



YOUTH HORSE

2026 EXHIBIT GUIDE

OCTOBER 16-18
HORSE ARENA

YOUTH HORSE DEPARTMENT

Physical Location:

SC State Fair
1200 Rosewood Dr
Columbia SC 29201

Mailing Address:

SC State Fair
P. O. Box 393
Columbia 29202

ABERNATHY ARENA**SUPERINTENDENT**

Brenda Baldwin
bjb1440@aol.com

JUDGE: David Johnson: Sophia, NC

IMPORTANT DATES

2026 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR – October 15-25

REGISTRATION: July 1 - Sept. 1 – All entries must be received in the Entry Office by midnight of the closing date. Late entries will not be accepted.

CHECK-IN AND BARN AVAILABILITY: Friday, October 10th: 10:00am

SHOW DATES:

Friday, October 16th: 4:00pm

Saturday, October 17th: 11:00am Scholarship Contest, 12:00pm Show Start

Sunday, October 18th: 12:00 noon

RELEASE: Sunday, October 18th immediately following close of show

GENERAL INFORMATION

FEES & PARKING

- ENTRY FEE: \$10 per class
- TACK STALL RENTAL: \$25 (optional)
- Check-In Changes/Additions (per Class): \$10
- Each exhibitor will receive one free parking pass. Please see section “Parking and Gate Admission” for more information.

HORSE STALL INFORMATION:

Stalls are free but limited in number. Every horse must have a reserved stall. Please reserve stalls with the following link:

[Horse Stall Reservation Form](#)

TOTAL PREMIUMS OFFERED

\$7,050 (This figure does not include value of other awards, i.e., ribbons, rosettes, banners, gift cards, scholarships, etc.)

PREMIUM CHECKS

1. Exhibitors awarded over \$599.00 must produce a valid, signed W-9 to be awarded premium (prize) monies.
2. Premiums will be paid within thirty (30) days after the close of the Fair.
3. Premium checks not cashed in ninety (90) days of issue date become void and will not be reissued.
4. Lost or stolen premium checks will not be reissued past sixty (60) days of original issue date.
5. No claim that a premium(s) has not been paid, or that there was a discrepancy in payment of the premium(s) won, will be considered when claim is made later than November 30 following the Fair.

RULES & REGULATIONS

The South Carolina State Fair General Rules and Regulations shall apply. As an exhibitor in the SC State Fair, you agree to the following:

1. I have reviewed and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the online 2025 SC STATE FAIR EXHIBITS GUIDE.
2. Upon delivery of my entry, I acknowledge that others will be using said facilities and premises at the same time and that the State Agricultural & Mechanical Society of South Carolina, aka The South Carolina State Fair, is not responsible for the acts, property, equipment and animals of others or the acts or products of any concessionaire.
3. I agree that photos of exhibits taken by official fair representatives may be used on the South Carolina State Fair website and social media outlets, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.
4. I acknowledge that the State Agricultural & Mechanical Society of South Carolina, aka The South Carolina State Fair, is not responsible for any loss, injury, illness, or damage to any animals or property or exhibit articles and that such understanding and agreement is a condition of my entry or exhibit.
5. Further, I agree to and hereby indemnify the State Agriculture & Mechanical Society, aka The South Carolina State Fair, from any loss, injury, damage or claim of any third person caused by any animal, exhibit, entry or property of mine or any act of anyone or mine acting on my behalf.

ENTRY REGISTRATION

1. Online entry registration is the preferred method for registering entries. A link to the ShoWorks entry system is found on the SC State Fair website at www.scstatefair.org/competitions
2. Online entry registrations are confirmed at time of submission.
3. Print/save and bring your confirmation to present at check-in.
4. An exhibitor may opt to mail an entry form and must include a self-addressed, stamped legal size envelope to receive a return confirmation that the entry form was received.
5. The Show Manager may reject any applications that are not properly prepared or that are received or postmarked after September 1.

ENTRY REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

1. Online entry registrations are confirmed with an email at time of submission.
2. Exhibitors who mail their entry registrations and desire confirmation must include a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope. Please do not telephone the Fair or Entry Office.
3. Confirmation letters, Parking Passes, and two (2) wristbands for each Rider/Handler (youth exhibitor) will be mailed in late September to the Responsible Party for Exhibitors.
4. **Contact Brenda Baldwin, Youth Horse Show Superintendent, if the letter is not received one week (7 days) prior to the show.**

LINKS

[Stall Reservation Form](#)

[Reserve RV Parking](#)

[Equine Import Requirements](#)

REGISTRATION NOTES

1. A Responsible Party should complete the entry form with the Riders and Handlers being classified as Exhibitors.
2. All premiums will be paid to the Responsible Party. It is this person's responsibility to distribute this money as they see fit.
3. The Birth Date of each Rider/Handler should be listed on the Entry Registration Form for all classes. Exhibitor's age by January 1st determines the age division for classes.
4. Exhibitors in the NOVICE CLASSES may not enter any other class that requires a canter or a lope (see NOVICE DIVISION ENTRANCE paragraph).
5. Refunds will NOT be given if the exhibitor is entered in the incorrect class (es); however, every effort will be made to move the exhibitor to an appropriate class (es).
6. Class changes/additions may be made only during check-in on the show date; any additional fee payment must be in the form of cash following the entry closing date. In addition to each \$10.00 per class entry fee, a class change fee of \$10.00 per class for each class change or addition will be assessed only during check-in (Reminder: CASH ONLY).
7. Premiums will be paid only if all show fees have been paid.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. The original Coggins report dated within the last twelve (12) months prior to the show is required and must be presented to the Youth Horse Superintendent upon arrival at the fairgrounds or during check-in.
2. DO NOT MAIL the Coggins report with the entry form. All out-of-state animals must have a health certificate issued within thirty (30) days of the show by a licensed and accredited veterinarian.
3. All vaccinations should be current. All animals must appear in good flesh and health.
4. The Superintendent of the Youth Horse Show has the right to request that any animal which appears to be in poor health or condition be removed from the fairgrounds.

DRUG TESTING

The Show Committee and the SC State Fair reserve the right to test any animal at any time for suspected drug abuse to be paid for by the exhibitor of the animal.

EXHIBITOR AGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Exhibitors must be nineteen (19) years of age or under as of **January 1 of the current year**. This is also applied to each age division, i.e., 12 and under class entrants must be 12 or younger as of **January 1**.
2. The Superintendent of the Youth Horse Superintendent has the right to request proof of age if an entry is contested.

EQUINE SCHOLARSHIP

The South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation is proud to offer a \$2,500 scholarship annually.

Deadline to apply is September 1, 2026. Applicant must be a participant in the Horse Show.

Details Can be found [HERE](#).

Application Can be found [HERE](#).

PARKING & GATE ADMISSION

To provide and ensure the necessary parking space for towing vehicles transporting show animals for exhibit at the SC State Fair, livestock exhibitors must adhere to the following policy:

Vehicles enter Gate 4 on Rosewood Drive

EXHIBITOR PARKING:

- **ONE COMPLIMENTARY GATE 4 PASS** per exhibitor will be mailed to each exhibitor in late September.
- Under extenuating circumstances only (ie stable owner, groups, etc.) will an exhibitor be allowed to purchase an additional Gate 4 pass. Contact the [Show Superintendent](#) to discuss the need for an additional pass.
- No vehicle will be allowed to turn into Gate 4 without a pass.
- Any vehicle inside the Gate 4 parking area without a pass displayed will be towed at the owner's expense.

PARKING AND ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR GUESTS:

- Advance purchase of admission tickets (\$10) is advised for additional family members, friends, etc. that will be parking in the general admission parking lot (Not the Gate 4 exhibitor only lot).
- These tickets are taken up or scanned at the gate each time you enter the fair and are valid for ONE DAY ONLY.
- Additional gate admission tickets may be purchased at www.scstatefair.org/tickets or participating Circle K outlets.

PARKING LIMITATIONS

No trailer or vehicle parking at the barns, in front of the stalls, or driveways between barns, or in the inside aisles.

HORSE STALL RESERVATIONS

Stalls are limited and must be reserved with the Youth Horse Superintendent. Please complete the stall reservation form. There is no fee for stalls.

Link: <https://form.jotform.com/251555833528160>

TACK STALL RENTAL

Available ONLY at time of registration for \$25.00 per stall.

RV PARKING

LINK: [Reserve RV Parking](#)

We have moved to the following RV Assignment Process to ensure fairness and be practical.

- 1- Location Based
- 2- Needs of the Show
- 3- Date/Time Registered as an RV Camper

Please complete the RV/reservation form **to be considered** for a space. There is no charge for RV Parking if you are a showing exhibitor, but full hook-up spaces are extremely limited and not guaranteed. One space per showing exhibitor is permitted **if available**. Full hook-up spaces consist of Power, Water and Sewer connections. Bring your own equipment.

DIVISION & CLASS INFORMATION

DIVISIONS / CLASSES

- 1201 – 1ST Year Showing / 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 38, 39
- 1202 – Ages 12 & under / 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34
- 1203 – Ages 13-15 / 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 35
- 1204 – Ages 16-19 / 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36
- 1205 – Youth Hunter Over Fences / 41, 43, 45, 47
- 1206 – Youth Equitation Over Fences / 40, 42, 44, 46

***NOVICE DIVISION ENTRANTS PLEASE READ:**

WALK/TROT and WALK/JOG CLASSES

1. A NOVICE is defined as an exhibitor that is his/her first year of showing as determined by the SC State Fair entry system.
2. This does not apply to green horses or new mounts.
3. All NOVICE entrants are not eligible to enter any of the classes that are not in the NOVICE Division, i.e., any class that requires a canter or lope.
4. Entrants may enter any other class that is noted as a NOVICE class.

CLASS PROCEDURES:

1. A list of entries will be posted prior to the beginning of each day's classes.
2. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to confirm the correctness of his/her entries and to be at the in-gate at the appropriate time.
3. If the entry is NOT listed on the class roster, your entry must be cleared by the show office prior to being allowed into the arena.
4. The posted roster will serve as the 'order of go' in individual run classes. It will be announced if a reverse order of go will be applied to selected classes.
5. Exhibitors not displaying their show (back) number will be asked to leave the ring.

6. All animals entered in the show or stalled in the barns must be manageable or will be excused from the ring or asked to leave the grounds.

SPEED EVENT CLASSES:

1. All exhibitors must wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt with a collar, cowboy boots and an approved safety helmet.
2. The exhibitor may not be tied or secured in the saddle in any fashion.
3. Due to the unique show environment of the SC State Fair and the show facility and in attempt assure a safer environment, exhibitors will enter the arena at a walk. After the gate is closed, they may increase the speed and will stop at a closed arena gate (i.e. there will be no running starts allowed due to the lack of a secured alleyway).

WESTERN CLASSES:

1. All exhibitors must wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt with a collar, cowboy boots and a western hat.
2. Current western fashion trends, such as horsemanship shirts, meet these standards.
3. Chaps are optional.
4. While safety helmets are not required, they are strongly recommended.
5. The exhibitor may not be tied or secured in the saddle in any fashion.

HUNTER OVER FENCES CLASSES

1. An exhibitor may only enter in classes of TWO fence heights, i.e., 18" & 2'; 2' & 2'3"; 2' & 2'6"

RANCH HORSE CLASSES

***Exhibitor may show only one horse.**

- **Ranch Ground Handling** – Classes 25-28 – Entries judged on handler's ability to communicate with the horse through a series of maneuvers that simulate tasks on the ranch such as turns on the forehand or haunches, backing, moving forward at a walk/trot/extended trot, standing square at the end of a loose lead, side passing or lateral maneuvers. Horses to be shown in a plain leather, nylon, or rope/cotton halter. Silver halters are not allowed.
- **Ranch Pleasure** – Classes 29-32 – Entries judged on performance, suitability as a ranch horse, manners, and way of going. To be judged along the rail at the walk, trot, and lope (WT classes walk and trot only). All entries are required to back and judges may ask for extensions of the walk and trot. If ridden with two hands a regulation snaffle must be used. (Refer to AQHA level 1/SC 4H rules) Curb bits must be used with one hand (neck reining).
- **Ranch Riding** – Classes 33-36 - Entries judged individually on a pattern to include the walk, trot, and lope (WT classes walk and trot only) as well as lead changes (simple or flying judged equally), turns, backing and crossing logs. Patterns to be chosen from the current AQHA/SC 4H State rule book. The horse is judged on performance, suitability as a ranch horse, manners, and way of going.

COSTUME CONTEST

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S FAIR IS "ROOTED IN FUN". The roots of the South Carolina State Fair are in agriculture. What does "Rooted in Fun" meant to you? Showcase your creativity and express the theme and spirit of the fair.

Contest will be held on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th, at the end of the day following the conclusion of the Ranch Riding classes. There is no fee to enter.

DIVISION 1207 – COSTUME CONTEST

Class 37	Costume Contest	1 st - \$50, 2 nd - \$40, 3 rd - \$30, 4 th -\$20, 5 th - \$10
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CONTEST RULES:

- Exhibitors may lead or ride in the costume class.
- Horse and exhibitor should be in coordinating costume.
- No skits or acts are allowed.
- Do not use decorations or props that could frighten other animals or guests.
- Costumes must be appropriate.
- Focus on the theme is emphasized.

ELIGIBILITY: Youth participant must have entered in at least ONE other show class of the 2025 SC State Fair Youth Horse show.

PRIZES: TOP FIVE will receive prizes and Rosettes (1st - \$50, 2nd- \$40, 3rd- \$30, 4th-\$20, 5th- \$10).

ROOTED IN FUN COSTUME JUDGING:

Use of Theme	25%
Appearance	25%
Creativity	20%
Use of horse in your theme	15%
Overall Impression	15%

AWARDS

AWARDS

1st – 5th placing ribbons

Champions – Neck Rosette and \$50 Gift Card

Reserve Champions – Neck Rosette and \$25 Gift Card

*PREMIUMS

1st - \$50, 2nd - \$40, 3rd - \$30, 4th - \$20, 5th - \$10

TOP AWARD

SC STATE FAIR PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD

Silver Belt Buckle

The President's Award was designed to bestow the highest recognition to an outstanding exhibitor of the South Carolina State Fair who has demonstrated exceptional involvement in the livestock industry and is an advocate for agriculture and livestock education. The president's Choice Award is considered the highest honor at the South Carolina State Fair.

Selection:

President Award Recipients will be selected in the following species: Jr Beef, Open Beef, Jr Dairy, Open Dairy, Dairy Goat, Jr Market Goat, Jr Sheep, Smallstock, Jr Swine, Open Swine, and Youth Horse.

Guidelines:

- The South Carolina State Fair President's Competition is open to all 2025 South Carolina State Fair youth and open exhibitors (exhibitor is defined as an individual that exhibits an animal show in a minimum of one class in one species show.)
- Contestants may only compete in one specie area in which they are currently exhibiting.
- Once a youth exhibitor is recognized with the President's Award, they will not be eligible to compete for this award in the same species again. Youth winners are eligible to compete in the open division in future years.
- Once an open exhibitor is recognized with the President's Award, they will not be eligible to compete in future years.

Selection Information:

- This distinguished award will be selected by the specie superintendent and the specie support staff.

The intent of this prestigious award is determined on the following Youth Horse criteria:

- Overall presentation of horse and exhibitor.
- The horse is well groomed, well cared for, and in fit condition.
- The tack is well maintained and clean.
- The exhibitor is well groomed and appropriately attired.
- Overall exhibits good horsemanship.
- Courtesy to other exhibitors, spectators and show officials will count towards the award. Disregard for show and facility rules and regulations will count against award calculations.
- Positive interaction with the public during the designated species competition time frame, where applicable.
- Exhibits good sportsmanship throughout the show.

CLASS SCHEDULE

AWARDS

1st – 5th placing ribbons

Champions – Neck Rosette and \$50 Gift Card

Reserve Champions – Neck Rosette and \$25 Gift Card

*PREMIUMS

1st - \$50, 2nd - \$40, 3rd - \$30, 4th - \$20, 5th - \$10

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th: Starting 4:00 pm

1	Novice Walk-Trot Arena Race – 1 st year showing
2	Youth Arena Race (ages 12 & under)
3	Youth Arena Race (ages 13-15)
4	Youth Arena Race (ages 16-19)
5	Novice Walk-Jog Pole Bending – 1 st year showing
6	Youth Pole Bending (ages 12 & under)
7	Youth Pole Bending (ages 13-15)
8	Youth Pole Bending (ages 16-19)
9	Novice Walk-Jog Barrel Racing – 1 st year showing
10	Youth Barrel Racing (ages 12 & under)
11	Youth Barrel Racing (ages 13-15)
12	Youth Barrel Racing (ages 16-19)
<p>*Hunter: Novice Champion = total classes 1, 5, 9 *Speed Event Champion (ages 12 & under) = total classes 2, 6, 10 *Speed Event Champion (ages 13-15) = total classes 3, 7, 11 *Speed Event Champion (ages 16-19) = total classes 4, 8, 12</p>	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th: Starting 12:00 pm

SC State Fair Equine Scholarship Presentation during Lunch Break

SC STATE FAIR EQUINE SCHOLARSHIP CLASSES

- Showmanship
- Horsemanship

13	Novice Hunter Showmanship – 1 st year showing
14	Youth Hunter Showmanship (ages 12 & under)
15	Youth Hunter Showmanship (ages 13-15)
16	Youth Hunter Showmanship (ages 16-19)
17	Novice Hunter Under Saddle (Walk-Trot) – 1 st year showing
18	Youth Hunter Under Saddle (ages 12 & under)
19	Youth Hunter Under Saddle (ages 13-15)
20	Youth Hunter Under Saddle (ages 16-19)

21	Novice Hunt Seat Equitation (Walk-Trot) – 1 st year showing
22	Youth Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat (ages 12 & under)
23	Youth Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat (ages 13-15)
24	Youth Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat (ages 16-19)
	*Novice Cross Rail Hunter Champion = total classes 13, 17, 21 *Hunter Champion (ages 12 & under) = total classes 14, 18, 22 *Hunter Champion (ages 13-15) = total classes 15, 19, 23 *Hunter Champion (ages 16-19) = total classes 16, 20, 24
	*For Ranch classes, exhibitor may show only one horse.
25	Novice Ranch Ground Handling – 1 st year showing
26	Youth Ranch Ground Handling (ages 12 & under)
27	Youth Ranch Ground Handling (ages 13-15)
28	Youth Ranch Ground Handling (ages 16-19)
29	Novice Ranch Pleasure (Walk/Trot) – 1 st year showing
30	Youth Ranch Pleasure (ages 12 & under)
31	Youth Ranch Pleasure (ages 13-15)
32	Youth Ranch Pleasure (ages 16-19)
33	Novice Ranch Riding (pattern) (Walk/Trot) – 1 st year showing
34	Youth Ranch Riding (pattern) (ages 12 & under)
35	Youth Ranch Riding (pattern) (ages 13-15)
36	Youth Ranch Riding (pattern) (ages 16-19)
37	COSTUME CLASS – ALL AGES
	*Novice Ranch Riding Champion = total classes 25, 29, 33 *Ranch Riding Champion (12 & under) = total classes 26, 30, 34 *Ranch Riding Champion (ages 13-15) = total classes 27, 31, 35 *Ranch Riding Champion (ages 16-19) = total classes 28, 32, 36

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th: starting 12:00 pm

38	Novice Cross Rails - 18 inches (walk-trot) – 1 st year showing
39	Novice Cross Rails - 18 inches (walk-trot) – Equitation Over Fences – 1 st year showing
	EXHIBITORS MAY CHOOSE TO ENTER IN TWO FENCE HEIGHTS ONLY.
40	Youth Hunter Over Fences — 18 inches
41	Youth Equitation Over Fences — 18 inches
42	Youth Hunter Over Fences — 2 feet
43	Youth Equitation Over Fences — 2 feet
44	Youth Hunter Over Fences — 2 feet 3 inches
45	Youth Equitation Over Fences — 2 feet 3 inches
46	Youth Hunter Over Fences — 2 feet 6 inches
47	Youth Equitation Over Fences — 2 feet 6 inches