

2026 Hamilton County Fair
Home Center Events Information and Registration
November 6 – 8, 2026 (see official schedule for times)
McDonald Farm, Sale Creek, Tennessee

Register by mail using this application OR register online at hamiltontnfair.com

Home Center Rules and Regulations
PLEASE NOTE CHECK-IN DATES AND TIMES!!!

1. Registration deadline for mailed application is to be postmarked by October 21, 2026. Online registration deadline is October 28, 2026. Entry form must be received by deadline.
2. All items must be checked in at the Farm on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Entries received after 7:00 p.m. will not be eligible for judging.
3. All items are to be picked up on Sunday, November 8, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. or Monday, November 9, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Vehicles will not be allowed in on November 8th until all fair guests are gone.
4. Any items not claimed by 3:00 p.m. on November 11th will be disposed of at the discretion of the Fair Committee.
5. You must have a claim ticket to claim items.
6. Subdivision 1-11 are open to youth (6-18 year of age) and adults (19 and up). Exceptions: Legos (Subdivision 3/Class 3.3) is youth only. Subdivision 8 (Canning) is open to adults and youth B only. Adult and youth lots will be judged separately. Youth categories are divided into two age groups; Youth A (6-11) and Youth B (12-18).
7. Best of Subdivision – Craft Only (one awarded per age subdivision). First place winners in each class of Subdivision 1-7 (crafts) will compete for division awards. Winners will receive a best of division ribbon and premium. Division winners will then be judged for Best of Show.
8. Best of Show – (one awarded per age division). First place winners from Divisions 2-5 and best of division winners from subdivisions 1-7 will be judged for Best of Show ribbons and premiums.
 - a. Reminder Division 2 Canning (see division 2 section) for adult and youth B only and **requires a canning entry form attached to each entry.**
9. Displays for youth only categories in Subdivision 3/YA3.3/YB3.3 - Legos and building toys must not exceed 3ft. x 3ft. in width, there is no height limit. Cos-Play costumes may include accessories in their display however large, weapon-type props **must be** approved prior check-in.
10. All winners will receive ribbons and premiums as follow:
 - a. 1st - \$5 2nd - \$4 3rd - \$3 Best of Division/Best in Show - \$5
 - b. Participant ribbon – youth categories only
11. All items must have been produced by entrant within the last 12 months.
12. **All painting, photography, or drawing entries must be entered in a frame which includes a hanger. All clothing must be on a wire hooked hanger. Please read the instructions of each division carefully for further details.**
 - a. Items not properly submitted will not be accepted for judging.
13. Participants may enter only one item per class, but may enter as many classes as desired.
14. Please inform us on your entry form if the item is large or requires any special accommodations for proper display; i.e., dress forms or mannequins, woodworking items wider than 3ft., large decorated cake etc.

For more information on any Division contact:

(Adult and Baked Goods) Kylee Saunders – 423-209-6892 or kylees@hamiltontn.gov

For assistance with Youth Divisions:

(Except Baked Goods) Elisabeth Simmons – 423-315-0893

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED!

MAIL-IN REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POST MARKED BY OCTOBER 21, 2026

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS TIME STAMPED OCTOBER 28, 2026

NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR!

Division I - Crafts (Adult & Youth A & B)

Traditional heritage skills and crafts will be judged on originality, general appearance, workmanship, and design.

Subdivision 1 - Fine Craft

Class

- 1.1 Ceramics
- 1.2 Pottery
- 1.3 Woodworking (traditional, includes carving)
- 1.4 Woodworking (kits, misc.)
- 1.5 Jewelry (any media)
- 1.6 Metalworking
- 1.7 Leather working

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 1 (ribbon)

Subdivision 2 - Visual Art

All paintings and drawings must be in a frame with hanger attached.

Class

- 2.1 Painting (oil, water, acrylic, mixed media)
- 2.2 Drawing (pencil, pen, ink, mixed media)

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 2 (ribbon)

Subdivision 3 - Dolls and toys

Class

- 3.1 Dolls – Any Media
- 3.2 Miscellaneous Toys
- 3.3 Legos or Building Toys (Youth Only – 3'x 3' displays)

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 3 (ribbon)

Subdivision 4 - Decorative Craft

Class

- 4.1 Christmas Decorations
- 4.2 Seasonal Decorations
- 4.3 Home Décor Item – i.e. Tole or decorative painting, curtains, pillows, wall hangings, rugs
- 4.4 Scrapbooking
- 4.5 Artificial Flower Arrangement
- 4.6 Natural/Dried Flower Arrangement
- 4.7 Miscellaneous Craft (Stained Glass, Diamond Art)

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 4 (ribbon)

Subdivision 5 – Stitchery

Class

- 5.1 Cross – Stitch
- 5.2 Embroidery – Any Media
- 5.3 Other Hand Stitchery

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 5 (ribbon)

Subdivision 6 - Fiber Arts

Class

- 6.1 Knitting – (Any Method)
- 6.2 Crochet
- 6.3 Afghans
- 6.4 Basketry
- 6.5 Miscellaneous

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 6 (ribbon)

Subdivision 7 – Quilting

Class

- 7.1 Hand Quilted Quilts
- 7.2 Machine Quilted Quilts
- 7.3 Baby Quilts
- 7.4 Other Quilt Methods (cross-stitch, appliqued, yo-yo, etc.)
- 7.5 Other Quilted Item (garments, toy, wall hangings, pillows)
- 7.6 Beginner Quilt

Best in Division – 1st place winners in Subdivision 7 (ribbon)

Best in Show – Best in Division winners in Div. I (ribbon)

Division II – Canning (Adult & Youth B only)

Only USDA or other research based recipes/instructions will be judged. Best resource is nchfp.uga.edu (National Center for Home Food Preservation) or USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning. Judges will award placing only to entries meeting qualifications.

Attach recipe/instructions & Canning Entry Form (available at hamiltonfair.com/fair-competitions/) to each entry. Judging criteria: product, color, texture, liquid, head space, labeling, and recipe source. Containers must be standard brand, clean, clear jar specified for canning with 2-piece metal lid. Use jar size/headspace indicated below. Do not use 12 ounce jars. **None of these will be tasted.**

Subdivision 8 – Canning

Class

- 8.1 Jelly – 8oz. jar with ¼" headspace
- 8.2 Muscadine Jelly – 8oz. jar with ¼" headspace
- 8.3 Jam – 8oz. jar with ¼" headspace
- 8.4 Preserves – 8oz. jar with ¼" headspace
- 8.5 Dill Pickles – 8oz. or 16oz. jar with ½" headspace
- 8.6 Sweet Pickles – 16oz. jar with ½" headspace
- 8.7 Relish – * see below
- 8.8 Other Pickled Product - * see below
- 8.9 Salsa – 8oz. jar with ¼" headspace
- 8.10 Tomatoes (crushed, whole or halves) – 16oz. jar with ½" headspace
- 8.11 Fruit - 8oz. or 16oz. jar with ½" headspace
- 8.12 Vegetables – * see below

***follow USDA recipe/instructions for jar size & headspace**

Best in Show – 1st place winners in Div. II (ribbon)

Division III – Baked Goods (Adult & Youth A & B)

Please read carefully:

Appearance – Uniform browning and color, originality

Texture – Lightness and evenness of grain, moistness, tenderness, and flavor

Recipes must be included. All entries must be presented in sealed clear plastic (bakery style), disposable plastic containers, or zip lock bags. Decorated cakes are exempt but must be completely sealed in clear plastic. Entries deemed unfit for judging such as unsealed items, cakes in pans, on china, glass or plastic plates or items which contain perishable items such as fruit that spoils quickly will not be accepted for entry.

Subdivision 9 – Baked Goods

Class

- 9.1 Pies – ½ of pie
- 9.2 Candies (four)
- 9.3 Quick Breads – Non Frosted Cakes (pound, banana bread) – ½ of a loaf or cake
- 9.4 Muffins or Biscuits – four
- 9.5 Cakes (decorated) – observed
- Decorated cakes will be judged on appearance and originality and will not be tasted. They may be made on a cake form**
- 9.6 Cakes – frosted – ½ of a cake - tasted
- 9.7 Breads or Rolls – ½ loaf or 4
- 9.8 Cookies (squares or bars) – 4
- 9.9 Other Cookies – 4
- 9.10 Healthy Baked Goods (reduced fat, low cholesterol, etc.) – ½ of a loaf or 4

Best in Show – 1st place winners in Div. III (ribbon)

Division IV – Clothing (Adult & Youth A & B)

Appearance – Design (suitability, pleasing, interesting), color combination, originality, texture combination, cleanliness, pressing, use of accessories

Workmanship – Correct grain, choice and neatness of seams, hems, stitches and finish

All clothing must be displayed on a wire hooked hanger or on a display mannequin (with prior approval).

Subdivision 10 – Clothing

Class

- 10.1 Dresses
- 10.2 Skirts
- 10.3 Blouse – Shirt
- 10.4 Cos-Play or other costumes
- 10.5 Other Garment
- 10.6 Men's Garment
- 10.7 Accessories
- 10.8 Child's Garment
- 10.9 Upcycled – Wearable Art
- 10.10 Doll Clothes

Best in Show – 1st place winners in Div. IV (ribbon)

Division V - Photography (Adult & Youth)

All photos must be in a frame with hanger attached.

Subdivision 11 – Photography

Class

- 11.1 People
- 11.2 Places
- 11.3 Animals

Best in Show – 1st place winners in Div. V (ribbon)

Postmark registration deadline – October 21, 2026
Online registration deadline – October 28, 2026
 hamiltontnfair.com

☐ YOUTH B (12-18 years)

E-mail address: _____

[illegible]

Signature: _____

Registration deadline: postmarked by October 21, or online by October 28, 2025.
Mail this form to: Hamilton County Fair, P.O. Box 220, Hixson, TN 37343