**Contest FAQs**

*Are all these contests just for kids?* No! Some are (Sticker, Grandparent Essay & Reading), but others are for all ages.

*Where do I find the entry form?* There are entry forms in this booklet, but if you enter more than one contest you will need more entry forms. Make copies (on white paper), or go to [www.SonomaCountyFair.com](http://www.SonomaCountyFair.com) and search for “Pre-Fair Contests.” To get more copies of this booklet, go to the fairgrounds or the public library.

*What’s the deadline?* Entries must be returned to the fairgrounds by June 30.

*Does everyone get a free Fair ticket?* If you enter the Coloring Contest, you get a $5 discount on Fair admission. If you enter one or more of the other pre-fair contests, you get one ticket to the Fair. You will get a participant ribbon for each contest you enter. Tickets and ribbons will be mailed out after July 15.

*What can I win?* Many contests offer Family Fair Passes (carnival tickets, fair admission and parking) as prizes. Sticker Contest winners get cash prizes.

*Why do I have to give my address and phone number?* Your address so we can send your ribbons and free ticket (and your prize if you win!). Your phone number and email address allow us to get in touch if there is a problem with your entry.

This year’s Sonoma County Fair theme is **Holidaze**! We are celebrating a year’s worth of holidays in one 11-day fair, and you are invited to the party. The fun begins with an array of holiday-themed pre-fair contests. You can write, draw, create…and win!

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**Pre-Fair Contests and Fun!**

**My Favorite Holiday**

Everyone has a favorite holiday, and for this contest, you write an essay explaining why you prefer one holiday over all the rest. Use major league verbs, adverbs, adjectives—you want your readers to understand why you think that holiday is the best! Follow up your opinion with examples from your experiences. Do research and use your imagination. All entries must be printed or written on one or two pages of 8 1/2” x 11” paper. Leave the back of each page blank (except for your name). If you have more than one page, staple them together. Tape a Contest Entry Form* to the back of your entry. This contest is open to all ages.

**Create a Greeting Card**

Create a holiday greeting card. It might be Christmas, Halloween, Hanukkah, Easter, Kwanza, Valentine’s Day, or any other holiday…you get to choose! Be original! Your entry must not look like a greeting card that has already been produced commercially. You can use crayons, paints, pencils or pens, but not stickers, computer graphics, tracing or photos - use your homegrown artistic talents! Your entry should be no larger than 8 ½” x 11” when unfolded, on paper only (not mounted). Tape a Contest Entry Form* to your entry. This contest is open to all ages.

**Design a Decoration**

Many holidays call for decorations, and for this contest, you make a paper decoration for any (one!) holiday. Your decoration should be 2-dimensional (flat). It might be something you hang from a tree, or the ceiling, or even attach to the wall. Use crayons, paints, glitter, pencils or pens, but not stickers, computer graphics, tracing or photos - use your homegrown artistic talents! You can decorate one side, or both. Your entry should be no larger than 8 ½” x 11”, made out of paper (not mounted). Tape a Contest Entry Form* to your entry. This contest is open to all ages.

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*Contest Entry Forms on Page 4*
Use this entry form for these contests: My Favorite Holiday, Invent Your Own Holiday, Design a Decoration, Create a Card, Grandparents Essay

Contest Entry Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name: ___________________________  Age: ______

Home Mailing Address (Street/PO Box):

__________  __________

Town    Zipcode

Phone: ______

Email

Teacher & School (2016-17 school year) -- Applies to Students Only!

Return Entries by June 30 to:

Sonoma County Fair • 1350 Bennett Valley Rd. • Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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Pre-Fair Contest Rules

• Entries must be your original work. No helpers!
• No team entries.
• Only one entry per person, per contest!
• Entries will be divided into age groups before judging.
• All entries will be displayed at the Fair. The Sonoma County Fair reserves the rights to all original artwork.
• Winning designs will be featured on the Fair website and Facebook page.

Fun Free Shows at the Fair!

Don’t miss out on these fun shows, all free with admission to the 2017 Sonoma County Fair.

High Diving Pirates of the Caribbean  This pirate-themed high dive show is filled with comedy, excitement and fun. The divers will plunge from as high as 70 feet and into a pool that “looks like a 50-cent piece” from up on the platform. The 26’ diameter pool only has 9 1/2 feet of water in it.

Acrobuffo!  A hysterical water balloon gladiator show with comic antics, flying water balloons, and loud opera music. Using no words, Seth and Christina of Acrobuffo deliver Water Bomb!, a gut-busting, interactive show that has thrilled crowds in 13 countries.

Creature Features!  You can see, touch and learn about captive-raised reptiles, amphibians and arthropods from the near and far corners of the world. View science artifacts, nature videos, hatching snake eggs, parrots, and even an alligator.

Lorikeet Encounter  Enter this amazing exhibit and get up close and personal with these friendly and colorful creatures. Bird lovers of all ages will find lorikeets landing on their shoulder in search of conversation...or a snack!

These contests are presented by the Sonoma County Fair. They are not sponsored by any school district, including Santa Rosa City Schools.

Invent Your Own Holiday!

There are lots of holidays, from New Years to Easter to Independence Day and beyond. All of those holidays got their start somewhere, and now you have a chance to invent a new one! What do you think needs a celebration of its own? For this contest, you need to come up with a reason for a new holiday, a name for your holiday, and a mascot or representative. There’s Santa for Christmas (or maybe Rudolph?), the Easter Bunny, Cupid for Valentine’s Day, Father Time for New Year’s Eve. Who (or what!) will represent your holiday? To enter, answer the following questions:

1. What is the NAME of your holiday?
2. WHY should this be a holiday?
3. WHAT MASCOT or representative will represent your holiday?

All entries must be printed or written on one page of 8 1/2” x 11” paper. Leave the back of the page blank. DO NOT put your name on the front of your entry. Tape a Contest Entry Form to the back of the page. This contest is open to all ages.

My Grandparents are the Best

Who Can Enter?  Sonoma County Kids grades K to 8

Write an essay telling why you think your grandparents are great. You can tell about one or all of your grandparents. Write an essay explaining your choice. Use major league verbs, adverbs, adjectives—you want your readers to understand what your grandparents are like. Follow up your opinion with examples from your experiences. Your entry should be written neatly (or printed) on 8 ½” x 11” paper, no more than two pages. Leave the back of each page blank. DO NOT put your name on the front of your entry. Tape a Contest Entry Form to the back of the page. This contest is open to grades K thru 8.

More Holiday Contests!

Don’t miss out on these fun shows, all free with admission to the 2017 Sonoma County Fair.