

**Cathy's Perspective**  
**Six Trips to the Fair**  
**By Catherine D**



Summertime in Del Mar calls for a trip to the San Diego County Fair. There is so much to do: food, rides, and games. What more could a kid want? However, summer after summer, I was the one who would not go because of two nasty experiences. My first experience was when I was in third grade. My little brother ate a hotdog that later ended up all over me in the back seat of my mom's new car. Needless to say, I thought that all of the germs at the fair gave him the stomach flu. Five years later, I got up the courage to go again. I promised myself that I would not eat and would wash my hands at every turn. After all, I still had the rides and the games. But this was to be yet another unfortunate trip. My friends and I decided to entertain ourselves by tossing pennies off of the skyride and watching the surprised faces of unsuspecting pedestrians below. The security guards did not see the humor in our antics and took away our wristbands; so, gone were the rides and gone was our fun. At least I didn't get sick.

After a three-year break, I went to the fair on opening day this year. I promised myself that I would not eat, would wash my hands at every turn, and would not toss pennies or any other object from the skyride. I had such a good time that I went back five more times. I bet you are wondering how one teenager could spend so much time at the fair. So, here's a peek at my diary:

Trip 1: A friend won a goldfish and stuffed toys for me. I later went to the pet store to buy the fish an \$8 companion that died the next day.

Trip 2: Saw a hypnotist show, got over my fear of food at the fair, got free food from friends working at stands, tried winning some of the games but failed.

Trip 3: Saw the hypnotist show again, visited the foul smelling animals and had a close encounter with a llama, ate more food, and went to the Icee stand four times.

Trip 4: Watched novice singers perform their original songs and laughed for hours, avoided the photo booth, won two more goldfish, and ate copious amounts of fattening food: deep-fried Snickers, onion claw, jumbo corn dog, cookies, pizza, and ice cream. Skipped trying deep-fried frog legs.

Trip 5: Went on rides and discovered my new fear of heights, forced into the photo booth, saw the hypnotist show, and watched a wrestling contest and made new friends with two of winners.

Trip 6: Watched friends compete in a RockBand contest, saw the fireworks, and said goodbye to the fair and my allowance for the month.