

Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition

2026 Tablescaping Competition

Do you love decorating for holidays and special occasions? Are you the friend who is known for throwing extravagant parties? Do you love a creative challenge? If you said “yes!” to any of these questions, our Tablescaping competition is for you! The challenge is to create a tablescape according to one of two themes (classes). One to two people are allowed per team. You will set up your table while fairgoers watch. Once the time is up, our judges will judge each entry based on the criteria below and award first through third place. Put on your creative hat and amaze us with your tablescape!

Entry Fee

- \$10

Division Awards

- 1st Place Ribbon, \$150
- 2nd Place Ribbon, \$100
- 3rd Place Ribbon, \$75

Schedule

Location - Drop-off and pick-up will be located in the Creative Arts Building

Event	Date and Time
Entry registration, fee, and digital image submission deadline	Wednesday, July 22, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.
Table set up	Friday, September 4, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load-in 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (30-minute drive-in/drop-off limit) • Set up 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Judging	Friday, September 4, 2026, 1:05 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Judge Question and Answer, 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Pick-up	Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 9:30 am - 1:00 p.m.

Tablescaping Divisions And Classes

Tablescaping Division 0420

Classes 0001-0002

- 0001. Setting Colorado’s Table: 150 Years of Agricultural Legacy
- 0002. Fairitage (Your Fair. Your Heritage. Celebrate your Fairitage)

Eligibility

Open to all living residents of Colorado. Up to two people per team. One entry per person or team. The lead team member must be 18 or older. No team member may be under 7 years of age.

Competition and Entry Requirements

These requirements are in addition to the 2026 Colorado State Fair General Competition Requirements, the General Entry and Fine Arts 2026 Competition and Entry Requirements, and the Colorado State Fair Exhibitor Code of Conduct.

1. Maximum of one entry per person or team. Each individual may participate on one team only.
2. Teams must choose a lead exhibitor and enter under that person’s name. All contact will go to the lead exhibitor via the contact information submitted in their entry registration. Premium awards will be issued to the lead exhibitor.
3. Only exhibitors listed on the entry registration will be allowed to participate in the table in the stanchioned tablescaping area. Up to two people per table. Only exhibitors listed on the entry registration will be allowed in the building during times the fairgrounds are closed to the public.

4. The first 10 people or teams who register and pay for their entry will be accepted.
5. Entry registration for the Tablescaping Competition will only be accepted online. No in-person entries will be accepted for this competition.

Guidelines for Exhibiting

Entry Delivery

1. Each team will be issued one drive-in unload pass and up to two gate entry passes (one per exhibitor) to enter the fairgrounds for setup. The passes will be mailed to the address provided by the lead exhibitor no later than one week prior to the competition setup date.
2. Exhibitors with their table set up, decorations, and supplies may drive in through Gate 1 with the provided pass on Friday, September 4, 2026, between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., but will have a 30-minute drop-off limit.
3. All vehicles must be off the fairgrounds by 11:00 a.m.

Table

4. Tables will be provided and will be sized 34 inches to 36 inches, square, 27 inches to 29 inches tall. They are card tables with folding legs. Items must sit on top of the table.
5. Backdrops are allowed, but must stand alone and not be attached to the table, and be no taller than 24 inches above the top of the table.
6. No item may stick out more than 6 inches from the table in any other direction.
7. The table will be in a set space and may not be moved from that space.
8. All items on the table must be secure and be able to withstand building elements, such as air from the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system.
9. Tables not picked up on Tuesday, September 8th, by 1:00 p.m. may be moved by staff.

Display

10. No additional freestanding items are allowed, such as rugs, chairs, etc.
11. Tables must be set for one or two people.

12. Decorations should be designed for the functional service of the menu and follow the established theme.
13. If centerpieces are placed between place settings, the height of the centerpieces must allow for a clear view of the dining partners. If centerpieces are placed in a corner of the table, they may be higher or larger.

Menu

14. Exhibitors must submit two copies of their menu with items listed in order of service.
15. Menus must be typed and printed on 8.5" x 11" paper and printed in a readable font no smaller than 16pt.
16. The menu must have a title. Do not put any additional information on the menu. Do not put your name or team name on the menu.
17. The table setup must reflect the menu submitted. For example, if there is a dessert on the menu, there must be a proper plate/bowl/utensil to eat the dessert, etc.
18. The meal must be at least three courses.
19. The Authority will display the provided menu on a stand next to the table.

Tableware

20. No real foods, liquids, flowers, or plants. No fire.
21. No disposable plates, cups, or flatware are allowed unless they make sense with the theme.
22. Place cards may be used (but are not required) on the table to depict for whom the table is set.
23. No electricity is available.

Restrictions

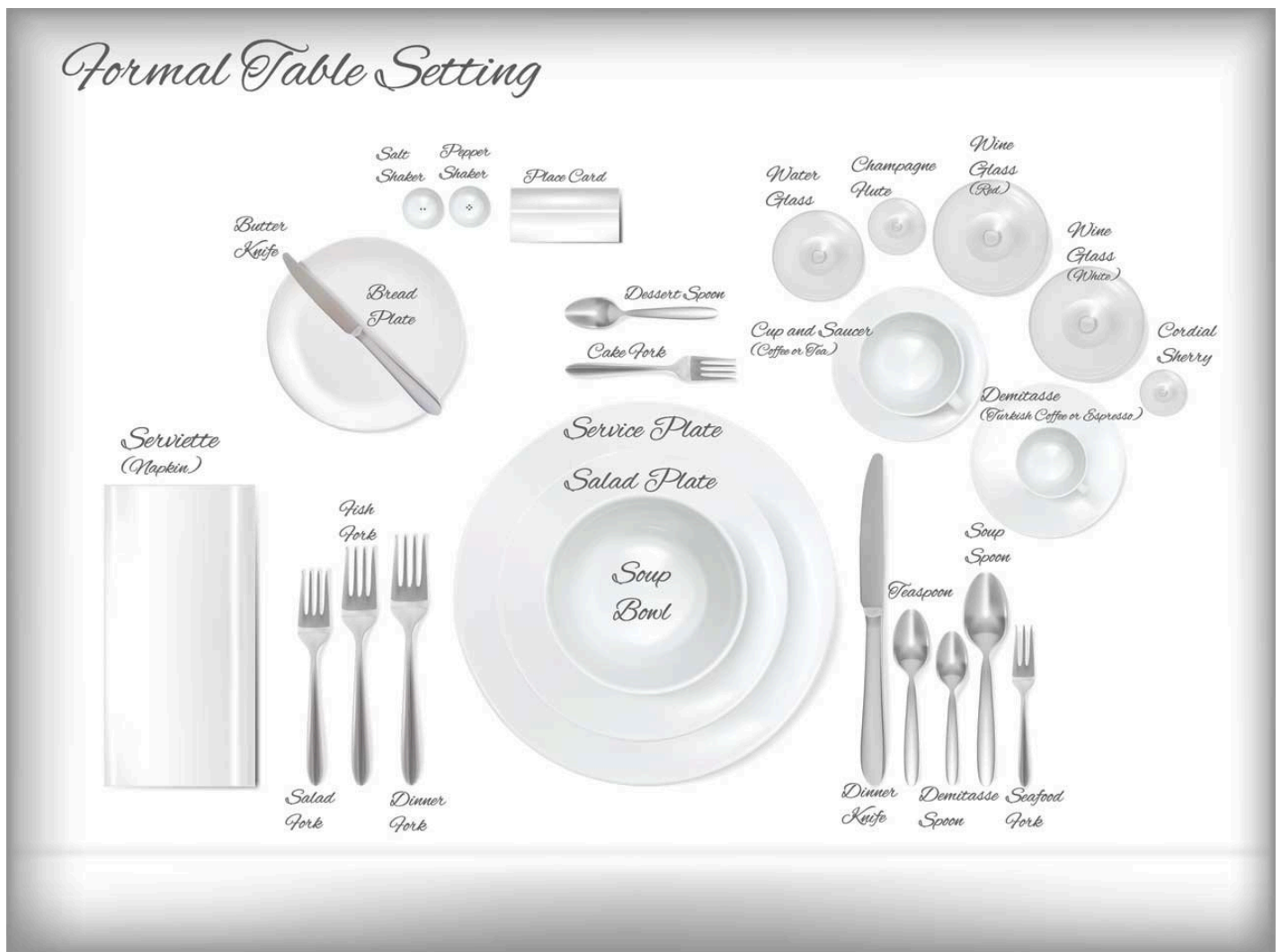
24. No steak or sharp knives allowed.
25. Entries must be completed by 1:00 p.m. on September 4th. No one may touch their or any entry after 1:00 p.m.

26. Exhibitors must bring all the supplies they need to set up their table. Authority staff will not provide any supplies. Only a bare table will be provided.

Judging

27. Exhibitors may not engage with the judges before or during judging.

28. Judging criteria are based on modern American table setting standards, although there are distinctions between formal and informal place settings, as well as settings unique to meals served (non-traditional). Use the guidelines below to assist you, but set according to the needs of your menu.



Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on:

25%.....Suitability for the theme (class)

25%.....Visual Appeal/Interest

25%.....Creativity and originality

25%.....Correctness

Additional Information

1. In the event of a change or cancellation, please contact Authority staff as soon as possible.
2. The fairgrounds are open to the public at 11:00 a.m. during the competition. The tablescaping competition will be stanchioned off from the public, but fairgoers may watch the setup.

Insurance Disclaimer

The Colorado State Fair Authority will use diligence to ensure the safety of all entries after arrival and placement, but in no case will the Colorado State Fair Authority be responsible or liable for any loss or damage from any cause before, during, or after the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition. Artists are encouraged to insure their entry privately if they need such protection.

Contact Information

Colorado State Fair Authority General Entry & Fine Arts

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