



Gila County Fair – 2026 Educational Poster Guidelines

Focus: The 5 C's of Arizona – Cotton (Juniors) & Citrus (Seniors)

Purpose

The purpose of the Educational Poster Contest is to inform and educate the public about Arizona agriculture, with a special focus on the **5 C's of Arizona** – Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate. For 2026, exhibitors will highlight **Cotton** (Junior Division) and **Citrus** (Senior Division). Posters will be displayed during the fair for public viewing.

2026 Divisions & Topics

- **Junior Exhibitors (ages 8–13) – Cotton**
 - **Senior Exhibitors (ages 14–18) – Citrus**
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Poster Requirements

1. **Size:**
 - Must be standard poster board size: **22" x 28"** (horizontal or vertical layout accepted) or close to this size.
2. **Materials:**
 - Use a sturdy poster board.
 - No tri-fold display boards.
 - Attachments must be securely fastened; nothing may extend beyond the edges of the poster board.

3. Content:

- Must be educational, accurate, and focused on the assigned topic.
- Include facts, statistics, and images that highlight the role of Cotton or Citrus in Arizona's economy, history, and agriculture.
- Content should be **original** – avoid plagiarism; cite sources where appropriate.

4. Design:

- Legible and easy to read from at least 3 feet away.
- Use large, clear lettering and contrasting colors.
- Neatness counts – posters with excessive pencil marks, smudges, or poor readability will be scored lower.

5. Identification:

- On the back of the poster, clearly print:
 - Exhibitor's Name
 - Age Division (Junior or Senior)
 - Club/Chapter (if applicable)
 - Title of Poster

6. Prohibited Elements:

- No copyrighted images or logos unless accompanied by written permission.
- No live animals, liquids, perishable items, or sharp objects.

7. Delivery:

- Posters must be turned in during designated exhibit hall entry check-in or during Livestock check-in. May not be turned in any later than September 8, 2026 at 8pm.
 - Failure to turn in a poster means you forfeit the opportunity to participate in the 2026 Gila County Fair for any entry, still exhibit or livestock, including the sale of an animal.
 - **Late entries will not be accepted.**
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Judging Criteria

Category	Points
Educational Content	40
Creativity & Originality	25
Visual Appeal & Neatness	20
Accuracy & Sourcing	15
Total	100

Tips for Success

- Focus on telling the story of your “C” – for Juniors, how Cotton is harvested, used, and impacts Arizona; for Seniors, how Citrus is harvested, used, and impacts and contributes to Arizona’s agriculture and economy.
 - Use both pictures and words to make your poster engaging.
 - Double-check spelling, grammar, and facts before submitting.
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Opt-Out Option:

- Exhibitors can opt out of the poster requirement. In doing so, they will be required to create an Agricultural Education booth focused on the 5C assigned for the year. This booth will be a part of the Ag Experience hall, and will be required to have exhibitors present during Fair hours.