

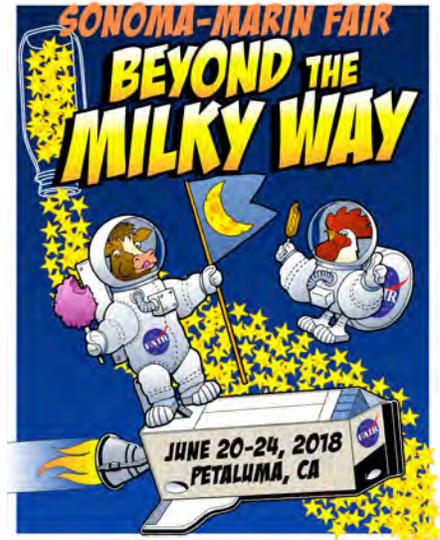
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Additional Photos Available Upon Request

## **Ag-Ventureland inspires Agriculture fun at the Sonoma-Marín Fair this Summer**

*Learning never stops at the Sonoma-Marín Fair as this year's theme of Beyond The Milky Way brings together the FUNDamentals of STEM.*



Petaluma, CA – June 8, 2018 - Summer is here, and it's time to trade textbooks for hands-on learning at the Sonoma-Marín Fair. A summer spotlight on science, technology, engineering and math brings local families back to Sonoma-Marín's agriculture foundation as Ag-Ventureland debuts June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.

"The most exciting part of this year's fair is the ability for all the youngsters to interact with the hands-on aspects of agriculture," says Ruth McClure, President of the Board of Directors for the fair. "We learn by doing when it comes to STEM-related businesses and Ag-Ventureland is a chance for the general public to get reacquainted with Sonoma-Marín's agricultural roots"

Meet the farmers of the future in the Livestock area as young animal scientists who participate in FFA and 4-H showcase the best of their herds. From animal husbandry and farm biosecurity to grooming and care, learn all about what makes our agricultural communities great. The animals will be strutting their stuff in the Livestock Shows as beef and dairy cows, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits line up for their blue ribbons. Top it all off with a demo at the Milking Barn and put a cherry on top at the Clover Ice Cream Giveaway.

Be a farmer for the day in Ag-Ventureland, an interactive farm experience where kids can learn to milk a cow, rope a steer, pedal a tractor, and so much more. This unique play area incorporates fun and educational activities that mimic everyday chores on a modern farm. Get the kids involved with the foundations of farming like learning where your food comes from, and mix in some creativity over at the craft and face-painting station. A day in Ag-Ventureland is the perfect escape from the screens to inspire kids to get out and play!

Float on over to the Butterfly Adventures garden for an eye-opening show of over 1000 native butterfly species. Look on in amazement as you mingle with an extravagant number of butterflies in the exhibit and experience the magic of seeing them up close with nectar feeding sticks to bring the experience right into your hands.

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Let the games begin as MindWorks gets the gears turning with hands on STEM/STEAM games. With large scale games of skill and strategy like Chess, Checkers, Connect Four, Battleship, Simon Says, Scrabble, Jenga, and Operation, there are hours of fun to be had. Build with magnets, giant foam blocks and wood blocks, or challenge your mind with chunky wood puzzles, metal tavern puzzles, and jumbo jigsaw puzzles.

This summer's Sonoma-Marin Fair is all about the brain food alongside the carnival food. You'll have fun science and learning galore, starting with experiential discovery brought to you by the North Bay Science Discovery Day. Rest assured that your favorites from funnel cakes to corn dogs will be there to keep you going all weekend long. Clo's Imagination Station is the place to be if you want to see what it takes to win a good ol' fashioned funnel cake-eating contest! Contests take place daily at 1 and 3 pm.

Fairgoers can look forward to five days of affordable fun with a pay-one-price entry. Tickets include unlimited carnival rides, headlining entertainment, contests, games, and activities all included in the price of admission. On Wednesday, everyone is a kid for Kids' Day and gets into the fair for just \$12 until 5 p.m. Thursday is Seniors' Day, which allows individuals 65 years or older entrance for \$6. Friday honors our heroes by discounting admission to \$15 for law enforcement, fire department personnel, and active or reserve military with a government ID.

Inspire children and children-at-heart this summer to be life-long learners as we bring the best of agricultural festivities to the Sonoma-Marin Fair June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.

The 2018 Sonoma-Marin Fair will be taking the summer fun "Beyond the Milky Way" from June 20-24, 2018. Enjoy 5 fun-filled days of FREE concerts, unlimited carnival rides, sprint car racing, wine tasting, fun games & contests, delicious fair food, and more. For details, visit [sonoma-marinfair.org](http://sonoma-marinfair.org) or call (707) 283-3247. Be the first to know about all of the fun by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Plan for an out of this world experience!

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