

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

HORTICULTURE COMPETITION 2025 RULES AND REGULATIONS

COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS

Texas Youth, ages 8-18

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1: Floral Design

Section A: Texas Tables

Section B: Rodeo Cup

Section C: Dining Duets

CATEGORY 2: Container Grown Plants

CATEGORY 3: Horticulture Photography

CATEGORY 4: Miniscapes



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NEW * NEW * NEW

Please review all competition changes below. If you have any questions please contact horticulture@hlsr.com

Parking

- ◆ Exhibitor's will park in the 610 Lot off Bellfort Avenue (1950 W. Bellfort, Houston, 77054). The 610 Lot can be accessed via Gate 21. Exhibitors competing in the Miniscape competition will park on NRG Park grounds for their competition. Miniscape and Horticulture Photography competition exhibitors who would like to attend the awards ceremony on March 9th will park in the 610 Lot.
- ◆ Trams will be in service to transport exhibitors from the 610 lot to NRG Park grounds.

Texas Tables

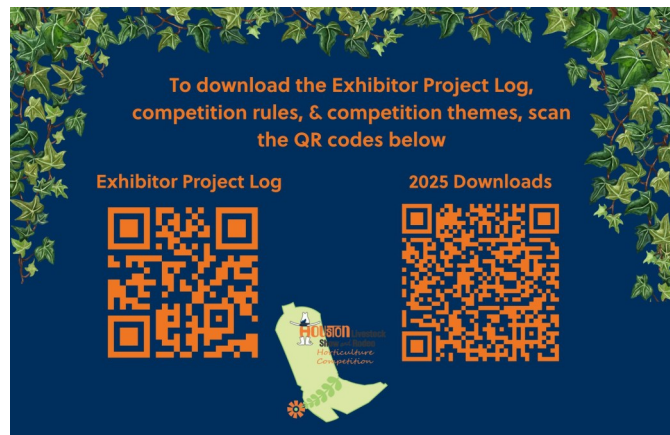
- ◆ Entry container cannot exceed a width of 18" in any direction. Floral elements will not contribute to the measurement.
- ◆ Exhibitors will design a floral arrangement for a gala registration table with a "Mardi Gras Masquerade" theme.
- ◆ All eligible entries will be judged.
- ◆ Entries placing first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) will remain on display through the end of the 2025 Show. Exhibitors who do not place are able to take their entry at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

Container Grown Plants

- ◆ All eligible entries will be judged.
- ◆ Entries placing first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) will remain on display through the end of the 2025 Show. Exhibitors who do not place are able to take their entry at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

Miniscapes

- ◆ Exhibitors will create their entries in galvanized water troughs instead of a wooden planter.
- ◆ Competition can be entered by individuals or teams of two (2).
- ◆ There is a limit of forty (40) entries.



ENTRY INFORMATION

Deadline: The entry deadline for all categories is **January 24, 2025**.

How to Enter: Entry forms must be completed online at rodeohouston.com

- ◆ Incorrect or incomplete information on the entry form may result in disqualification of the entry or a delay in issuing awards.
- ◆ Each entry must include the exhibitors mailing address, phone number, and email address. It is recommended that students provide their personal email address and phone number to ensure that we are able to communicate any changes.
- ◆ Each exhibitor must submit a signed release of liability and indemnity form for the entry to be valid.
- ◆ Submission of an entry form means that you understand the decision of the judges is final, and you agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo's horticulture competition.
- ◆ Include advisor's contact information if applicable.
- ◆ It is the responsibility of the exhibitor/advisor to confirm that the entry has been received.

Division Criteria: Exhibitors competing in the horticulture competition must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ Exhibitors must be Texas residents between the ages of 8 and 18 as of March 2, 2025.
- ◆ Entries in the Rodeo Cup, Texas Tables, Container Grown Plants, and Horticulture Photography categories must be submitted by individual exhibitors ONLY. Team entries are not permitted.
- ◆ Entries in the Miniscapes category may be submitted by individual exhibitors or teams of two (2). All team members must meet the qualifications for the competition.
- ◆ Entries in the Dining Duets category must be a team of two (2) exhibitors. All team members must meet the qualifications of the competition.
- ◆ Exhibitors competing in a team category do not have to be from the same school or FFA/4-H Chapter.

Entry Fees: There are no entry fees for the horticulture competition.

Entry Guidelines: Please read all guidelines carefully. Direct any questions to the staff contacts listed at the end of this section.

- ◆ HLSR has the right to refuse any entry that has a serious disease of insect problem.
- ◆ Entries should not include identifying information (i.e., exhibitor name, FFA/4-H Chapter, school, etc..)
- ◆ No entries with copyright or licensing infringement will be accepted. If there is any reproduction, in whole or in part, of a registered trademark or work of another individual, HLSR reserves the right to disqualify the entry.
- ◆ HLSR is a family oriented event and reserves the right to disqualify any entry that, in HLSR's sole judgement, is deemed inappropriate for family viewing, controversial, or in poor taste prior to judging and display.
- ◆ HLSR will not be liable for entries made in error and will not reopen judging to accommodate such entries.

ENTRY INFORMATION

- ◆ All entries must be the work product of the individual(s) listed as the exhibitor(s) on the entry form.
- ◆ Entries in Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Container Grown Plants placing first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) place will be labeled indicating the level of award and will remain on display through the end of the 2025 Show. All entries will be watered/maintained by HLSR.
- ◆ Entries in Horticulture Photography and Miniscapes will remain on display through the end of the 2025 Show. Please see "Entry Pick Up" section to find out when you can pick up your photos and/or miniscape props.
- ◆ If an exhibitor must withdraw, that exhibitor may be replaced by someone who meets the contest requirements, however, the Show must be notified of the substitution prior to the competition date. **Day of substitutions will not be allowed. The deadline to replace exhibitors is as follows: Miniscapes - February 21, 2025 / Rodeo Cup & Texas Tables - February 28, 2025 / Dining Duets - March 7, 2025.**
- ◆ Substitute exhibitors must submit a completed release of liability and indemnity agreement and provide their contact information.
- ◆ **HLSR is not responsible for lost, damaged, or dead items. Small items and accessories should be securely fastened to their container. Items of great sentimental value should not be used.**
- ◆ Any entry that does not comply with all competition rules will be disqualified.

Free Show Admission: Exhibitors will receive free grounds admission allowing exhibitors to access the grounds on the competition date and during the awards ceremony. A ticket for an accompanying adult will be provided.

- ◆ Exhibitors in the Horticulture Photography category will be eligible to receive two (2) exhibitor badges if HLSR receives their entry by the deadline.
- ◆ Exhibitors in the Miniscapes category will receive two (2) exhibitor badges when they check in to construct their entry.
- ◆ Exhibitors in the Rodeo Cup, Texas Tables, and Container Grown Plants categories will use their NRG Park admission ticket and parking pass on March 9th to park and reenter the grounds after delivering their entries. Two (2) exhibitor badges will be given to each exhibitor when they check in their entry.

Contacts: Questions can be directed to the staff members listed below. Should an exhibitor require any accommodation due to personal health or medical conditions, please inform staff members at least forty-five (45) days prior to the competition.

Angela Gutierrez
Manager, Attractions & Competitions
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
3 NRG Park
Houston, TX 77054
horticulture@hlsr.com

Ashly Thornton
Coordinator, Attractions & Competitions
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
3 NRG Park
Houston, TX 77054
horticulture@hlsr.com

Exhibitors agree that the student, teacher, and parent/guardian, understand that as a condition of participation in the horticulture competition, they are granting HLSR permission to display the students entry or entries; to photograph, film, or otherwise record the student's entry or entries; and to reproduce the students entry or entries in whole, in part, or composite. The students and parents/guardians waive and release all rights to inspect/approve the final product, and they release, discharge, and hold harmless HLSR from any liability by virtue of the use of the student's entry or entries or images. HLSR and the horticulture committee are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of the entries. Damaged entries will not be repaired.

ENTRY DELIVERY

ALL COMPETITIONS

- ◆ Exhibitors must check in at each competition table they have entered.
- ◆ Horticulture committee members will meet exhibitors to direct them to the correct location and to assist with unloading and delivering entries.
- ◆ Exhibitors competing and/or attending the awards ceremony will park in the 610 Lot. The 610 Lot can be accessed via Bellfort St. (See map in Appendix B) Miniscape exhibitors will park on NRG Park grounds for their competition. Please see specific competition instructions below.
- ◆ A tram will transport exhibitors from the 610 Lot to NRG Center.

TEXAS TABLES & CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

Entries must be delivered to the second floor of the east end of NRG Center on March 9, 2025 between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

- ◆ Exhibitors will access NRG Park via Gate 2 off Fannin St. to deliver their entries to the specific check in table. (See map in Appendix A)
- ◆ Once through Gate 2 exhibitors will turn right and unload their entry in the area designated for the horticulture competition.
- ◆ Exhibitors will park in the 610 Lot after dropping off their entry and take the HLSR tram to NRG Center.
- ◆ **Entries must be completely set up by noon.**

RODEO CUP

Exhibitors will check in on the second floor of the east end of NRG Center on March 9, 2025 between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **A mandatory meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m., and the competitions will begin immediately after the meeting. Any exhibitors arriving during or after the meeting will be allowed to participate if there is space available; however the entry will not be judged or scored.**

- ◆ Exhibitors will park in the 610 Lot and take the HLSR tram to NRG Center.

DINING DUETS

Exhibitors will check in on the second floor of the east end of NRG Center on March 16, 2025 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. **A mandatory meeting will be held at 12:15 p.m., and the competition will begin immediately after the meeting. Any exhibitors arriving during or after the meeting will be allowed to participate if there is space available; however the entry will not be judged or scored.**

- ◆ Exhibitors must park in the 610 Lot and take the HLSR tram to NRG Center.

HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Entries may be shipped or delivered to the HLSR offices. **Entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. on January 24, 2025.**

- ◆ Exhibitors full name, school/FFA/4-H chapter, and contact information should be attached to the back of the photograph.
- ◆ Entries may be mailed to Ashly Thornton, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, 3 NRG Park, Houston, TX 77054.
- ◆ If delivering an entry please enter NRG Park grounds via Gate 10 at Kirby and McNee and park as directed by the security guard. (See map in Appendix D)

ENTRY DELIVERY

HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTINUED...

- ◆ Inform the security guard that you are visiting the HLSR offices and no fee will be charged to park.
- ◆ Deliveries will be accepted between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- ◆ Deliveries cannot be made on any day the Houston Texans are hosting a home game. NO EXCEPTIONS.

MINISCAPES

Check in for miniscapes will be on the grounds of NRG Park on March 2, 2025, starting at 10 a.m. Check in, prep, and construction must be complete by 3 p.m.

- ◆ Exhibitors will enter NRG Park off Fannin St. at the Holly Hall entrance. (See map in Appendix C)
- ◆ Exhibitors will turn right after entering the gate and park as indicated on the back of the hangtag.
- ◆ Exhibitors are responsible for bringing wagons, carts, wheelbarrows, etc...to transport their materials from the parking lot to the exhibit area.



JUDGING

ALL COMPETITIONS

HLSR will select qualified judges for each competitive event. Any question regarding the judging criteria may be directed to horticulture@hlsr.com.

- ◆ Only judges, horticulture committee members, and HLSR staff will be allowed inside the competition area while judging is in progress.
- ◆ Results will be posted on rodeohouston.com
- ◆ In the event of a tie, the steering judge will cast a single first place vote to break the tie.
- ◆ Judges decisions are final, and protests will not be considered
- ◆ Exhibitors may request a copy of their score sheet via email at horticulture@hlsr.com
- ◆ Judges may make notes in the exhibitor project log submitted with entries in the Texas Tables and Container Grown Plants categories.

TEXAS TABLES

- ◆ Judging will take place on March 9, 2025 beginning promptly at 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ Judging will be based on the following five (5) categories:
 - ◆ Up to (24) points for Design Aesthetics - Line/form, color, and space.
 - ◆ Up to (24) points for Design Principles - Balance, proportion, and unity.
 - ◆ Up to (24) points for Mechanics/Execution - Neatness and cleanliness of design, proper coverage of foam, and sturdiness of design.

RODEO CUP

- ◆ Judging will take place on March 9, 2025.
- ◆ Judging will be based on the following four (4) categories:
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Design Aesthetics - Line/form, color, and space.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Design Principles - Balance, proportion, and unity.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Mechanics/Execution—Neatness of design, proper coverage of foam, and sturdiness of design.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for creativity.
- ◆ Each design will be scored by totaling the points of each scoring category.
 - ◆ In the preliminary round, the two design scores will be added together. The twenty exhibitors with the highest combined score will advance to the final round. The top score in the final round will receive 1st place; the exhibitor with the second highest score will receive 2nd place; and so forth for the top ten (10).

JUDGING

DINING DUETS

- ◆ Judging will take place on March 16, 2025.
- ◆ Judging will be based on the following four (4) categories:
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Design Aesthetics - Line/form, color, and space.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Design Principles - Balance, proportion, and unity.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Mechanics/Execution - Neatness and cleanliness of design, proper coverage of foams; and sturdiness of the design.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points for Creativity.

CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

- ◆ Judging will take place on March 9, 2025.
- ◆ Judging will be based on the following four (4) categories:
 - ◆ Up to (45) points may be awarded for cultural perfection.
 - ◆ Up to (40) points may be awarded for variety of plants used.
 - ◆ Up to (10) points may be awarded for staging and perfection.
 - ◆ Up to (5) points may be awarded for the completion of the exhibitor project log.

PHOTOGRAPHY

- ◆ Judging will take place on March 1, 2025.
- ◆ There will be two rounds of judging. All entries will be judged during the first round, and the top fifty (50) entries determined at the judge's discretion will advance to the second. In the second round, only the advancing entries will be judged on a 100-point system.
- ◆ Judging will be based on the following five categories:
 - ◆ Up to (30) points may be awarded for creativity.
 - ◆ Up to (25) points may be awarded for composition.
 - ◆ Up to (20) points may be awarded for technical merit.
 - ◆ Up to (15) points may be awarded for discretion.
 - ◆ Up to (10) points may be awarded for the interpretation of the theme.

JUDGING

MINISCAPES

- ♦ Judging will take place on March 2, 2025.
- ♦ Judging will be based on the following three (3) categories:
 - ♦ Up to (50) points may be awarded for cultural perfection.
 - ♦ Up to (30) points may be awarded for variety of plants used.
 - ♦ Up to (20) points may be awarded for staging and perfection.

A NOTE REGARDING TEXAS TABLE CONTAINERS:



The entry containers submitted in the Texas Tables category cannot exceed a width of 18" (in any direction). The floral elements do not count toward the total width count.

Entries will be measured during check in. If any entry is found to be over the acceptable size, the entry will be disqualified.

If an exhibitor feels that their Texas Tables container has been measured incorrectly, please ask any of the horticulture committee volunteers to speak to the competition superintendent or HLSR staff.

IM NEW

CLARIFICATION

If a prop is being used as a container that prop cannot exceed the accepted size. For example - if an umbrella is being used as the planting container and is mounted on a base board but the umbrella exceeds the accepted size, the entry will be disqualified.

AWARDS

Awards Presentation: HLSR will host award ceremonies as follows:

- ◆ The Horticulture Photography, Miniscapes, Rodeo Cup, Texas Tables, and Container Grown Plants categories will be recognized on March 9, 2025 at 6 p.m. on the 2nd floor of NRG Center at Café on the Park.
 - ◆ Winners in the Horticulture Photography and Miniscapes competitions should use the enclosed Reed Road parking pass to park and ride the HLSR tram to NRG Center.
- ◆ The Dining Duets category will be recognized on March 16, 2025 at 4 p.m. on the 2nd floor of NRG Center.
- ◆ Exhibitors placing first through tenth place in all competitions will be recognized.
- ◆ Buckles will be presented to the first place winners in all categories.
- ◆ Banners will be presented to the second and third place winners in all categories.
- ◆ Ribbons will be presented to winners placing in fourth through tenth place.
- ◆ Monetary awards will be given to those exhibitors that place in first through tenth place. **All monetary awards will be mailed to the exhibitor(s) within 90 days of the close of the 2025 Show, provided the exhibitor has submitted a W-9.**

Awards (For all Categories)

- ◆ First Place (1st) - \$1000 (and a buckle)
- ◆ Second Place (2nd) - \$750 (and a banner)
- ◆ Third Place (3rd) - \$500 (and a banner)
- ◆ Fourth Place (4th) - \$250 (and a ribbon)
- ◆ Fifth - Tenth Place (5th - 10th) - \$100 (and a ribbon)
- ◆ **In the miniscapes category, the checks will be made out to the person listed as the primary contact.**
- ◆ **In the Dining Duets category, each exhibitor will need to submit a W-9 in their name. Each exhibitor will receive half of the total award.**
- ◆ All exhibitors must complete a W-9 by June 13, 2025 to receive their payment. Winning exhibitors will fill out their W-9 at the awards ceremony. If an exhibitor is not present, the winner will be contacted via the email address on file.

Exhibitors are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony however they do not have to be present in order to win.

FLORAL DESIGN

In the floral design categories, only the container and decorative items originally provided by the exhibitor will be returned. **HLSR is not responsible for lost, damaged, or dead items. Small items and accessories should be securely fastened to their container. Items of great sentimental value should not be used.**

DESIGN GUIDELINES (ALL COMPETITIONS): Exhibitors should review the design guidelines for each of the competitions they've entered prior to preparing their entry. Questions may be directed to horticulture@hlsr.com.

SECTION A - TEXAS TABLES DESIGN GUIDELINES

In Texas Tables, exhibitors will design a floral arrangement for a check in table at a masquerade ball with a Mardi Gras theme - **MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE. A maximum of one hundred (100) exhibitors may participate in Texas Tables. Entries will be accepted on a first received basis. HLSR will designate five (5) alternates - if applicable. These exhibitors will be notified prior to the competition date if they have been selected as an alternate. Alternate exhibitors will check in as they arrive and available seats will be assigned based on check-in order of alternate exhibitors.**

- ◆ Entry container must not exceed a size of 18" (in any direction). Floral elements do not count toward the size limit. **If a prop is being used as the container, the prop cannot exceed the specified size.**
- ◆ Entries will be displayed on a 36" round particle board table with a table covering. The exhibitor is responsible for positioning their design on the table covering. Exhibitors are required to use the table covering provided by HLSR. The table and table covering provided are for display purposes only and will not be considered in the judging.
- ◆ The entry should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- ◆ Accessories may be used in the floral arrangement, however emphasis should be on the creative use of natural, fresh cut materials to represent the theme rather than of accessories to create a scene.
- ◆ Accessories may not be added to the table setting. This includes but is not limited to, silverware, decorative items, place mats, books, and glassware.
- ◆ Commercially grown materials may be used.
- ◆ Artificial floral, plant, and foliage may not be used.
- ◆ ~~No leaf polishes of any kind may be used.~~ **Updated 12/2**
- ◆ No painting or internal/external dying of fresh materials is permitted. ~~No glitter is permitted.~~
- ◆ Flowers and foliage should be free of blemishes, insects, and disease.
- ◆ Each exhibitors design will be a sole effort with no assistance from anyone in any manner.
- ◆ No talking will be allowed during the competition.
- ◆ If an exhibitor is unable to deliver their entry, they may allow a designee to place their entry on the table.
- ◆ The entry will be disqualified if, at the sole discretion of HLSR, it is determined that the designee has altered the design in any manner.

FLORAL DESIGN

SECTION A - TEXAS TABLES DESIGN GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- ◆ Use of electronic devices is prohibited during the competition.
- ◆ Only exhibitors and designees are allowed in the competition area prior to judging.

SECTION B - RODEO CUP DESIGN GUIDELINES

All exhibitors will compete in the Wedding Wreath and Interpretive Design categories. The top twenty (20) combined scores from these two (2) categories will advance to the final round and compete in the Surprise Situation category. A maximum of one hundred (100) exhibitors may participate in Rodeo Cup. Entries will be accepted on a first received basis. **HLSR will designate five (5) alternates - if applicable. These exhibitors will be notified prior to the competition date if they have been selected as an alternate. Alternate exhibitors will check in as they arrive and available seats will be assigned based on check-in order of alternate exhibitors.**

- ◆ Entries are arrangements of cut materials. All cut materials will be provided by HLSR.
 - ◆ Each exhibitor will be furnished with an identical box of materials, including fresh flowers, foliage, containers, decorative embellishments, and supplies.
 - ◆ Exhibitors are responsible for determining which materials they will use in the design of their entry for each category.
 - ◆ **ONLY THE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY HLSR WILL BE ALLOWED.**
 - ◆ No advance design work may be performed.
- ◆ Each exhibitor must bring their own tools. **Tools cannot be shared by exhibitors.**
- ◆ Permissible tools are: - glue(s) - picks - floral cutters - glue pan/glue gun - wire cutters - knife - scissors - measuring stick/tape - tape(s) - floral wire
- ◆ Each exhibitor's design will be a sole effort with no assistance from anyone in any manner. No talking will be allowed during the competition.
- ◆ Use of electronic devices is prohibited during the competition.
- ◆ A mandatory meeting with all exhibitors will be held at 11:45 a.m. At the meeting, the rules will be reviewed, and each exhibitor will have an opportunity to ask questions. The competition will begin immediately following the meeting. **Any exhibitors arriving during or after the meeting will be allowed to participate if there is space, however, the entry will not be judged or scored.**
- ◆ All exhibitors will create one (1) entry in each of the following categories:
 - Wedding Entrance Wreath (Updated 12/2)**
 - * Design time is forty (40) minutes
 - * Exhibitor will create a wedding wreath using the materials supplied by HLSR.
 - * No advance design work is permitted.

Interpretive Design

- * Design time is forty-five (45) minutes.
- * A container and/or prop will be provided to each exhibitor which must be used in the design.
- * No advance design work is permitted.

FLORAL DESIGN

SECTION B - RODEO CUP DESIGN GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- ◆ The twenty (20) exhibitors with the highest combined scores in the Wedding Wreath and Interpretive Design categories will advance to the final round. Competitors in the final round will create one (1) entry in the following category:

Surprise Situation

- * Design time is twenty-five (25) minutes
- * Exhibitors will be given the same surprise topic immediately prior to the start of the design time.
- * Exhibitors will create a floral design appropriate to the surprise situation.
- * No advance work is permitted.
- * Only the materials provided by HLSR will be allowed. An example of a surprise situation: A casual retirement brunch will be held in honor of a sixty year old woman at 11 a.m. on a Saturday with family, friends, and coworkers. Create a center piece for the banquet tables.

SECTION C - DINING DUETS DESIGN GUIDELINES

Teams of two (2) will compete in the design and execution of a floral arrangement and table design. **A maximum of fifty (50) teams of two (2) exhibitors may participate in the Dining Duets competition. Entries will be accepted on a first received basis. HLSR will designate five (5) alternate teams - if applicable. These exhibitors will be notified prior to the competition date if they have been selected as an alternate. Alternate exhibitors will check in as they arrive and available seats will be assigned based on check-in order of alternate exhibitors.**

- ◆ Teams will have one (1) hour to plan and execute their design.
- ◆ Entries are arrangement of cut materials and table design elements.
- ◆ All cut materials and design elements will be provided by HLSR.
- ◆ **Teams must utilize the entire place setting that is provided in the traditional manner.**
- ◆ Teams will be furnished with a box of materials, including fresh flowers, foliage, containers, decorative elements, and supplies.
- ◆ The flower, foliage, and supplies will be the same for each team.
- ◆ Each team will receive the same type of decorative elements, but the design of each element can be different amongst teams.
- ◆ The teams is responsible for determining which materials they will use in the design of their entry.
- ◆ Entries will be displayed on a 36" round particle board with a table covering. The team is responsible for positioning all elements of their design on the table. Teams are required to use the table covering provided by HLSR.
- ◆ All elements of the entry should reflect or enhance the theme which will be revealed in the pre-contest meeting.
- ◆ Each team's design will be a sole effort with no assistance from anyone in any manner.
- ◆ Use of electronic devices is prohibited during the competition.
- ◆ Entry should be designed to be viewed from all sides.

CONT. GROWN PLANTS

SECTION C - DINING DUETS DESIGN GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- ◆ Each team must bring their own tools. **Tools cannot be shared by exhibitors if they are not on the same team.**
- ◆ Permissible tools are: - glue(s) - picks - floral cutters - glue pan/glue gun - wire cutters - knife - scissors - measuring stick/tape - tape(s) - floral wire
- ◆ **A mandatory meeting will be held at 12:15 p.m. and the competition will begin immediately after the meeting. Any exhibitors arriving during or after the meeting will be allowed to participate if space is available; however the entry will not be judged or scored.**

CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS DESIGN GUIDELINES

Exhibitors will plant and cultivate three (3) or more different examples of plant species in an appropriate container.

- ◆ Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor on or before **January 13, 2025.**
 - ◆ Plants should show evidence of being grown in the container, such as being securely rooted in the soil.
 - ◆ If plants are found to have been freshly potted or do not stand up during the Show because they were not potted soon enough, the award will be withheld.
 - ◆ If single elements require replanting during the eight (8) week period prior to the competition, exhibitors should document (in writing and with photos) the removed element and the replacement element. The documentation will be part of the exhibitor project log.
- ◆ Entries should be complete upon arrival to the competition.
 - ◆ Entries must be completely set up by noon on March 9, 2025.
 - ◆ If an exhibitor is unable to deliver their entry, they may allow a designee to place their entry on the table.
 - ◆ The entry will be disqualified if, at the sole discretion of HLSR, it is determined that the designee has altered the design in any manner.
- ◆ Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides. To designate a preferred viewing side, exhibitors may mark the center back of the container with a white chalk mark.
- ◆ Entries should have three (3) or more different plant species per container.
 - ◆ Plant selection is at the exhibitor's discretion.
 - ◆ Plants may belong to any species.
 - ◆ Plants must be healthy, free of disease, and bug free.
 - ◆ Plants are the only living items that may be included in the entry. No other living items are permitted (e.g., animals, reptiles, insects). Vivariums are excluded from the competition.
- ◆ Plants should be clearly and attractively potted in a containers that is suitable for a tabletop display.
 - ◆ If submitting a container grown plant, double potting is permitted, provided natural top dressing is used and the inside of the container is not visible. Top dressing must not float when watered.

HORT. PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS DESIGN GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- ◆ Select a container that enhances the creative presentation of the entry.
- ◆ If submitting a terrarium, double potting is not permitted.
- ◆ If submitting a terrarium, the container may be opened or closed.
- ◆ Leaf polishes or other commercial foliage enhancers are not permitted. Dyed plants, artificial plants, or plant parts are not permitted.
- ◆ Glitter is not permitted.
- ◆ Accessories are permitted, however emphasis should be on the creative use of natural, fresh, planted materials rather than of accessories to create a scene.
- ◆ Container must fit on the display table and should not exceed a size of 30" wide x 30" deep and should not weigh more than 50 lbs.

HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGN GUIDELINES

Exhibitors will take a photograph representative of the theme **DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS.**

- ◆ Exhibitors may submit one (1) entry in the Horticulture Photography category. If more than one entry photo is submitted by an exhibitor, they will have to select which to submit to the competition.
- ◆ Horticulture Photography entries are limited to subjects related to horticulture, floral arrangements, gardens, and landscapes.
- ◆ Photographs should NOT prominently feature people (living or deceased). Photos can include people in the background however focus should be on the flora and fauna being photographed.
- ◆ Photographs should emphasize the **DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS** theme and must include flora.
- ◆ Entries must be titled.

Finishing Requirements

- ◆ Minimum size: 8"x10" regardless of orientation or use of mat.
- ◆ Maximum size: 11"x14" regardless of orientation or use of mat.
- ◆ A mat around the photograph is permitted, however, the total dimensions, INCLUDING THE MAT, must be within the minimum and maximum allowed sizes.
- ◆ The surface finish of the photograph is the choice of the exhibitor.
- ◆ Printing and mounting may be done professionally.
- ◆ Glass and framing are not permitted.
- ◆ Exhibitors name, address, school, and photo orientation must be labeled on the back of the photo.

MINISCAPES

MINISCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES

Individuals and exhibitors in teams of two (2) will come to NRG Park between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on March 2, 2025 to create their competition entry. Check in and installation must be complete by 3 p.m. **Entries are limited to the first forty (40) entry forms received. Teams are comprised of a maximum of two (2) exhibitors. HLSR will designate five (5) alternate exhibitors - if applicable. These exhibitors will be notified prior to the competition date if they have been selected as an alternate. Alternate exhibitors will check in as they arrive and available seats will be assigned based on check-in order of alternate exhibitors.**

- ◆ Entries will be constructed in a water trough (planter) that is sized 2'x4'x2'.
 - ◆ HLSR will provide the planters for exhibitors.
 - ◆ Each planter will be prefilled with dirt and fertilizer.
- ◆ Planters will be displayed outside for twenty-two (22) days and should be able to withstand sunny and warm conditions.
- ◆ No living creatures may be used in the design of the planter.
- ◆ Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- ◆ Entries should not display any identifying signage (e.g., exhibitor(s) name(s), school, district, FFA or 4/H chapter).

Installation Guidelines

- ◆ Parents and adult leaders may assist with moving supplies and planter materials to the competition area but must vacate the area after the move in of supplies is complete.
- ◆ Carts and wagons are recommended for transporting materials from a vehicle to the competition area.
- ◆ The design and planting of the planter must be performed by the exhibitor(s) ONLY.
- ◆ Electronic devices are prohibited in the competition area.
- ◆ Exhibitors may use paper sketches and designs during the competition.
- ◆ Exhibitor(s) must bring all tools needed to prepare their entry.
- ◆ Exhibitor(s) are responsible for providing the plants and any props they may use to prepare their entry.
- ◆ Entries will be watered and maintained by HLSR. Exhibitors will have access to water on the day of the installation to use during the design process.
- ◆ HLSR is not responsible for lost, damaged, or dead items. Small items, accessories, etc...should be securely fastened to the planter. **Items of great sentimental value should not be used.**

ENTRY PICK UP

Entries that place first (1st), second (2nd) or third (3rd) in Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Container Grown Plants will be labeled indicating their level of award and will remain on display through the end of the 2025 Show. Horticulture Photography entries and miniscape props will remain on display the entire run of Show.

PICK UP TIMES: Exhibitors must pick up their entries at the following times:

- ◆ Monday, March 24, 2025, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the 2nd floor of NRG Center. Location TBD
- ◆ Exhibitors, who previously placed and are entered in Dining Duets may pick up their Container Grown Plant and Texas Table entry on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Please contact horticulture@hlsr.com to make pick up arrangements.

ENTRIES NOT PICKED UP OR REQUESTED TO BE SHIPPED WILL BE DISCARDED

PICK UP INSTRUCTIONS: Exhibitors picking up entries and/or props on Monday, March 24, 2025, should follow the instructions below:

- ◆ Exhibitors will access NRG Park via Gate 2 off Fannin St. (See map in Appendix A)
- ◆ Exhibitors will turn right after entering the gate and proceed to the east end of NRG Center.
- ◆ Exhibitors will be met by a horticulture committee volunteer; the volunteer will assist the exhibitor with retrieving entries.
- ◆ In the Texas Tables, and Miniscapes categories, only the container and decorative items originally provided by the exhibitor will be returned.
- ◆ In the Container Grown Plants category, the entire entry will be returned to the exhibitor.

SHIPPING ALTERNATIVE: If an exhibitor is unable to return to NRG Center on the pick up date, the exhibitor may request that HLSR ship back containers, photographs, and decorative materials to the address on file. Any item weighing more than ten (10) pounds or that does not fit in a standard box will not be shipped. Live plant materials cannot be returned via shipping option.

- ◆ Exhibitors must email horticulture@hlsr.com by Sunday, March 23, 2025 to request this service.
- ◆ Exhibitor must provide a physical address and phone number - **NO P.O. BOXES**
- ◆ Items will be shipped via USPS by May 2, 2025.
- ◆ HLSR is not responsible for any items that are lost or damaged during shipping and retains the right to refuse the shipment of any item.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A:

TEXAS TABLES & CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

Exhibitors will enter through Gate 2, turn right and unload projects.

Exhibitors will park in the 610 Lot after checking in and take the tram back to NRG Park grounds.



APPENDIX B: 610 Lot

Exhibitors wishing to attend the awards ceremony on March 9th will park in the 610 Lot.

A tram will transport exhibitors from the 610 Lot to NRG Park grounds.



APPENDIX C

APPENDIX C: Miniscapes

Exhibitors will enter through the Holly Hall entrance and park in Orange Lot.
You will be met by Horticulture Committee members who will direct you.



APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D:

Horticulture Photography - Delivery

Exhibitors will enter through Gate 10 (McNee) and park in Red Lot 4. Enter NRG Center via the West entrance. You can drop off your photography entrance at the front desk of the HLSR offices.



APPENDIX E

APPENDIX E: PICK UP MAP

Exhibitors will enter through Gate 2 and enter the building on the east side of NRG Center.



APPENDIX F—PROJECT LOG



Exhibitor Project Log



An Exhibitor Project Log must be completed for each entry in the Texas Tables and Container Grown Plants categories.

Entry Category: Texas Tables ☐ Container Grown Plants ☐

Exhibitor Information:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Entry Information:

Entry Name _____
Project Start Date _____

Please write a brief narrative describing the source of inspiration for the design and the steps taken during the creative process (e.g. selection and sourcing of materials, choice of floral materials, color selection).

Please list all plant materials used, including the botanical and common names.

APPENDIX F—PROJECT LOG



Exhibitor Project Log

An Exhibitor Project Log must be completed for each entry in the Texas Tables and Container Grown Plants categories.



Sketch the original design idea, labeling the plant materials used.

Exhibitors in the Texas Tables competition must attach a minimum of four (4) photographs taken during the construction of the entry. Exhibitors in the Container Grown Plants competition must attach a minimum of ten (10) photographs taken during the cultivation of the entry.

A large, light green rounded rectangle with rounded corners, intended for the exhibitor to sketch their original design idea and label the plant materials used.

APPENDIX F—PROJECT LOG



Exhibitor Project Log



An Exhibitor Project Log must be completed for each entry in the Texas Tables and Container Grown Plants categories.

Complete the timeline journaling the cultivation of the entry. This sheet can be copied if additional pages are needed by the exhibitor.

THE TIMELINE BELOW IS REQUIRED FOR CONTAINER GROWN PLANT ENTRIES ONLY!

DATE	ENTRY