

Sooke Fall Fair 2023 “Wild West Coast”, September 9th and 10th, 2023

By Lî Crossgrove, Sooke Fall Fair Junior Section Coordinator

Preschool, Junior and Teen Youth Sections.

Everyone is welcome at the Sooke Fall Fair and that means you too! Anyone from across Vancouver Island can enter in our Fall Fair. This year our Sooke Fall Fair turns 110 years old and our theme is the “Wild West Coast”.

Every year our incredible exhibitors, volunteers, and supporters make our Fall Fair the wonderful, wonder-filled, event that it is, and without all of us we wouldn't have a fair at all. Participation is key.

Our Preschool, Junior and Teen Youth Sections are fun, all-inclusive opportunities, for kids and teens, 2 to 18 years old, to showcase their many, and varied, skills and talents at the local level. With lots of different sections and classes to enter their creations in, there's sure to be something interesting for kids and teens to participate in. Including the Preschool and Teen Youth Sections, we have 13 sections that encompass everything from Photography to Growing Things, Kitchencrafts to Fibre Arts, Animals to Writing, and Hobbies to Lego.

We have a whole bunch of new classes this year so be sure to check out our catalogue and our updated website. There's a link to our FREE Colouring Sheet (Class 52 on the entry form) for kids 2 to 14, and this year there's a draw, just for kids, to win a gift basket full of surprises!

Do you have any jokes or junk sculptures that you've created? Are you a photographer or a Lego creator? Do you make bird houses or wind chimes? Do you sew, knit, or crochet? Have you raised a rabbit, a pig, or a cow this year?

Do you have an affinity for flower arranging, or growing potatoes, sunflowers, or blackberries? Are you a painter or a creative writer? Or, do you have a knack for baking bread or cake, or canning fruit, salmon, or vegies? Enter your creations and exhibits this year to show us your hard work, and your super skills, for your opportunity to win awards, ribbons, trophies, rosettes, and even money!

Whether or not an entrant or exhibitor wins top prizes, entering is a reward in and of itself, and we all profit from being able to experience your amazing creations! So, come to the Fair in September and show us your wonderful works!

We're so happy to say that our Vancouver Island Regional Library will be represented at our Fair this year. Our amazing VIRL Children's Librarian, Nathalie Jones, will have a table downstairs with lots of information about our library, free materials, and entertaining games that kids can play for prizes.

We'll also be making a Sooke Fall Fair “Wild West Coast” 2023 souvenir button for kids who want one. Kids can colour one of two choices of templates, cut it out to size, bring it to the VIRL table downstairs at the the Sooke Community Hall, and their picture will be turned into a cool SFF 2023 souvenir button they can wear.

On the Saturday there are outdoor carnival type games with prizes to be won and we have our fun 13th annual Great “Sookeini” Race. There are two age categories, one for those under 17 years old and one for those 18 year old and older. Contestants are divided into age heats with multiple opportunities to race and first place wins a trophy.

On the Sunday we have our praiseworthy Pet Parade for kids aged 2 to 18. In the Pet Parade section, there are 11 classes in total, including largest and smallest pet, youngest competitor who did the decorating on their own, oldest pet, fanciest fish, and more! And, pets may be borrowed for this event.

There are so many things to enjoy at the Sooke Fall Fair, and you help make it happen. So, please get yourself a catalogue, or check it out online, and in the words of one of my incredible Sooke Fall Fair mentors, Martha Moore, "... enter, enter, enter!..."

We can't wait to see you at the Fair!