

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR

2026 Ribbon Recycle Challenge Guidelines

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General Information: Each year, the Oklahoma State Fair awards hundreds of ribbons to winning competitors. Inevitably, we have leftover ribbons. To ensure that these ribbons did not go to waste, the Ribbon Recycle Challenge was created as an optional component of the Oklahoma Student Art Exhibition (OSAE). Participating schools receive big packets of surplus Oklahoma State Fair Ribbons and use them to create unique works of art while practicing the principle of “reduce, reuse, recycle.” All schools participating in OSAE are invited to participate in the Ribbon Recycle Challenge.

Ribbon Information: Each participating school will receive approximately 200 State Fair Ribbons. Each school may submit only ONE (1) Ribbon Recycle Challenge entry. The ribbons will be multi-colored and various sizes. The State Fair Ribbons can be cut, sewn, painted, ripped, burned or manipulated in any way that allows the desired effect, and they can be used to create any item imaginable. The ribbons may be made into a quilt, soft or hard sculpture, painting, mask, collage, or anything else! Materials used should be covered in ribbon. This does not include the poster board used for mounting, if applicable. Major outside materials (additional ribbons, wood, flowers, etc.) should only be 20% of piece.

Judging Criteria: All entries must be original and a collaborative work by at least three (3) students. A short, typed description of the project, no more than one (1) page, must accompany each entry. The description should include: how many students worked on the project, how they collaborated and their creative process.

Artwork Submission: Ribbon Recycle entries will be turned in with the artwork that is entered into OSAE. Ribbon Recycle Challenge entries accepted into the show will be displayed during the 2026 Oklahoma State Fair (see the OSAE Competition Guide for specific dates and times). Ribbon Recycle Challenge entries DO NOT count as one of the twenty (20) OSAE entries. Please be sure to write the school name and teacher’s name on the backside of the piece.

Size/Matting: Entries may not exceed 30” in any direction. Please follow the matting instructions identified in the OSAE Competition Guide if the entry needs to be matted.

Awards: See the OSAE Competition Guide.

Participation: To receive a packet for participation in the Ribbon Recycle Challenge, please contact Morgan Chappell at 405-948-6731 or creativeprograms@okstatefair.com to set up a time for packet pick up in OKC. Packets cannot be mailed to the schools. Our office hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and can be picked up by anyone traveling to OKC after giving OSF a notice of one (1) business day with response.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE – WITH RIBBONS!

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