

Get involved at Phillips County Fair with special themes contests

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

In addition to 4-H projects, rodeos, races and concerts, the Phillips County Fair is “Keepin’ It Country” with a variety of special themes contests.

Interview judging kicks off the fair on Tuesday, July 21. Activities will continue through Sunday, July 26 with most community activities taking place Friday and Saturday. See the insert in this week’s *Enterprise* for the full schedule of events.

Special contests can be entered with the open classes Friday, July 24 at the Phillips County Fairgrounds Boy Scout building from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Jack’s Bean Company is sponsoring a designer-bean contest with two categories: sculpture and other art. Contest classes include 8 and under, 9-13 and 14 and up. Prizes for first through third places will be awarded in each category for each of the three age divisions. Beans will be available in small amounts at the Extension Office and should be used as the primary building material for the bean art contest.

Holyoke P.E.O. is inviting kids to get involved with the Create-a-Book-Cover contest. Participants will dream up a book title with the theme of their choice and then design artwork for the book’s cover including their own name as the author. Prizes will be awarded for first through third places in each division including ages 1-2 and 3-4 and grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8.

If community members have photos of family or friends “Keepin’ It Country,” be sure to check out this year’s photography contest, sponsored by Al and Margi Wall. Photographers at any level are encouraged to enter a favorite photo that follows the fair theme. First through third places will receive prizes.

Jolly Dozen FCE Club is again hosting the “Fab-u-lous Shoes” contest where participants can decorate any pair of shoes, from flip-flops and Crocs to sneakers and boots. Contest divisions include preschool through kindergarten, grades 1-6 and grades 7-12, and prizes will be awarded in each division. Enter shoes at the craft department on Friday morning of the fair.

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The Decorate a Vegetable contest, sponsored by Agenda Club, invites participants to decorate a vegetable to resemble a vehicle, person, animal or anything they can imagine. Enter veggies with the open garden projects in divisions 8 and under, 9-13 and 14 and up. Prizes will be awarded for first through third places.

Better Beef Makers 4-H Club is sponsoring a Build Your Best Lego contest using the fair theme, "Keepin' It Country." Each Lego entry will receive a ribbon and a prize on the Danish system of judging.

Real horses are not required to show at the fair with this year's new Model Horse Show contest sponsored by Jake's Feed & Supply and Northeast Feed. Make a diorama using a model horse that depicts the model frozen in time in an event similar to a live horse show. Judging will be based on realism and correctness, and prizes will be awarded to the top three dioramas in each class including 8 and under, 9-13, 14-18 and adult.

Iota Epsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi is sponsoring a Scrapbook contest for youth and adults in three categories. Enter a 1-2 page layout in everyday, sports or special occasions categories. First, second and third places will receive awards as well as the Best of Show.

High Plains Heritage Quilters annual quilt contest will follow this year's fair theme, "Keepin' It Country." Prizes will be awarded to the top three quilts. Enter quilts at the First Christian Church on Friday, July 24 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Be sure to vote for your choice in this year's Sweetest Baby-Toddler contest sponsored by Baby Bear Hugs. Donate spare coins or dollars in the jars displayed at the Phillips County banks and Credit Unions prior to the fair. Photos will also be on display at the fairgrounds Saturday, July 25. Interested entrants can call Baby Bear Hugs at 854-2921.

Finally, don't miss out on the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce's Homemade Salsa/Guacamole contest. Enter after the parade on Saturday, July 25 between 12:30-1 p.m. at the Star 92.3 tent near the grandstands. Categories include three levels of salsa: mild, hot and spicy and most unusual as well as a guacamole category. Prizes will be awarded for first through third places in each category. Stick around because after official judging, an overall salsa and guacamole prize will be awarded from people's choice.

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With such a unique collection of special themes contests open to the public, find one that is interesting and get involved at this year's Phillips County Fair.