



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

2026 RULES & REGULATIONS

HORTICULTURE COMPETITION

COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS

Texas Youth, 8-18

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1: Floral Design

Section A: Texas Tables

Section B: Rodeo Cup

Section C: Dining Duets

CATEGORY 2: Petit Container Grown Plants

CATEGORY 3: Horticulture Photography

CATEGORY 4: Miniscapes

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NEW FOR 2026


Make sure to review all competition changes listed below. If you have any questions, please contact horticulture@hlsr.com.

- All entries must include the exhibitor's name, school, FFA Chapter, 4-H Chapter (if applicable). If an exhibitor is under the age of eighteen (18) a parent/legal guardian must provide their name, address, phone number, and email address. All communication will be sent to the email address provided by the parent/legal guardian.
- Participants in the following categories will be selected via lottery: Miniscapes, Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Dining Duets. Each entry will automatically be assigned a number upon submission and those numbers will be used in a random drawing to select exhibitors. Category entry limits are as follows:
 - Miniscapes - Max forty (40) entries
 - Texas Tables - Max one-hundred (100) entries
 - Rodeo Cup - Max one-hundred and five (105) entries
 - Dining Duets - Max fifty (50) teams of two (2).
- Substitutions will not be allowed; once entry limits have been reached for the Miniscapes, Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Dining Duets competitions, five (5) additional names will be drawn for each competition and those exhibitors will be listed as alternates. Alternates will be selected for competition in the order in which they initially registered.
- Exhibitors will receive two (2) free grounds admission tickets that will allow them to access the grounds on the competition date and during the awards ceremony. Tickets will be sent digitally via AXS. You can create a free AXS account at [AXS.com](https://www.axs.com) or by downloading the AXS app on your mobile device. Exhibitors will receive two (2) exhibitor badges at their competition check in table which are valid for the duration of the 2026 show. Tickets and badges are valid for NRG Park grounds ONLY. Stadium access is not allowed.
- Petit Container Grown Plants will have a new twist for 2026! Exhibitors will be expected to grow three or more species of plant or flower in a petit container. Petit arrangements must be between three (3) and twelve (12) inches - including the container and all plant/floral elements. Please review the design guidelines carefully.
- Exhibitors must submit a signed release of liability and indemnity form. Forms will be filled out digitally and will require a parent or legal guardian to submit a photo of their drivers license or identification card. The release of liability and indemnity form can be reviewed and signed by scanning the QR code:



ENTRY INFORMATION

HOW TO ENTER:

- Registration for the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Horticulture Competition will open on **November 10, 2025 at 9 a.m.** on RODEOHOUSTON.COM.
- Entry forms must be completed online. Paper copies of the entry form will not be accepted.
- Incorrect or incomplete information on the entry form may result in disqualification of the entry or a delay in issuing awards.
- Entries must include the exhibitors name, school, FFA Chapter/4-H Chapter (if applicable). **If an exhibitor is under the age of eighteen (18) a parent/legal guardian must provide their name, address, phone number, and email address. All communication will be sent to the email address provided by the parent/legal guardian.**
- Exhibitors must submit a signed release of liability and indemnity form. Forms will be filled out digitally and will require a parent or legal guardian to submit a photo of their drivers license or identification card. The release of liability and indemnity form can be reviewed and signed by scanning the QR code: 
- Submission of an entry form means that the exhibitor understands that the decisions of the judges is final and you agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Horticulture Competition.
- It is the responsibility of the exhibitor and/or advisor to confirm that an entry has been received.
- **Participants in the following categories will be selected via lottery:** Miniscapes, Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Dining Duets. Each entry will automatically be assigned a number upon submission and those numbers will be used in a random drawing to select the participating exhibitors. Category entry limits are as follows:
 - Miniscapes - Max forty (40) entries
 - Texas Tables - Max one-hundred (100) entries
 - Rodeo Cup - Max one-hundred and five (105) entries
 - Dining Duets - Max fifty (50) team of two (2)

DEADLINE:

- The **registration deadline** for Miniscapes, Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Dining Duets is **November 21, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.** Registrants in these categories will be notified via email if they have or have not been selected as a competition participant on December 8, 2025.
- The **registration deadline** for Horticulture Photography and Petit Petit Container Grown Plants is **January 23, 2026.** Horticulture Photography entries must be submitted to the HLSR offices on or before this date. Please review the "Entry Delivery" portion of the rulebook.

ENTRY INFORMATION

DIVISION GUIDELINES:

Exhibitors competing in the Horticulture Competition must meet the following criteria:

- Must be Texas residents between the ages of 8 and 18 as of March 1, 2026.
- Entries in Rodeo Cup, Texas Tables, Petit Container Grown Plants, and Horticulture Photography are individual competitions. Team entries are not allowed.
- Entries in the Miniscapes competition must be submitted by an individual or by teams of two (2). Both team members must meet the competition entry requirements.
- Entries in the Dining Duets category must be a team of two (2) exhibitors. Both team members must meet the competition entry requirements.
- Exhibitors competing in a team category do not have to be from the same school, FFA Chapter, or 4-H Chapter.

ENTRY FEES:

There are no entry fees for the Horticulture Competition.

ENTRY GUIDELINES:

Please read the entry guidelines carefully. Direct any questions to horticulture@hlsr.com.

- HLSR has the right to refuse any entry that has a serious disease or insect problem.
- Entries should not include identifying information (i.e., exhibitor(s) name(s), FFA Chapter, 4-H Chapter, school, school district, 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 that 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 responsible for entries made in error and will not reopen judging to accommodate such entries.
- Entries must be the work product of the individual(s) listed as the exhibitor(s) on the entry form.

ENTRY INFORMATION

ENTRY GUIDELINES CONTINUED:

- Entries placing first (1st) through third (3rd) place in Texas Tables, Petit Container Grown Plants, Rodeo Cup, and Dining Duets competitions will remain on display through the duration of the 2026 Show.
- Exhibitors in the Texas Tables and Petit Container Grown Plants categories who do not place first (1st) through third (3rd) place are able to take their entries at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. **Any entries not picked up by 9 p.m. on March 8, 2026, will be discarded.**
- Entries in the Horticulture Photography category will remain on display for the duration of the 2026 Show.
- Props, accessories, containers, and photographs can be picked up at the conclusion of the 2026 Show. Please review the "Entry Pick Up" section of the rulebook for information on when and how you can pick up your items.
- Substitutions will not be allowed; once entry limits have been reached for the Miniscapes, Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Dining Duets categories, five additional names will be drawn for each competition. The five names drawn per competition will make up the list of alternates. Alternates will be selected for competition (if applicable) in the order in which they initially registered.
- Any entry that does not comply with all competition rules will be disqualified.
- Exhibitors will receive two (2) free grounds admission tickets that will allow them to access the grounds on the competition date and during the awards ceremony. Tickets will be sent digitally via AXS. You can create a free account at AXS.com or by downloading the AXS app on your mobile device. Exhibitors will receive two (2) exhibitor badges at the competition check in table that are valid for the duration of the Show. Tickets and badges are valid for NRG Park grounds ONLY.
- Exhibitors entered in the Horticulture Photography category will receive two (2) exhibitor badges if HLSR received their entry by the deadline.
- Exhibitors entered in the Miniscapes category will receive two (2) exhibitor badges when they check in to construct their entry.
- Exhibitors entered in the Texas Tables and Petit Container Grown Plants categories will use their NRG Park admission tickets and parking pass on March 8, 2026, to park and reenter the grounds after delivering their entry. Two (2) exhibitor badges will be given to each exhibitor when checking in.

ENTRY INFORMATION

ENTRY GUIDELINES CONTINUED:

- Exhibitors entered in the Rodeo Cup and Dining Duets categories will receive two (2) exhibitor badges when they check in to construct their entry.
- Exhibitors entered in multiple categories are only eligible to receive a total of two (2) admission tickets / exhibitor badges.

CONSENT:

Exhibitors agree to the following condition to participate in the 2026 Horticulture Competition:

- 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 student's entry or entries in whole, in part, or composite. The student and parent/guardian 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, entries, or images.
- While HLSR takes every precaution to ensure the integrity of the entries, HLSR and the Horticulture Committee are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of entries. Damaged entries will not be repaired.

CONTACTS:

The following staff members are available to answer any questions about the Horticulture Competition. Should an exhibitor require any accommodations due to personal health or medical conditions, please inform staff members at least forty-five (45) days prior to the competition date.

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Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
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Coordinator, Attractions & Competitions
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
3 NRG Park
Houston, TX 77054
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ENTRY DELIVERY

ALL COMPETITIONS:

- Exhibitors must check in at each competition table that 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 Gate 21 at Bellfort St. Miniscape exhibitors will park on NRG Park grounds for their competition.
- A tram will transport exhibitors from the 610 Lot to NRG Center.

HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY:

Entries must be shipped or delivered to the HLSR offices. **Entries must be submitted by 4 p.m. on January 23, 2026.**

- Exhibitor's full name, school, FFA Chapter/4-H Chapter (if applicable), and contact information should be attached to the back of the photo.
- Entries should be shipped to: Ashly Thornton, HLSR - Horticulture Photography, 3 NRG Park, Houston, TX 77054.
- If delivering an entry, please enter NRG Park grounds via Gate 10 at Kirby and McNee. Inform the security guard that you are visiting the HLSR offices and no fee will be charged to park.
- Deliveries will be accepted Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Deliveries are not allowed during Houston Texans home football games - NO EXCEPTION

MINISCAPES:

- Check in for Miniscapes will be on the grounds of NRG Park on March 1, 2026, starting at 10 a.m. Check in, prep, and construction must be complete by 3 p.m.
- Exhibitors will enter NRG Park grounds off Fannin St., at the Holly Hall entrance.
- Exhibitors will turn right after entering the gate and park as indicated on the back of the parking hangtag.
- Exhibitors are responsible for bringing wagons, carts, wheelbarrows, etc... to transport their materials from the parking lot in the exhibit area.

ENTRY DELIVERY

TEXAS TABLES & PETIT CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS:

Entries must be delivered to the east end of the 2nd floor of NRG Center on March 8, 2026 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 competition check in table.
- Once through Gate 2, exhibitors will turn right and unload their entry in the area designated for the Horticulture Competition.
- Entries must be completely set up by noon.

RODEO CUP:

- Exhibitors will check in on the east end of the second floor of NRG Center on March 8, 2026 between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- A mandatory meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m., and the competition will begin immediately after. 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.

DINING DUETS:

- Exhibitors will check in on the east end of the second floor of NRG Center on March 15, 2026 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. 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.

Delivery and parking maps are on pages 20 - 24 of the rules and regulations. For additional information please visit rodeohouston.com. If you have any additional questions please contact hrticulture@hlsr.com.

JUDGING

ALL COMPETITIONS:

- Results will be posted at RODEOHOUSTON.COM
- HLSR will select qualified judges for each competition event. Any questions regarding the judging criteria may be directed to horticulture@hlsr.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.

HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Judging will take place on February 28, 2026.
- There will be two (2) rounds of judging. All entries will be judged during the first (1st) round, and the top fifty (50) entries determined at the judges discretion will advance to the second (2nd). In the second (2nd) round, only the advancing entries will be judged on a one-hundred (100) point system.
- Judging will be based on the following five (5) categories:
 - Creativity: Up to thirty (30) points
 - Composition: Up to twenty-five (25) points
 - Technical Merit: Up to twenty (20) points
 - Discretion: Up to fifteen (15) points
 - Interpretation of Theme: Up to ten (10) points

MINISCAPES:

- Judging will take place on March 1, 2026.
- Judging will be based on the following three (3) categories:
 - Cultural Perfection: Up to fifty (50) points
 - Plant Variety: Up to thirty (30) points
 - Staging and Perfection: Up to twenty (20) points

DINING DUETS:

- Judging will take place on March 15, 2026.
- Judging will be based on the following four (4) categories:
 - Design Aesthetics: Up to twenty-five (25) points - Line/Form, Color, and Space
 - Design Principles: Up to twenty-five (25) points - Balance, Proportion, and Unity
 - Mechanics/Execution: Up to twenty-five (25) points - Neatness and cleanliness of the design, proper coverage of foam, and sturdiness of the design.
 - Creativity: Up to twenty-five (25) points

JUDGING

PETIT CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS:

- Judging will take place on March 8, 2026.
- Judging will be based on the following four (4) categories:
 - Cultural Perfection: Up to forty-five (45) points
 - Plant Variety: Up to forty (40) points
 - Staging and Perfection: Up to ten (10) points
 - Exhibitor Project Log: Up to four (4) points.**

**Judges may mark in the exhibitor logs. Logs are judged for completion.

TEXAS TABLES:

- Judging will take place on March 8, 2026 beginning promptly at 12:00 p.m.
- Judging will be based on the following five (5) categories:
 - Design Aesthetics: Up to twenty-four (24) points - Line/Form, Color, and Space
 - Design Principles: Up to twenty-four (24) points - Balance, Proportion, and Unity
 - Mechanics/Execution: Up to twenty-four (24) points - Neatness and cleanliness of the design, proper coverage of foam, and sturdiness of the design.
 - Creativity: Up to twenty-four (24) points
 - Exhibitor Project Log: Up to four (4) points**

**Judges may mark in the exhibitor logs. Logs are judged for completion.

RODEO CUP:

- Judging will take place on March 8, 2026.
- Judging will be based on the following four (4) categories:
 - Design Aesthetics: Up to twenty-five (25) points - Line/Form, Color, and Space
 - Design Principles: Up to twenty-five (25) points - Balance, Proportion, and Unity
 - Mechanics/Execution: Up to twenty-five (25) points - Neatness and cleanliness of the design, proper coverage of foam, and sturdiness of the design.
 - Creativity: Up to twenty-five (25) points
- Each design will be scored by totaling the points of each scoring category.
- All exhibitors will compete in the Floral Crown and Interpretive Design categories.
- The top twenty (20) scores will advance to the final round and compete in the Surprise Situation category.
- The top score in the final round will receive first (1st) place; the exhibitor with the second highest score will receive second (2nd) place; and so on and so forth for the top ten (10).

AWARDS

AWARD PRESENTATIONS:

- HLSR will host award ceremonies as follow:
 - Horticulture Photography, Miniscapes, Rodeo Cup, Texas Tables and Petit Container Grown Plants categories will be recognized on March 8, 2026 at 6 p.m. on the 2nd floor of NRG Center at Cafe on the Park. (Kirby side of NRG Center).
 - The Dining Duets category will be recognized on March 15, 2026 at 4 p.m. on the 2nd floor of NRG Center.
- Winners in the Horticulture Photography and Miniscapes categories should use the enclosed 610 Lot pass to park and ride the HLSR tram to NRG Center.
- Exhibitors placing first (1st) through tenth (10th) will be recognized.
- Buckles will be presented to the first place winners in all categories.
- Banners will be presented to the second (2nd) and third (3rd) place winners in all categories.
- Ribbons will be presented to winners in fourth (4th) through tenth (10th) place.

AWARDS (ALL CATEGORIES:

- First (1st) Place: \$1,000 + Buckle
- Second (2nd) Place: \$750 + Banner
- Third (3rd) Place: \$500 + Banner
- Fourth (4th) Place: \$250 + Ribbon
- Fifth (5th) through Tenth (10th) Place: \$100 + Ribbon

Exhibitors are encouraged to attend the award ceremony however they do not need 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. Entries placing first (1st) through third (3rd) place will remain on display through the duration of the 2026 Show.

Exhibitors should review the design guidelines for each of the competitions they've entered prior to preparing the entry. Questions should be directed to horticulture@hlsr.com.

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.

SECTION A - TEXAS TABLES DESIGN GUIDELINES

In Texas Tables, **exhibitors will design a centerpiece for a cocktail table at a business casual brunch with the theme FAIRY TALE FLORALS**. A maximum of one-hundred (100) exhibitors may participate in Texas Tables.

- Entries will be displayed on a 36" round particle board with a table covering. Exhibitors are responsible for positioning their design on the table covering. The table covering is required but is 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 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.
- No painting or internal/external dying of fresh flowers is permitted.
- Flowers and foliage should be free of blemishes, insects, and disease.
- Exhibitor designs will be a sole effort with no assistance from anyone in any manner.
- No talking is 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.
- The use of electronic devices is prohibited during the competition.
- Only exhibitors and designees are allowed in the competition area prior to judging.

FLORAL DESIGN

SECTION B - RODEO CUP DESIGN GUIDELINES

A maximum of one hundred and five (105) exhibitors may participate in Rodeo Cup. All exhibitors will compete in the Floral Crown and Interpretive Design categories. The top twenty (20) combined scores from the two (2) categories will advance to the final round and compete in the Surprise Situation category.

- 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 materials provided by HLSR will be allowed.
 - No advance design work may be performed.
- Exhibitors must bring their own tools. Tools cannot be shared by exhibitors. Permissible tools include: glue(s), picks, floral cutters, glue pan/glue pen, wire cutters, knife, scissors, measuring stick/tape, tape(s), and floral wire.
- Exhibitor designs will be a sole effort with no assistance from anyone in any manner.
- Exhibitors will create one (1) entry in each of the following categories:
 - Floral Crown
 - Design time is forty (40) minutes.
 - Exhibitors will create a floral crown 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.
- The twenty (20) exhibitors with the highest combined score in the Floral Crown 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 prior to the start of the design time.
 - Exhibitors will create a floral design appropriate to the surprise situation.
 - No advance design work will be allowed.

Example: A casual retirement brunch will be held in honor of a sixty (60) year old man at 11 a.m. on a Saturday with family, friends, and coworkers. Create a center piece for the banquet table.

FLORAL DESIGN

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 may participate in the Dining Duets competition.

- Teams will have one (1) hour to plan and execute their design.
- Teams will be furnished with a box of materials, including fresh flowers, foliage, containers, decorative elements, and supplies. The flowers, foliage, and supplies will be the same for each team. All elements will be furnished by HLSR.
- Each team will receive the same type of decorative elements, but the design of each element can be different amongst teams. Teams are responsible for determining which materials they use in the design of their entry. Teams must utilize the entire place setting that is provided.
- 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 revealed in the pre-contest meeting.
- Team design will be a sole effort by the exhibitors with no assistance from anyone in any manner.
- Use of electronic devices are prohibited during the competition.
- Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- Teams 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), and floral wire.

PETIT CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

In the Petit Container Grown Plants category, exhibitors will grow three (3) or more examples of plant and/or bloom species in an appropriate container. **The entire entry (plant + container + decorative items) must measure between three (3) and twelve (12) inches in height, width, depth.**

- Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor on or before **January 11, 2026**.
 - Plant 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 completion, exhibitors should document (in writing and photos) the removed element and the replacement element. The documentation will be part of the exhibitor log.
- Entries should be complete upon arrival to the competition.
 - **Entries must be completely set up by noon on March 8, 2026.**
 - 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 HLSLR, 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 and/or bloom species per container.
 - Plant/bloom selection is at the exhibitors discretion.
 - Plant/bloom may belong to any species.
 - Plants and blooms are the only living items that may be included in the entry. No other living items are permitted. Vivarium's are excluded from the competition.
- Plants should be clearly and attractively potted in containers that are suitable for a tabletop display.
 - **The entire entry (plant + container + decorative items) must measure between three (3) inches and twelve (12) inches.**
 - 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.
 - If submitting a terrarium, double potting is not permitted. May be open or closed.
 - Leaf polishes, foliage enhancers, dyed and artificial plants are not permitted.
- Accessories are permitted, however emphasis should be on the creative use of natural, fresh, planted materials rather than accessories to create a scene.

HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Exhibitors will take a photograph representative of the theme **STORY IN A SNAPSHOT.**

- Exhibitors may submit one (1) entry in the Horticulture Photography category. If more than one entry is submitted, the exhibitor will have to select which photo to submit for judging.
- Horticulture Photography entries are limited to subjects related to horticulture, floral arrangements, gardens, landscapes, etc...
- Photographs may feature living subjects, however focus should be on the flora and fauna featured in the photograph.
- Photographs should emphasize the theme: **STORY IN A SNAPSHOT.**
- Entries must be titled.

FINISHING GUIDELINES:

- Minimum Size: 8" x 10" - Regardless of the orientation or use of mat.
- Maximum Size: 11" x 14" - Regardless of the 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.
- Exhibitor's name, address, and school must be labeled on the back of the photo.
- The correct orientation of the photo should be indicated by marking the top edge of the back of the photo.
- Please review the section of the rulebook titled "Entry Delivery" to find out where you can ship or deliver your Horticulture Photography entry. If you have any questions, reach out to horticulture@hlsr.com.

MINISCAPES

Individuals and exhibitors in teams of two (2) will come to NRG Park between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on March 1, 2026, to create their competition entry. **Check in and installation must be complete by 3 p.m. A maximum of forty (40) exhibitors can participate in the miniscape competition.**

- Entries will be constructed in a water trough that is sized 2' x 4' x 2'. HLSR will provide planters prefilled with dirt and fertilizer.
- Planters will be displayed outdoors for twenty-three (23) days and should be able to withstand warm and sunny conditions.
- No living creature can be used in the design of the entry.
- Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- Props and accessories will be removed at the conclusion of the competition's judging. Exhibitors should keep this in mind when designing their entry.
- Entry should not display identifying signage (exhibitor(s) name(s), school district, FFA Chapter, 4-H Chapter, etc...

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 recommending for transporting materials.
- The design and planting must be performed by the exhibitors ONLY.
- Electronic devices are prohibited in the competition area however paper sketches can be used during the competition.
- Exhibitor(s) must bring all tools, plants, and props they will use to construct their entry.
- Entries will be watered and maintained by HLSR. Exhibitors will have access to water on the day of the installation to prepare their entry.
- 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 placing first (1st) through third (3rd) place in the Texas Tables, Rodeo Cup, and Petit Container Grown Plants will be labeled indicating their level of award and will remain on display for the duration of the 2026 Show.

All Horticulture Photography and Miniscape entries will remain on display through the duration of the 2026 Show. **Please note that Miniscape props will be removed at the conclusion of the competition judging.**

PICK UP TIMES

- Exhibitors must pick up their entries on Monday, March 23, 2026 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the 2nd floor of NRG Center. Location TBD.

PICK UP INSTRUCTIONS:

- Exhibitors will access NRG Park via Gate 2 off Fannin St.
- 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 thirty (30) pounds or that does not fit in a standard box will not be shipped. **Living plant materials cannot be returned via the shipping option.**

- Exhibitors must email horticulture@hlsr.com by Sunday, March 22, 2026 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 1, 2026.
- HLSR is not responsible for any items that are lost or damaged during shipping and retains the right to refuse the shipment of an item.

EXHIBITOR PROJECT LOG

Exhibitors in Texas Tables and Petit Container Grown Plants must keep an Exhibitor Project Log. Logs will be submitted at the check in table upon delivery of the entry. Questions regarding the log should be directed to horticulture@hlsr.com

- Exhibitors must maintain and submit a project log for their entry. The project log can be accessed by scanning the QR code below or by visiting RODEOHOUSTON.com.
- Other types of exhibitor logs will not be accepted. Failure to submit an exhibitor log will result in a deduction of points for that judging category.



TEXAS TABLES

The exhibitor log is assessed for content, not creativity and will represent four (4) points of the total score. Logs must include the following:

- A brief narrative describing the source of inspiration for the entry and the steps taken during the creative process (e.g. selection and sourcing of materials, choice of floral materials, color selection).
- A minimum of four (4) photographs taken during the construction of the floral arrangement.
- Photographs must be printed and included with the log. Photographs may not be submitted digitally. HLSR will not print photos.
- A sketch of the design, with each plant labeled using its botanical and common names.
- A list of plant materials used, including the botanical and common names for all plants.
- Judges may make notes in the log.
- HLSR will not print logs for exhibitors. Project logs need to be complete and ready to be turned in when exhibitors arrive at the check in table. No exceptions.

PETIT CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS:

The exhibitor log is assessed for content, not creativity and will represent four (4) points of the total score. Logs must include the following:

- A brief narrative describing the source of inspiration for the entry and the steps taken during the creative process (e.g. selection and sourcing of materials, choice of floral materials, color selection).
- A minimum of ten (10) photographs taken during the construction of the floral arrangement.
- Photographs must be printed and included with the log. Photographs may not be submitted digitally. HLSR will not print photos.
- A timeline journaling/documenting the planting and maintenance activity.
- A list of plant materials used, including the botanical and common names for all plants.
- Judges may make notes in the log.
- HLSR will not print logs for exhibitors. Project logs need to be complete and ready to be turned in when exhibitors arrive at the check in table. No exceptions.

PHOTO DELIVERY



Enter through Gate 10 (McNee) and park in Red Lot 4. The HLSR offices are on the 2nd floor of NRG Center.



MINISCAPE COMPETITION



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™ PARKING MAP



Enter via Gate 3 (Holly Hall) and park in Orange Lot.



PETIT CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

TEXAS TABLES



To unload entries enter through Gate 2 and turn right.

Unloading Area

Once entries have been delivered, exhibitors will park in the 610 Lot and take the tram back to NRG Center.

610 LOT
1950 W. Belfort
Houston, TX 77054

Enter the 610 Lot via Gate 21

610 LOT



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™ PARKING MAP



ENTRY PICK UP



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™ PARKING MAP



Enter through Gate 2 (Holly Hall) and follow posted signs to assigned room.