

## **Cohutta 250 Blue Ribbon Contests 2026**

### **General Rules (Apply to ALL Categories)**

- Entries must be **created by the person submitting them.**
- **One entry per person per category**, unless otherwise stated.
- Entries must be **appropriate for public display.**
- Items must be **dropped off during designated entry times** and picked up at posted times.
  - Thursday, April 30, 2026, 12-2 & 5-7 @Cohutta Community Center
  - Judging occurs on Friday, May 1, 2026
  - Pickup is Saturday, May 2, 2026, 5 -7 @ Cohutta Community Center.  
Any items left after 7pm will be disposed of.
- Judges' decisions are **final.**
- The fair is not responsible for damage, but all care will be taken.
- Entries may be disqualified if they do not follow category rules.

# Cohutta 250 Blue Ribbon Contest

## OFFICIAL JUDGING STANDARD

(Used for ALL Categories)

Judging will be based on the following Blue Ribbon Standard:

**1. Adherence to Theme or Category (25%)**

Clear representation of the assigned theme or category requirements.

**2. Technical Skill (25%)**

Mastery of technique, craftsmanship, accuracy, and overall execution.

**3. Creativity & Originality (20%)**

Unique interpretation, originality, and creative expression.

**4. Emotional Impact or Appeal (15%)**

Ability to evoke interest, enjoyment, feeling, or tell a story.

**5. Presentation (15%)**

Neatness, display quality, and overall visual appeal.

## **Age Divisions (All Categories)**

- **Pre-K & Below**
- **Elementary Age**
- **Middle School Age**
- **High School Age**
- **Adult (18+)**

*Entries are judged within their age division.*

## Category #1: Americana Arts – General

### Description:

Any original art piece that reflects American history, culture, traditions, or life—especially rural and small-town America.

### Acceptable Themes Include (but are not limited to):

- Rural or small-town life
- Historic American scenes or events
- Patriotic imagery (flags, symbols, celebrations)
- Barns, farms, Main Street scenes
- American folklore and traditions
- Landscapes unique to the United States

### Acceptable Media:

- Painting (oil, acrylic, watercolor)
- Drawing (pencil, charcoal, ink)
- Mixed media
- Sculpture or 3-D art
- Photography
- Wood
- Fiber art or collage

### Rules:

- Artwork must be **original**.
- **NO AI-generated artwork.**
- **NO copyrighted images or characters.**
- Maximum size: *recommended 24" x 36"* (may be adjusted by organizers).
- Artwork must be **ready to display** (framed, mounted, or stable).

### Judging Criteria:

- Creativity & originality
- Interpretation of the Americana theme
- Craftsmanship & technique
- Overall visual impact

## Category #2: Canning

(Jams & Jellies, Honey, Pickles)

### Rules:

- Home-canned items only.
- Must be in **clean, sealed jars** with new lids.
- Label must include:
  - Product name
  - Main ingredients
  - Date canned
- No refrigeration required.
- No commercial or store-bought items.

### Judging Criteria:

- Appearance
- Color & clarity
- Texture/consistency
- Overall quality

## **Category #3: Bread**

**(Sourdough, Biscuits, Sweet Bread)**

### **Rules:**

- Must be baked by the entrant.
- One loaf or serving portion.
- No commercial mixes (unless noted).
- Clearly label bread type.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Texture & crumb
- Flavor
- Appearance
- Proper bake

## **Category #4: Cake Decorating**

**(Real Cake or Dummy Cake)**

### **Rules:**

- May be edible or non-edible (dummy).
- Decorations must be created by entrant. No store bought decorations.
- Cake must be stable for display.
- Label whether cake is **real or dummy**.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Design & creativity
- Technique
- Clean lines & detail
- Overall presentation

## **Category #5: Cookies - Any Type**

### **Rules:**

- Submit 3-6 cookies of the same kind.
- No store-bought items.
- Cookies should be uniform in size.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Taste
- Texture
- Appearance
- Consistency

## **Category #6: LEGO Creations**

**(Cohutta, Fantasy, Vehicular, General Themes)**

### **Rules:**

- Must be original designs.
- No kits or instructions followed exactly.
- Entries must fit on a base no larger than 15" x 15".
- Secure pieces for display.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Creativity
- Design complexity
- Theme interpretation
- Stability

## **Category #7: Duct Tape Creations - Any Type**

### **Rules:**

- Majority of item must be made from duct tape.
- Functional or decorative items allowed.
- Must be original.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Creativity
- Construction quality
- Effective use of materials
- Design

## **Category #8: Popsicle (Pop-Sicle) Art - Any Type**

### **Rules:**

- Majority of structure must be popsicle/craft sticks.
- Any glue or paint allowed.
- Must be free-standing or display-ready.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Creativity
- Structural integrity
- Craftsmanship
- Overall appearance

## **Category #9: Pet Rocks - Any Type**

### **Rules:**

- Rock must be decorated by entrant.  
Accessories, names, and backstories encouraged!  
Rock must be display-safe.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Creativity
- Personality
- Presentation
- Fun factor

## **Category #10: Quilting - Any Type**

### **Rules:**

- Quilts may be hand or machine sewn.
- Any size allowed.
- Quilts must be completed and clean.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Stitch quality
- Design & pattern
- Color coordination
- Overall craftsmanship

## **Category #11: Peach Desserts - Any Type**

### **Rules:**

- Must contain peaches as a primary ingredient.
- Homemade only.
- Provide recipe card (optional but encouraged).

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Flavor
- Texture
- Appearance
- Peach flavor prominence

## **Category #12: Fresh Flower Arrangements**

### **Rules:**

- Must use fresh flowers.
- May include greenery or fillers.
- Container required and should complement arrangement.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- Color harmony
- Balance & proportion
- Creativity
- Overall presentation