

# Cans for a Cause

## Taylor County Fair Can Sculpture Contest

### RULES - 2026

#### Entry:

- Any business, organization, or individual is welcome to create a can sculpture to display at the 2026 Taylor County Fair from July 23-26.

If you wish to enter a sculpture, please complete an entry form and return it to Cathy Retzer – via email: cathyretzer@gmail.com.

Entry forms are due to Cathy Retzer ASAP. Space is limited so complete your entry form early to reserve your spot, entry forms will be first submitted first accepted.

#### Location:

- Your sculpture will be setup at the Taylor County Fair Grounds in the Exhibit Building
- Security – for security and safety - all sculptures will be roped off from the public so as not to be touched.

#### Dates/Times:

- Setup: please plan to setup your sculpture at the Taylor County Fair Grounds on Wednesday, July 22, from 5 pm to 8 pm or Thursday, July 23, from 8 am to 5 pm in the Exhibit Building
  - o When transporting the can goods to the fair, please use the west entrance and follow instructions of fair staff as to where your sculpture will be setup.
  - o Once the sculpture is finalized, a fair volunteer will inspect each sculpture to make sure it is structurally sound and safe.
  - o Once your sculpture is completed, please answer the questions found on your entry form and leave at your sculpture.
  - o When the sculpture is completed, please have a fair volunteer or one of your group members take a photo of your group with your sculpture.
  - o You only have the times on Wednesday and Thursday to setup and work on your sculpture. *(the setup times are subject to change and additional time may be given due to weather, which might cause delays in setup. In the event more time is to be given, your contact person will be called and/or emailed with that information)*
- Judging: Judging of the sculptures will take place at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 23. You and your sculpture creators are invited to stay for the judging and have photos taken after results are announced.
- Take down: representatives from area food pantries will be picking up all the food items from 5:30-7:00 pm on Sunday, July 26. If you want any props, building materials, or non-food items that were a part of your structure, please pick those up at that time. We request that you have at least two volunteers from your group, if possible, to help take down sculptures and load up the food from 5:30-7:00 pm on Sunday, July 26.

## **Sculpture Design & Materials:**

- Size: you will have an 8 foot x 10 foot roped off area at the fair to construct and display your sculpture.
  - Width: sculpture must not exceed 8 feet at its widest point
  - Height: sculpture must not be taller than 8 feet.
- Sculptures are created using non-perishable canned and boxed goods.
- Sculptures should not be touching the ground. Food Safety protocols do not allow food to be stored on the ground; it should be approximately 6" off the ground
- Place items on a table or plywood. Plastic pallets, 32" x 40" x 5 ½" high, are available.
- Majority of the sculpture must be created using non-perishable cans of food. Boxed food items may be used but may not exceed 50% of the total number of food items contained in the sculpture.
- Cans must not have been opened before. The original seal must remain on the food items.
- Original labels must be on and remain on the can. You may not cover up or draw on the labels or boxes. Labels must be on the can at all times in order to be able to be donated to area food pantries.
- No expired foods or items with a use by date earlier than September, 2026, can be used.
- You can place a sign next to your sculpture that advertises your organization/business.
- ***Safety comes first!*** You can use certain building items to ensure the sculpture remains intact and upright. These items include: lumber, rope, cardboard, wiring, tape. **Please do not use any glue or tape that will damage the cans or labels in any way.** Any structural items used should be hidden within the structure and out of sight whenever possible. The focus of the sculpture is on the cans and food items used.
  - o Once the sculpture setup is finalized, a fair volunteer will inspect each sculpture to make sure it is structurally sound and safe. This volunteer may require you to remove or make changes to your sculpture to ensure it is safe. If you do not make these changes, your entry will be removed from the contest and your sculpture will be taken down immediately with the food then being donated to the local food pantries.
- Props that fit with the design/theme of your sculpture can be used, but please keep the use of props and other non-food items to a minimum.
- All the food items used in the sculptures will be donated to Taylor County food pantries at the conclusion of the fair. The sculptures will remain on display at the fair from setup until representatives from food pantries will take the food items starting at 5:30 pm on Sunday, July 26. Again, please have people from your group help with the take down, if possible.
- Here is a list of cans/food items that food pantries frequently use and would appreciate: *(you don't have to use just these food items– this is just a suggestion of items as you design your sculpture)*
  - Canned fruit (pears, pineapple, peaches, fruit cocktail)
  - Canned vegetables (corn, mixed veggies, green beans, carrots, etc.)
  - Canned soups
  - Canned tuna, chicken
  - Manwich, Ravioli, Spaghetti Os
  - Pasta sauce, pasta boxes, box meals, Mac n' Cheese, Hamburger Helper

- Cereal, rice, grains
- Peanut butter, jelly (no glass)

### **Judging/Prizes:**

Be creative! The theme for the fair this year is "Going Back in Time at the Taylor County Fair."

- Judging of the sculptures will take place at Thursday starting at 5:30 pm. You and your sculpture creators are invited to stay for the judging and have photos taken after results are announced.
- A panel of 5 judges chosen by the Fair Leaders will decide on the winners.
- There will be prizes awarded for:
  - Best in Show
  - Most Original Idea
  - Most Colorful
  - Most Cans Used
  - Best Represents Fair Theme
  - Crowd Favorite - determined by fair attendee votes. The Crowd Favorite votes will be counted at 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 26.
- Winners will be notified immediately- if a representative from an organization is not present- the contact person will be notified via phone and/or email by the Wednesday after the fair.
- Photos of the sculptures might be posted on the fair website & Facebook page.
- The big winners are all the local people in need that will receive these donations of food!
  
- On the next page are some example photos of can sculptures from previous years. Use these for inspiration!

Any questions regarding the rules of the contest, please contact  
Cathy Retzer at [cathyretzer@gmail.com](mailto:cathyretzer@gmail.com)  
or 715-748-4806.

***Be Creative and Have Fun!***  
***Thank you for your support of our area food pantries!***

