

Photography 2026 “Nailed It!”

Welcome

We are excited about another great year of amazing images at the Antelope Valley Fair Photography Exhibit. For over 55 years, the photography exhibit has been an enjoyable and stimulating part of the Fair. As before, there are two types of image entries: **Print** and **Digital**. This refers to the method of displaying the images at the fair.

1. A **Print** will be displayed on the display boards at the Photography Exhibit
2. A **Digital** entry will be displayed on one or more large screen TV's at the Photography Exhibit

We can use your help! On average, over 800 volunteer hours go towards the photography exhibit each year. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the chairperson above. [An AV Fair Volunteer Application](#) is needed.

Chairpersons & Contact Information

Co-Chairperson, Kurtiss Humphrey – (661) 209-9217, kurtisshumphrey@gmail.com

Co-Chairperson, Kathy Newman – (661) 317-1884, kc_newman2001@yahoo.com

Important Dates In 2026

- July 28th (Tue, 6:00pm) – “Help Register Your Prints Workshop” at the AV Senior Center
- August 25th, (Tue, 6:00pm) – “Help You Mount Your Prints Workshop” at the AV Senior Center
- August 30th (Sun) – Registration Closes. **Late registrations will not be accepted**
- September 4th (Fri) – Digital Image Submittal Opens
- September 13th (Sun) – Digital Image Submittal Closes (11:59pm)
- September 16th (Wed, 9am – 7pm) – Print Take-In Day
- October 5th (Mon, 2pm – 7pm) – Print Pickup

General Rules (Applies to Print and Digital Submittal)

1. AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated images will NOT be accepted.
2. The A.V. Fair Photography Exhibit is not affected by other camera clubs or other fair photography rules.
3. No entries will be accepted from **companies, organizations, or groups**. **For studios, the photographer who pushed the shutter button needs to have their name entered first and then optional studio name.**
4. Management reserves the right to select exhibits for display. See Home Arts Rules #5 & #9
5. The Antelope Valley Fair and their affiliates shall be held harmless in the event of copyright infringement
6. Exhibitors should have available a signed model release from any person appearing as the subject in a photo exhibit. The release should be available if requested by the Fair Director in charge.
7. **No names, titles or identifying watermarks** shall appear on the image, print, or mount board
8. Photography entries shall have been photographed by the exhibitor and shall be significantly different from those exhibited by the exhibitor in this or previous Antelope Valley Fairs.
9. Any duplicate entries (either digital and/or print submittal) by the same exhibitor will result in the rejection of one or both entries. **No AI-generated images will be accepted.**
10. All possible care will be exercised in the handling of photographs. However, the Antelope Valley Fair is not responsible for loss or damaged submissions.

Entry Limits – 20 Entries Total per Exhibitor

Print entries: Two (2) per class per exhibitor. Maximum ten (10) total. Print entries on foam board are displayed on wall hangers in photography display area.

Digital Image entry: Two (2) Digital entries per class per exhibitor. Maximum ten (10) total. Digital images will be displayed on one or more large screen TV's.

AWARDS

Best of Division: Trophy/Rosette Ribbon, selected from first-place winners in each Class of the Division

Best of Show: Trophy/Rosette Ribbon, selected from the Print and Digital Division winners

Judge's Choice: Special Rosette Ribbon

Committee Choice: Special Rosette Ribbon

Fair Directors Choice for "FAIR THEME": Special Rosette Ribbon,

For 2026 the Fair Theme is "***Nailed It!***". Have Fun!

Sweepstakes: Trophy/Special Rosette Ribbon, Print and Digital Image entrants (Amateur, Advanced, and Master only) compete together. The award is given to the exhibitor accumulating the highest number of points. It shall be based upon total ribbons won, with points to be counted as follows: 1st – 5pts, 2nd – 3pts, 3rd – 1pt, Division Winner – 3 pts, and Best of Show 5 pts. In case of a tie, the exhibitor with the most 1st Place (Blue) ribbons shall be the winner.

Distribution of Ribbons, Trophies, and Award Checks

Please pick up your Prints, Ribbons, Trophies and Checks on

MONDAY, October 5th, FROM 2pm TO 7pm.

The fair will not be responsible for, nor store, unclaimed photographs beyond pick up deadline.

ENTRY PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Online Registration go to <https://antelo.fairwire.com/> to create an account follow all prompts.
- You will choose your Skill Level, Divisions, and Classes. Please enter all your information and classify your entries correctly. No image uploads or prints are required at this time. After registration you will receive emails with details for print and/or digital entry instructions.

If you need to make changes after you have registered, please call the entry office at 661-948-6060, ext. 226. Deadline for class changes on your entries is **August 30th** (Sun). No class changes are allowed at Take-In without the Chairmen's permission.

Digital Image Upload - NOTE: All digital images must be registered online by the deadline, **August 30th** (Sun), to be able to upload digital images between **September 4th** (Fri) and **September 13th** (Sun). Digital images will be uploaded via Google Drive.

You will be notified with a link by email close to September 1st. If you have not received your link by email, please contact the Chairperson.

Print Take-In Day - Bring your prints to the AV Fair, on **September 16th**, (Wed) from 9am -7pm.

DEFINING YOUR IMAGES

Pick one **Skill Level**

Pick a **Division** (Black & White, Color, Prints or Digital), then Pick a **Class** for your work.

SKILL LEVEL - Pick one below that suits you as a photographer

Junior – Open to exhibitors 17 years and under as of December 31, 2026. Age must appear on entry form.

Amateur –A person who engages in photography as a pastime rather than a profession. They have not won a total of two (2) Blue Ribbons (total over one or more years) in Photography at the Antelope Valley Fair. Best of Division and/or Best of Show counts as a blue ribbon.

Advanced –One whose photographic skill has progressed beyond the level of Amateur, or they have won two (2) Blue Ribbons (total over one or more years) in photography as an AMATEUR at the Antelope Valley Fair. Best of Division and/or Best of Show counts as a blue ribbon.

Master- One whose skill has progressed beyond the level of Advanced, or they have won (2) Blue Ribbons (total over one or more years) in photography as an ADVANCED at the AV Fair Photography is still a hobby and not a livelihood.

Professional –A person who engages in events or activities as a livelihood rather than a hobby and/or offers their services for pay as an instructor, judge and/or demonstrator. Open to Individuals only (see General Rule #2).

CLASS DEFINITIONS - Please use suitable Class definition for your photograph. A presentation with examples on all Class is available at <http://www.lpaphotography.org/index.php?topic=avfair>.

ACTION – Motion being portrayed as the dominant theme, includes sports.

AIRCRAFT – Images of any type of craft designed to fly. (examples: airplane, hot air balloon, ultralight, etc.).

AMERICA 250 (new) – Images that reflect or represent America's 250th Anniversary and focus on patriotism, themes of freedom, American history, or local community celebrations.

ANIMALS – DOMESTIC Pets or animals common to the home.

ANIMALS – WILD Non-domesticated animals in natural habitats, game farms, or zoos.

BIRDS – Birds depicted as the main theme.

BLACK & WHITE / MONOCHROME – Must be black and white, or black and white with one toned color applied to the entire image. For example, sepia tone. If a specific element is colored within an otherwise monochrome image, the image shall be deemed a color image. Not to be confused with the two Divisions of Black and White.

CLOSE-UP- Closeup views of subjects. Shows detail and fills the frame (examples: butterfly, insect, part of a flower, a part of a face, or a part of a larger subject). Includes macro photography. It does not include the broad scene.

CREATIVE ART – Photography is the **principal medium**, either color or black and white, which significantly alters original image, such as overlaying photos, changing opacity, using filters, adding text, fantasy or textured backgrounds, etc. All images used to create the end image must have been taken by the entrant. Small amount of manipulation is NOT considered Creative Art.

FAIR THEME Photographs that reflect or represent in some way the concept of this year's Antelope Valley Fair theme. For 2026 the Fair Theme is "**Nailed It!**". Have Fun!

FLOWERS – Single or multiple blossoms of one or more plants, including landscapes dominated by desert wildflowers.

NATURE – Something that exists in nature. Examples: insects, butterflies, spiders, trees & leaves, etc., but are not pictorial. No manmade objects.

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY – Images captured outdoors at night, between dusk and dawn. Includes landscapes, cityscapes and painting with light.

PHOTOJOURNALISM – Image tells a story, such as seen in a newspaper. Entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, documentary and spot news. Sports action is acceptable. The story telling value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality. Posing for the purposes of photography is excluded.

PHOTO STORY (new) – Multiple photos mounted together that tell a story of any subject. Limited to a series of four (4) 4"x6" photos mounted together horizontally on a 6"x16" or 4"x24" foam board.

PICTORIAL – A picturesque scene that does not qualify for CLOSE UP or NATURE. Includes Land, Sky and Water.

PORTRAIT Portrayal of a living person(s) either posed or candid. Includes wedding or related photos as the main theme.

SCENIC LAND – A photograph with land as the intended theme (such as mountains, forests, grasslands). Manmade objects (buildings, bridges, etc.) are permitted but they are NOT the object of the photograph and make up a relatively small part of the total image.

SCENIC SKY – A photograph with sky as the predominate theme

SCENIC WATER – A photograph with water as the predominate theme.

STEP INTO THE PAST – Historic sites, buildings, antiques and relics of the past.

STRUCTURES- Man made objects such as buildings, bridges lighthouses, statues, A photograph with one or two made objects as the intended theme and takes up most of the image and emphasizes the architectural or artistic character.

TRAVEL-Image must express the cultural feeling of a distant place or time, and its people. You must include the location where photo was taken in the “description of entry” part of the entry form.

VEHICLES–Type of vehicle,(examples: car, sailboat, bicycle, train, etc.),except Aircraft.

MISCELLANEOUS – Subject does not fit in any other class in its division, or the class is not available in the division. Includes Still Life.

ADULT DIVISIONS - Open to all individuals living anywhere. The entrant must be the one who pushed the shutter button.

Entry Fee: \$5.00 per entry

American System of Judging for Adults

Premiums Offered for Print and Digital Per Class: 1st - \$15, 2nd - \$10, 3rd - \$5.

DIVISION 1 - Black & White Prints - Amateur/Advanced (21501)

DIVISION 2 - Black & White Prints - Master/Professional (21502)

(Divisions 1 and 2 use the same classes)

CLASS:	1. Photojournalism	3. Portrait
	2. Pictorial	4. Miscellaneous

DIVISION 3 - Color Prints – Amateur(21503)

DIVISION 4 - Color Prints – Advanced (21504)

DIVISION 5 - Color Prints – Master/Professional (21505)

(Divisions 3, 4, and 5 use the same classes)

CLASS:	1. Action	9. Fair Theme	17. Scenic Sky
	2. Aircraft	10. Flowers	18. Scenic Water
	3. America 250	11. Nature	19. Step into the Past
	4. Animals - Domestic	12. Night Photography	20. Structures
	5. Animals - Wild	13. Photojournalism	21. Travel
	6. Birds	14. Photo Story	22. Vehicles
	7. Close-up	15. Portrait	23. Miscellaneous
	8. Creative Art	16. Scenic Land	

DIVISION 7 - Digital Amateur (21507)

DIVISION 8 - Digital Advanced (21508)

DIVISION 9 - Digital - Master/Professional (21509)

(Divisions 7, 8, and 9 use the same classes)

CLASS:	1. Action	9. Fair Theme	17. Scenic Sky
	2. Aircraft	10. Flowers	18. Scenic Water
	3. America 250	11. Monochrome	19. Step into the Past
	4. Animals - Domestic	12. Nature	20. Structures
	5. Animals - Wild	13. Night Photography	21. Travel
	6. Birds	14. Photojournalism	22. Vehicles
	7. Close-up	15. Portrait	23. Miscellaneous
	8. Creative Art	16. Scenic Land	

JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Fee: NONE (Same Entry Limits as Adult Class).

Danish System of Judging for Juniors

Premiums Offered for Print and Digital Per Class: 1st – 3rd Place Ribbons

Division 6 – Color Prints Junior (17 Years and Under) (21506)

Division 10– Digital Junior (17 Years and Under) (21510)

(Divisions 6 and 10 use the same classes)

CLASS:	1. Action	6. Fair Theme	12. Portrait
	2. America 250	7. Flowers	13. Step into the Past
	3. Animals – Domestic & Wild (includes birds)	8. Nature	14. Structures
	4. Close-up	9. Night Photography	15. Travel
	5. Creative Art	10. Photojournalism	16. Vehicles
		11. Pictorial	17. Miscellaneous

DIGITAL PRESENTATION - for Adults and Junior Divisions

Digital images (.jpg) will be displayed during the exhibit in a slideshow fashion on one or more large TV monitors. These entries will be judged similarly to prints and will compete with prints for “Best of Show”.

1. All images must be submitted on-line (via the internet) **September 4th (Fri)** through **September 13th (Sun)**.
2. **Exhibitor must have access to an e-mail address which will be used to notify and facilitate the login/password process for uploading images.**
3. Required entry data must accompany the digital entry registration as prompted by the “Online entry page”, which will include the exhibitor’s name, e-mail address, and phone number.
4. Images must be in the JPG format
 - a. Image file size must be at least 100 KB, but not more than 4 MB.
 - b. Image size on the longest edge is 2048 pixels.
 - c. Preferred color profile is SRGB.
5. Digitally produced frames may be used as part of the image.
6. Monochrome images are acceptable. See description of **Monochrome** Class for more information.
7. **No names, titles or identifying watermarks** shall appear on the image
8. Substitutions or class changes **shall be allowed only within an entry’s original Skill Level and appropriate Division**. Entries made for a digital exhibit in a Digital division shall not be accepted as a print during Print Take-in.

Note: For judging, all entries, whether in vertical or horizontal format, will be sized to fit the display monitor. Therefore, entries presented in the horizontal format will show up larger on the wide TV monitor.

PRINT PREPARATION - for Adults and Junior Divisions

Note: for helpful hints and guidance on preparing your prints go to <http://www.lpaphotography.org/index.php?topic=fair>

1. All prints must be printed on a single piece of photographic paper. Entry Title is not required nor encouraged.
2. **SIZES:** Please check print size chart below.
3. **MOUNTED WORK:**
 - a. All work must be mounted on no thicker than 3/16" thickness foam core (see picture below) or professional print board. **No Frames, cardboard, glass, or gallery wrap mounting is allowed and will not be accepted.**
 - b. Pictures must be assembled with permanent adhesive to endure the exhibit environment without delaminating. "Self-stick" foam board, tape and other temporary adhesives are NOT recommended.
 - c. Prints should be "Flush Mounted" which means the print is the same size as the mount board. However, the print may be smaller than the mount board by no more than 1.25 inches on each side.
4. **HANGERS:** Do Not attach any wires, brackets, or other hardware. The Take-in committee will hang accordingly
5. **Exhibitor's name, division, class, email, and phone number MUST be on back of each exhibit.**
 - a. Please use ID tag format and location shown on the next page.
 - b. The ID Tag should be along the top edge centered to indicate the correct hanging orientation.

MOUNT YOUR PRINTS - Minimum and Maximum Print Sizes and Information

<p>Square Max. 16 x 16 in.</p>	<p>Standard: Max. 16 x 24 in.</p>								
<p>Square Min. 10 x 10 in.</p>	<p>Junior: Max. 11 x 14 in.</p>								
	<p>Jr. & Standard Min. 8 x 10 in.</p>								
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<p>Photo Story: 6 x 16 in., Portrait Orientation, Four 4 x 6 in. Prints</p>	<p>Photo Story: 4 x 24 in., Landscape Orientation Four 4 x 6 in. Prints</p>								

3/16" Foam Core

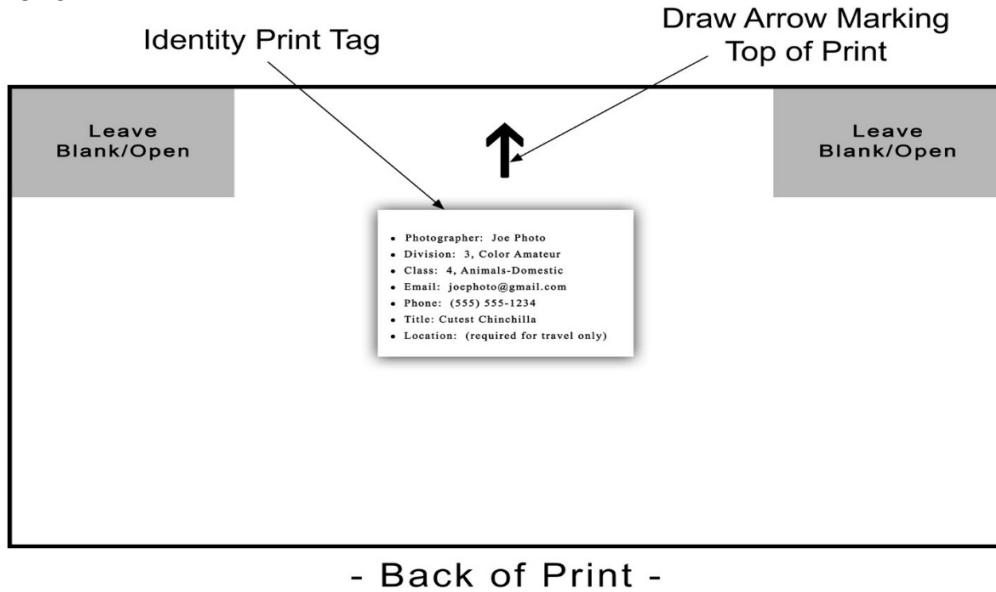


Walgreens Print Boards have white borders.



- All prints must be mounted on no thicker than 3/16" thickness foam core or professional print board.
- Printing and mounting provider options are on the last page of the rules.

ID Tag Placement



Print Submittal Labels

<p>Photographer:</p> <p>Division:</p> <p>Class:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Title (optional):</p> <p>Location (Travel Only):</p>	<p>Photographer:</p> <p>Division:</p> <p>Class:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Title (optional):</p> <p>Location (Travel Only):</p>
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Links to Help You Choose Your Best Images and Photo Competition Tips

[Elements of a Merit Image](#) by the Professional Photographers of America

[Twenty-Five Questions to Think like a Photo Competition Judge](#) by the North American Nature Photography Association

[9 Top Photography Composition Rules You Need To Know](#) by ePHOTOzine

Local and on-line photo printing services. Please call to verify print services are still available.

Photo Printing – Local

Walmart – walmart.com

East Lancaster
1731 E Avenue J
Lancaster, CA 93535
+1 (661) 942-7312

West Palmdale
39940 Tenth St W
Palmdale, CA 93551
+1 (661) 267-6697

West Lancaster
44665 Valley Central Way
Lancaster, CA 93536
+1 (661) 940-0311

East Palmdale
37140 47th St E
Palmdale, CA 93552
+1 (661) 533-3156

Walgreens – walgreens.com

East Lancaster
831 E Avenue K
Lancaster, CA 93535
+1 (661) 942-1782

Quartz Hill
5001 W Avenue N
Lancaster, CA 93536
+1 (661) 722-5892

West Lancaster
2840 W Avenue L
Lancaster, CA 93536
+1 (661) 943-8683

East Palmdale
37160 47th St E
Palmdale, CA 93552
+1 (661) 236-0015

Photo Printing – On-line

Sams Club – <https://photo.samsclub.com>

Target - <https://www.targetphoto.com>

Shutterfly - <https://www.shutterfly.com>

Snapfish - <https://www.snapfish.com>

MPix – <https://www.mpix.com>

[Bay Photo - https://bayphoto.com](https://bayphoto.com)

Photo Mounting - Local

Hobby Lobby
40022 10th St West
Palmdale, CA 93551
+1 (661) 267-1601

Theme for 2026: ***“Nailed It!”***