schedule, format, and rules are subject to change. All changes will be announced.
22. Awards will be given directly after the competition.

### **Awards**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | \$100 scholarship and plaque per team – each member receives a ribbon |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | \$50 scholarship per team – each member receives a ribbon             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | \$25 scholarship per team – each member receives a ribbon             |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Place | Each team member will receive a ribbon                                |

Note: Up to five members of each of the top four teams will receive ribbons. If there are more than four team members, the scholarship money will be divided evenly among the team members. For example, if there are five members on the first-place team all five members will receive \$20 each (\$100 first-place team award divided by 5).

## **Division 3321: Scherenschnitte Snowflake Competition**

### **Class**

|      |            |
|------|------------|
| 2101 | Grades K-2 |
| 2102 | Grades 3-5 |
| 2103 | Grades 6-8 |

1. The entry consists of a snowflake cut from paper. The snowflake can be any size from a 3" diameter to a 12" diameter. For cleaner cuts and easier manipulation of scissors, it is suggested that students use paper no heavier than copy/prINTER paper. Tissue paper is also acceptable and is easier to cut than printer paper.
2. Snowflakes may be cut using a scherenschnitte pattern or freehand from folded paper.
3. Snowflakes, like all snowflakes in nature, should be six sides, not square.
4. Snowflakes are to be submitted individually, mount your snowflake on a contrasting colored paper each in its own plastic page protector. Snowflakes may be displayed in standard size or 12x12 page protectors.
5. Each student may have two (2) entries in this category.
6. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number.**

## **Division 3322: Science Competition**

### **Class**

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 2201 | Grades 3-5  |
| 2202 | Grades 6-8  |
| 2203 | Grades 9-12 |

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. The focus of each competition will be as follows:
  - Grades 3-5: the solar system, pre-historic life, weather, measurements, magnetism, and recycling
  - Grades 6-8: genetics, scientific research, electricity, ecosystems, anatomy, and chemistry
  - Grades 9-12: biology, physical science, chemistry, physics, anatomy, and physiology
3. The competition will be held on Saturday, August 29 for Grades 9-12 and on Sunday, August 30 for Grades 3-8. The location is the Fonner Park Concourse. The test will begin at 1:00 pm both days. Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in.
4. The test key answers will be the only answers considered. Answers requiring labels must be labeled.
5. The test will be timed. Tests will be graded directly after the competition. Rankings beyond 5<sup>th</sup> place will not be disclosed. Academic testing awards will be given after all testing once results are calculated each day in the Fonner Park Concourse. Tests will not be returned.

## **Division 3323: Science Display Competition**

### **Class**

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 2301 | Grades K-5  |
| 2302 | Grades 6-8  |
| 2303 | Grades 9-12 |

1. Students may enter either a traditional science display or a science invention. Both entries must be entered on a tri-fold display board showing what was done. The invention must be a scientific invention. Note: if the exhibit has accessories those accessories must be clearly labeled as what they go to and a picture must be submitted of the exhibit put together for reference to staff when displaying items.
2. Traditional projects will be judged on the student's ability to utilize and show inquisitiveness, experimentation, and interpretation of results. Projects should formulate an idea, and show investigative research, experimentation, and data gathered. The results of the research should be displayed. Clarity is a must and originality is a plus. Make certain that the project is the work of the entrant and is age appropriate. Include and label the hypothesis, procedure, data, and conclusion. Also, list research sources if you have any.
3. A student-built apparatus or invention must include evidence of research, how the idea was formulated, detailed plans and sketches for the invention, and what problem the invention will help solve.

4. In both types of projects please include the following:
  - State how you thought of the project.
  - If operational, include instructions.
  - Mention all the people who assisted and their roles.
  - Label the project with the student's name, grade, and school on the front of the project
5. If entering as a group be sure to enter as a group not each individual student. First name: Group Last Name: Student A and Student B.
6. Projects must not occupy an area larger than 3 ft tall x 2 ½ ft wide x 1 ½ ft deep. Projects can be smaller than the maximum size.
7. Whatever is displayed when the project is set up for judging should be able to remain throughout the duration of the fair. Example 1: Do not include any perishable food items. If the project involves a concept such as the growth of mold, show the process with photos. Example 2: Do not bring any valuable items that might get broken or stolen. Instead, show with photos. Example 3: Do not bring any liquids in open containers that could tip over and make a mess.
8. Projects are to be the work of the student. Parents or teachers of younger students can help with typing and preparing a tri-fold display, but the display should then include a statement of what help the student received. Typing is not necessary for the display. It is perfectly acceptable for younger students to print the information by hand.
9. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
10. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front lower right-hand corner of the display.**

### **Division 3324: Group Service Project Competition**

Class

2401 Grades K-8

2402 Grades 9-12

1. If members of a group fall into more than one age division, the project will be judged in the age division of the oldest member of the group. Note: be sure to enter as a group and not each individual student. Example First Name: Group Last Name: Student A Student B etc.,
2. Entries should be presented on a 3-dimensional standard science display board.
3. The entry should focus on some project the group did to meet a community's needs. The project must be self-initiated and not designed for the purpose of fulfilling requirements for an award.
4. State how many hours of this project were used to meet your school's community service requirements if any.
5. State who was involved with the project. Group projects should list all team members as well as an adult sponsor(s). For example, if a parent provided transportation or constructed something for the project, say so. If friends helped, tell how many helped and how much time they contributed. Having help does not diminish the value of the project, but rather gives the judge a clearer picture of the scope of the project.
6. Display should include:
  - At least one (1) photo of the project, more are preferred.
  - Newspaper clippings if your project had news coverage.
  - Item made if your project involved making something.
  - Answers to the following questions (either in a typewritten description or displayed separately on the board)
    - Where did you get the idea for the project?
    - When did you start it?
    - Has the project been concluded or is it ongoing?
    - What need was met in your community?
    - What was your goal in doing your project?

- What was your impact? For example, if you collected items, how many did you collect? If you raised money, how much did you raise? If you taught something, how many people did you teach?
- How many people were reached by your project?
- What was your time commitment? For example, the number of hours you spent taking nursing home residents for walks or collecting and delivering DVDs for children's hospitals.

7. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front lower right-hand corner.**

**Awards**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place                  | Plaque, \$100 grant to continue service project. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place                  | \$50 grant to continue service project.          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place                  | \$25 grant to continue service project.          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> –5 <sup>th</sup> Place | Ribbons  |

**Division 3325: Short Story Competition**

**Class**

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 2501 | Grades K-2  |
| 2502 | Grades 3-5  |
| 2503 | Grades 6-8  |
| 2504 | Grades 9-12 |

1. The word limit for Grades K-8 is 1,500 words. Younger students are not expected to use that many words. If they can tell a complete story in 50 words that is acceptable. The word limit for Grades 9-12 is 2,000 words. There is no lower limit.
2. There is no specified theme for short stories.
3. Short stories should be double-spaced and printed on one side only. The student's name, grade, and school must appear in the upper right side of the first page and the student's name should appear on each additional page. Grades 6-12 must be typed. Grades K-5 may be handwritten or typed. Please do not staple pages together.
4. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
5. **All Short Story entries must be received by 11:59 pm Saturday, July 15.**
6. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the upper right-hand corner.**

**Division 3326: Social Studies Competition**

**Class**

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 2601 | Grades 3-5  |
| 2602 | Grades 6-8  |
| 2603 | Grades 9-12 |

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. In honor of our state, the focus of all social studies tests again this year will be Nebraska.
  - Grades 3-5: Nebraska facts, cultural celebrations, symbols, landmarks, highways, and geography (perhaps with a little US geography)
  - Grades 6-8: Nebraska history (perhaps with a little US history), Nebraska Government, Nebraska Interstate system, Nebraska notable people, Nebraska points of interest, Nebraska cultural celebrities.
  - Grades 9-12: Nebraska notable people, Nebraska History, Nebraska state and federal office holders, and current political, social, and economic issues
3. The competition will be held on Saturday, August 29 for Grades 9-12 and on Sunday, August 30 for Grades 3-8 in the Fonner Park Concourse. The test will begin at 9:45 am both days. Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in.
4. The test will be timed. Tests will be graded directly after the competition. The test key answers will be the only answers considered. Rankings beyond 5<sup>th</sup> place will not be disclosed. Academic testing awards will be given at the conclusion of all testing once results are calculated in the Fonner Park Concourse. Tests will not be returned.

## **Division 3327: Spelling Competition**

### Class

- 2701 Grades 3-5  
2702 Grades 6-8  
2703 Grades 9-12

1. Each live competition student will receive a maximum of one (1) free admission ticket per competition day.
2. The competition will be held on Saturday, August 29 for Grades 9-12 and on Sunday, August 30 for Grades 3-8 in the Fonner Park Concourse. The contest is scheduled to begin at 8:00 am each day. Please see that students are in their seats no later than 7:50 am.
3. The entire spelling contest will be in written form. All contestants in each division will spell the same words.
4. Contestants will spell 50 words with the last 10 words used as tiebreakers.
5. Print all words plainly. Dot all i's, cross all t's, close all o's and a's. Rather than erase a word to change the spelling just draw one line through the word and print the word with the amended spelling.
6. Do not capitalize any word. There will not be any proper nouns in the word lists. If a word is capitalized, it will be counted as misspelled.
7. At the end of each round the enunciator will repeat words for that round if requested.
8. Test sheets will not be returned. The decisions of the judges are final. Rankings beyond 5<sup>th</sup> place will not be disclosed. Academic testing awards will be given at the conclusion of all testing once results are calculated each day in the Fonner Park Concourse.

## **Division 3328: State Float Competition**

### Class

- 2801 Grades K-5  
2802 Grades 6-12

1. The entry is to be a student-designed diorama featuring a state of his/her choice.
2. The float is to be made from a box such as a shoe or boot box. The box can be painted, covered with fabric, or covered with paper such as wrapping paper, poster paper, tissue paper, wallpaper, maps, newspaper, or magazine pages.
3. Drawings, pictures, or other items can be used to decorate the float.
4. Legos, plastic animals and/or plants, seeds, or other non-perishable items can be added to the float.
5. Floats should include the following:
  - State name, flower, bird, capital, tree, flag, and nickname
  - Day of Statehood
  - Large cities
  - Landmarks and tourist attractions
  - At least one (1) famous person
  - Something the state is famous for
  - Map of the state
  - Anything else you would like to include
6. For ideas google "State Float" or click on the link below:
  - <https://www.pinterest.com/bmortfish/state-float-projects/?lp=true>
7. Parents and older siblings are welcome to help younger students with the float but if a student receives help include a statement of who helped and what they did.
8. Be creative! Every float will be different, and the sky is the limit.
9. Judging will be based on the following:
  - Neatness
  - Information included
  - Viewer interest
  - Completeness

- Creativity
- Overall effect

10. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.

11. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number**

### **Division 3329: Story Board Competition: My Hometown**

Class

2901 Grades K-5

2902 Grades 6-12

1. Entry will consist of researching your town, community, neighborhood, county, or area, and presenting your findings as a story on a tri-fold display board. Helpful sites with examples are:

<https://blogs.loc.gov/families/2023/12/whats-the-history-of-my-hometown-activities-collections-to-explore/>

<https://moose.nhhistory.org/educators/capstone-projects/explore-hometown-history>

2. Your research may begin broadly and be narrowed to a specific time, event, or theme: such as local buildings, people, incidents, industry, or decade. Include the following headlines, but add more headings as they fit your story.
  1. My hometown \_\_\_\_\_(researched location)
  2. Information and illustrations (hand drawn, photographs, clipart, 3-D)
  3. Source(s) of information
3. Objects relating to the story may also be included but whatever is included should be able to remain with the display throughout the fair. Do not include anything valuable instead showing with pictures. Be sure to label all accessories and include a picture for staff to use when setting up the display.
4. Judging will be based on:
  1. Neatness
  2. Completeness
  3. Viewer interest
  4. Writing skills
  5. Creativity
  6. Overall Effect
5. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
6. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front lower right-hand corner.**

## **Division 3330: Wall Art Competition – A “NEBRASKAland” Competition**

### Class

|      |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 3001 | Grades K-2 Paper Composition  |
| 3002 | Grades K-2 Canvas             |
| 3003 | Grades 3-5 Paper Composition  |
| 3004 | Grades 3-5 Canvas             |
| 3005 | Grades 6-8 Paper Composition  |
| 3006 | Grades 6-8 Canvas             |
| 3007 | Grades 9-12 Paper Composition |
| 3008 | Grades 9-12 Canvas            |

1. There is NO theme for wall art. A photographic print is not acceptable. Photographs should be entered under “Photography” in the Know Nebraska category described on page 13 and 14. No food items that may spoil are allowed.
2. Judging Criteria:
  - Choice of subject
  - Craftsmanship
  - Use of elements – line, shape, color, texture
  - Use of principles – contrast, balance, etc.
  - Creativity – flexibility, uniqueness
  - Expression – content
3. Paper composition projects must be submitted on a full sheet or half a sheet of 22”x28” poster board and grouped in the appropriate divisions as stated above.
4. Teachers may place more than one (1) picture or art project on a poster board if in the same division. Only one (1) side of the poster board may contain entries. Punch holes according to the directions on page 27.
5. Canvas pieces must be 12”x16” or smaller.
6. Students are allowed to enter two (2) entries per class in student’s age division.
7. **Label all exhibits with the student’s name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front of the front lower right-hand corner of the poster board.**

## **Division 3331: Warmth for Veterans Competition**

### Class

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 3101 | Grades K-5  |
| 3102 | Grades 6-12 |

1. Create, make, and donate anything from your heart that shows respect and comfort towards our country’s honored Veterans. Students are encouraged to donate their entries and/or premiums from this class to a veteran or a veterans group of their choice.
2. Suggested items include, but are not limited to: quilts, afghans, throws, wearable blankets, neck pillows, rugs, draft stoppers, decorative pillows, hats, scarves, mittens, slippers, sweaters, coffee mugs, pictures, wall hangings, and table decorations.
3. All items must be accompanied by a 3x5 or 4x6 card stating what veteran or what veteran’s organization the item is being donated to or stating that the item will be donated to the State Fair to donate to a veteran or veteran’s group.
4. Warmth for Veterans classes is our 2026 featured division and will be awarded double points towards sweepstakes points total.
5. No limit on the number of entries per student.
6. **Firmly attach the label to all exhibits with the student’s name, school, grade, division number, and class number.**



## **Division 3332: Wax Museum Competition – Local Legend**

### Class

- 3201 Grades K-2
- 3202 Grades 3-5

1. Students choose a notable local person from their hometown area or county to research a biography on this person. Dress as your local legend while presenting about your person to a group. Note: This is not what you want to be when you grow up. For Reference, Google Wax Museum school project. Not to be confused with an occupation, but information must be based on a biography of a person.
2. The entry must be on a 22" x 28" poster board and include a picture of yourself in costume.
3. May include:
  - a. Name
  - b. Birth and Childhood
  - c. Past/Present Life
  - d. Education and occupation
  - e. Important life events and achievements, and their impact.
  - f. Why you chose this person
4. Each student may have one (1) entry in this category.
5. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front lower right-hand corner.**

## **Division 3333: Zen Coloring Competition**

### Class

- 3301 Grades K-2
- 3302 Grades 3-5

1. Students are to select an age-appropriate zen-type coloring page no larger than 9"x12".
2. Any medium may be used to color the design. Please be aware that if you choose to use a marker make sure that you do not use a marker on the back side of the paper because the marker may bleed through to the front detracting from your finished masterpiece.
3. Entries will be judged on color choice, neatness, and overall quality.
4. All entries must be mounted by division on either a half sheet or a full sheet of 22"x28" poster board with four holes punched for hanging. See page 27 for punching directions. Entries may be framed with colored paper before mounting on poster board.
5. Each student may have up to two (2) entries in this category.
6. **Label all exhibits with the student's name, school, grade, division number, and class number in the front lower right-hand corner.**



# Special Contest

## Division 3334: Exhibitor T-Shirt Competition

Class  
3401 Grades K-12

1. Design a creative and eye-catching t-shirt for the 2026 Nebraska State Fair Education Exhibitors! Show us your artistic skills while celebrating Nebraska's state fair tradition and our nation's 250th anniversary.
2. Winning Exhibitor will receive 4 Gate Admission and 1 Carnival Wristband to the 2026 Nebraska State Fair.
3. Design Requirements:
  - a. Front design only
  - b. Maximum of 3 colors in design. **T-shirt color will be dark gray.**
  - c. Must incorporate Fair Theme: It All Happens Here and/or America 250
  - d. Must include NEBRASKAland Logo and It All Happens Here Logo
  - e. Needs to say Education Exhibitor
4. Submission Guidelines
  - a. Submit design in high-resolution format (prefer PNG)
  - b. Include a brief description of your design concept (50 words or less)
  - c. Submit final design to [nsfeducationdept@gmail.com](mailto:nsfeducationdept@gmail.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup>
5. Judging Criteria
  - a. Creativity and originality
  - b. Incorporation of required theme and elements
  - c. Visual appeal and readability
  - d. Adherence to color limitations
  - e. Overall design quality
6. Submission is due on May 1<sup>st</sup> so these can be the official shirts of the 2026 Nebraska State Fair Education Department.
7. **State Fair Brand Standards**
  - a. **Colors:** #ffffff (White), #e22a31 (bright/vivid red), #1a3ba8 (royal/cobalt blue)
  - b. **Fonts:** Novecento Slab Rough, Wild Pines Park
  - c. **Note:** These are not required to use. If you are not able to access the fonts please use any basic font. The final t-shirt design fonts and colors could potentially be changed to meet the Nebraska State Fair brand standards.

## Logos

| It All Happens Here Logo  | NEBRASKAland Logo  |
|---|--|
|  |  |

# Hole Punching Instructions

Because much of the poster board currently available is rather flimsy holes need to be punched further in than in the corners to keep the poster from curving in the center while hanging on display.

Size 22"x28" and 22"x14" holes should be 4" from the left and right sides and approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top and bottom. Both top holes must be the same distance from the top edge of the poster board for the poster to hang straight.

Size 28"x22" holes should be 7" from the left and right sides and approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top and bottom.

Size 14"x22" holes should be 2" from the left and right sides and approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top and bottom.

