



**Contact:** Leasha LaBruzzi  
[publicity@sonomacountyfair.com](mailto:publicity@sonomacountyfair.com)  
(707) 545-4200 x202

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## Fair Fun Starts Now with Pre-Fair Contests

*Get Fair tickets just by entering and bigger prizes—including cash—if you win!*

SANTA ROSA, CA – April 28, 2017 – Calling word-smiths extraordinaire, awesome artists, conceptual thinkers, inspired readers and creative-types of all ages! Now's the time to get your "Holidaze" festivities started by entering pre-Fair contests at the Sonoma County Fair. Kids and adults are invited to participate; all contests (*with the exception of the coloring contest*) provide ribbons and free Fair Admission just for entering! Winners receive prizes including cash or Family Fair Passes. "Holidaze"-themed contests provide the chance to get creative while celebrating your favorite holiday. Others simply shine a festive light on what you love doing—whether it's reading, writing or art. The **deadline to enter is June 30**

The **Coloring Contest** is open to all ages with entries judged within age groups; winners receive Family Fair Passes good for admission, carnival and parking passes. All participants get a Ribbon and a \$5 Fair Admission Discount (*cannot be combined with other discounts*). In this contest, you're invited to use markers, pens, colored pencils or crayons (*only*) to color in the coloring page in the Fun Book.

**HOLIDAZE THEMED CONTESTS:** *Open to all ages with entries judged within age groups*

**My Favorite Holiday** is an essay contest where you write about which holiday you prefer over all the rest. Use your best verbs, adverbs and adjectives to describe why your holiday pick is your favorite, and be sure to include your personal experiences to make your essay meaningful.

Have you ever gone to the store to buy a greeting card, suffered sticker shock and thought "I can make something much better at home?" Enter the **Create a Holiday Greeting Card** contest and use your homegrown artistic talents to create a card that's truly original. It might be Christmas, Halloween, Hanukkah, Easter, Kwanza, Valentine's Day, or any other holiday, you get to choose—just make it look homemade and not commercial.

**Holiday Decorations** bring back good memories and set the tone of holiday fun to come. In this contest, create your own holiday decoration for any one holiday. Use crayons, paints, glitter, pencils or pens to create a flat decoration, such as something you hang from a tree or attach to a wall.

Are you a creative thinker—always thinking new and original thoughts? **Invent Your Own Holiday** to put those juices to work. Every holiday from New Year's to Christmas got its start somewhere, now you create one for the day you think deserves a celebration of its own. Just answer these three questions: What is the



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name of your holiday, why should it be a holiday and what mascot or representative (like Santa Claus) will represent your holiday?

## **PRE-FAIR CONTESTS JUST FOR KIDS!**

**Reading & Riding** is your chance to read books and win carnival rides! Sponsored by Butler Amusements, young readers in grades Grades K – 6 can earn 2 Free Carnival Rides by reading extra books (not assigned in class). Students in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades may read picture books, while 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades must read chapter books. Be sure to enter by **June 30** to receive a Ribbon and two free Carnival Ride Passes in July!

Win CASH in the **Sticker Contest** sponsored by Santa Rosa Label Co., prizes include \$100 (1st place), \$50 (2nd place) and \$25 (3rd place). Using markers or colored pencils, design a 3” sticker that makes you think of the Fair and of holidays—but doesn’t look like the Fair logo. Santa Rosa Label Co. will produce the 1st place stickers, each winner will receive 100 stickers produced from their art and the rest will be given out at the Fair! This contest is open to kids in grades K to 6 and is judged in two age groups.

**My Grandparents are the Best** is a super fun contest where you tell us why your grandparent or all of your grandparents rank #1. Kids in Grades K – 8 are invited to participate in this essay contest. Draw from your personal experiences and creative writing skills to make your grandparents come to life on paper!

**Entry Forms** are required for all contests and each contest has specific guidelines to follow. You can view these contest rules and download entry forms from the Pre-Fair Contests section of the Fair’s website at: <http://www.sonomacountyfair.com/fair/pre-fair-contests.php>. Entry forms and rules are also included in the Fun Book, which is available at the fairgrounds and at your public library.

Every day is a holiday during “Holidaze at the Sonoma County Fair!” Get ready to celebrate from August 3 – August 13. You won’t want to miss this year’s FREE Community Concert Series, the thrill of live horse racing, excitement of an ALL NEW giant carnival, nostalgia of “Holidays in Bloom” themed flower show, live entertainment, incredible food, fun contests, new games and more. For details, visit [SonomaCountyFair.com](http://SonomaCountyFair.com) or call (707) 545-4200. Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter to keep up with the fun. See you at the Fair!

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