

DISTRICT 8 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Rules & Guidelines

PURPOSE

The 4-H Photography Contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment and process of photographs.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop life skills in composition, light, story line, posing, and awareness.
- To gain knowledge about cameras, camera settings, photography dimensions and resolution.
- To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives.
- To provide photography project showcase opportunity for 4-H members.
- To continue to share the message of 4-H.
- To utilize photographs which can promote and strengthen the 4-H program.

RESOURCES

- An extensive list of resources can be found on the Texas 4-H Photography Project page:
- <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/>

IMPORTANT DATES

County Entry Deadline: Contact your County Extension Agent. Deadlines vary by county.

District Entry Deadline: ***Photos entered at District must qualify at the county level first!***
Contact your County Extension Agent. Deadlines vary by county.
4-H Connect: <https://texas.4honline.com>

Entry Fee: \$5 per photo

If a payment is declined via credit card, then that payment must be resubmitted for the District to have access to the photo for judging. We cannot download or view photos that have incomplete payments.

Late Entries: Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 late fee per 4-H member up to 72 hours after the regular contest deadline. No additional entries will be accepted after the late entry deadline.

CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES. PHOTOS NOT ADHERING TO GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

- **Eligibility.** Participants must be 4-H members currently enrolled and have an “active” status on 4-H Connect with the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and actively participating in the Photography project.

- **Age Divisions.** Age divisions are determined by a participant’s grade as of August 31, 2024 as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Grades</u>	
Junior	3*, 4, or 5	<i>*Must be at least 8 years old</i>
Intermediate	6, 7, or 8	
Senior	9, 10, 11, or 12*	<i>*Must not be older than 18 years old</i>

- **Eligibility of Photos.** All photographs must have been taken by the 4-H members between the dates of last year’s contest and time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.

Important Note. This District 8 4-H Photography Contest is for all age divisions. It is NOT the qualifying contest for the Texas 4-H Photography Contest. **The Texas 4-H Photography Contest is for only Senior 4-H members. The Texas 4-H Contest has its own registration process with a deadline of April 15th, 2025.** Senior 4-H members wishing to enter the state contest should contact their County Extension Agent for details. The District 8 4-H Photography Contest is in addition to the state Senior contest.

- **Number of Entries per County.** A county may have only one entry per category in each age division for a total of 24 entries per county. **Photos entered at District must qualify at the county level first!**
- **Entry Deadline & Fee.** All entries for the District contest must be electronically submitted through 4-H Connect by the deadline. Deadlines vary by county, so you will need to contact your County Extension Agent. Each photo will have a \$5 entry fee. **Photos entered at District must qualify at the county level first!**
- **Alteration of Photos.** Although slight computer enhanced photos are allowed, such as crop, trimming, adjusting lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography, such as changing colors or applying design styles, using computer graphics will disqualify an entry. Any other alteration, manipulation, edits to a photo would require the photo to be entered into the Enhanced category.
- **Text on Photographs.** Photographs **MUST NOT** contain camera or user placed text. This includes such things as date stamps, comments, or titles. Text or wording that is part of the photograph (i.e. photo of a street sign, etc.) is acceptable.
- **Format of Photograph.** Photographs must be in a .jpeg, .jpg, or .png format.
- **Size Ratio.** Any size ratio, except for panoramic, is acceptable. For this contest, panoramic is defined as a photo with an aspect ratio of 3:1 or 1:3 or wider/taller.
 - File Size: Photo must be a minimum of 1 MB (1,000 KB) and a maximum of 20 MB.
 - **Tips:** Upload the highest resolution possible.
 - Review your photo at 100% size before uploading. Check your photo’s file properties and/or metadata to ensure it meets the file size requirements. 1 MB (megabyte) is equivalent to 1,000 KB (kilobytes). Photos that are less than 1,000 KB do not meet the minimum file size requirement.
- **Original Work of 4-H Member.** Entry must be the original photographic work of the 4-H member and not

a photo taken by family members, other 4-H members, or secured from any other printed/electronic source. Any photo proven to be found as not original work will result in disqualification of ALL the 4-H member's entries into the Photography Contest. Additionally, actions may be taken against the 4-H member in regard to the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct signed by the 4-H member.

- **Content.** Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any laws are strictly prohibited. The Texas 4-H Youth Development in District 8 reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
- **Copyright.** The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program in District 8 respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos should be based on a participant's original photograph. Use of a photo from other sources/people without permission is not allowed.
- **Display and Future Rights Use Rights.** By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member grants permission to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, the use, and rights associated to the use of the photographic likeness, in promotional publications, and other media, without compensation. Certain photos maybe used for 4-H program and marketing uses.
- **Release of Liability.** The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for non-displayed photographs. By entry the 4-H member accepts this release.
- **Model and Property Releases.** It is required that each participant have sufficient permission granted to both the photographer and the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program to publish and use as needed any recognizable locations or people photographed. Documentation should be retained by the participant and be available upon request from the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program.
- **Disqualification of an Entry.** An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Disqualifications forfeit all entry fees. A general notice specifying reason(s) for disqualification will be returned to the county. Reasons for disqualification:
 - Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content.
 - Broken copyright rule. Photo is not the original work of the 4-H member. This action is considered theft, which is a major offense in the Texas 4-H Rules & Guidelines. Broken display and future rights usage rule.
 - Broken model and property release rule.
 - **Does not meet category criteria, rules, or guidelines. (see category descriptions) *Please make sure you read the category descriptions completely and enter your photo in the correct category.**
 - Multiple county entries into a category.
 - One photo entered multiple categories.
 - County did not select/certify photograph to represent the county by the deadline.
 - Entry fee not paid, or only partial fee paid.
 - Extremely poor quality/resolution.
 - Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed.
 - Photograph does not meet the minimum resolution or size.
 - Photography was not entered into 4-H Online.

- **Judging & Awards.** Each photograph will be evaluated against a set of judging criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, or a white ribbon. See Contest Judging Criteria. Judges will determine the point values and all decisions are final.

Category Champion & Category Reserve Champion. The photo with the highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Champion of their respective category. The photo with the second highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Reserve Champion of their respective category.

Age Division Best of Show. Best of Show awards will be given to one photo in each age division. The Champion photo from each category will be considered for the Best of Show award.

- **Announcement of Results.** Results will be emailed after the judging to County Extension Agents and county offices. Results will be announced via email and social media the Friday before District 8 4-H Roundup.

Categories will be broken down per age division as follows: (Descriptions Below)

1) Junior Age Division 3 Categories

- a) Animals – Domestic/Wildlife*
- b) Plant/Landscape/Nature*
- c) People*

2) Intermediate Age Division 6 Categories

- a) Animals – Domestic/Wildlife*
- b) Plant/Landscape/Nature*
- c) People*
- d) Details/Macro*
- e) Elements of Design*
- f) Catch All*

3) Senior Age Division All 18 Categories

DISTRICT 8 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Description of Categories

It is extremely important that 4-H members, project leaders, parents, and county Extension agents review the descriptions of each category very carefully. Please do not enter photographs into categories that are duplicates from other categories or ones that do not clearly meet the category description. Photographs that do not meet the description of the category will be disqualified.

Category Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
ANIMALS - DOMESTIC Photos focusing on the various animals that have been tamed and made fit for a human environment. To be considered domesticated, the animal must have their behavior, life cycle, or physiology systemically altered as a result of being under human control for many generations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chickens • Cows • Dogs/Cats • Geese/Ducks (domestic use) • Hamsters • Horses • Pigs • Sheep/Goats
ANIMALS - WILDLIFE Category focuses on animals not tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wilderness or the bodies of water throughout the country and world. Photos can be of wildlife in nature, zoos, and/or petting zoos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos taken through glass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds • Deer • Elephants • Snakes • Whales
CATCH-ALL Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not allowed: A duplicate photo also entered in another category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polaroid image & emulsion transfers • Still-Life (inanimate objects) • Flat Lay Photography
DETAILS & MACRO Getting in close is the name of the game for this category. We welcome pictures of small details that suggest a larger story. This is also the place for macro photographs (although a macro image of a flower might equally go into the Flowers category).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clocks • Coins • Ice crystals • Insects • Stamps
DOMINANT COLOR Photos with a dominant color. The dominant element in the image must be a specific color, such as red, yellow, blue, white, black, white, green, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black & White photos and duotones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sunlight on it.
ELEMENTS OF DESIGN Images use of graphic elements of design. Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. Photo can consist of any subject matter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital creations or graphic designs made in commercial programs such as Photoshop, InDesign, or Illustrator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line • Pattern • Perspective • Shape
ENHANCED A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched, or composite image. Other variations are allowed as well.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photoshop composites and creations • Images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters. • Photos with artistic borders • Photos stitched into a panoramic
FOOD Category is a still life specialization of photography, aimed at producing attractive photographs of food for use in such items of advertisements, packaging, menus and/or cookbooks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos of alcoholic beverages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.

Category Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
<p>LANDSCAPE & NATURE (NON-ANIMAL) The focus of this category includes landscapes, outdoor scenic, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos which primary subject is wildlife or person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes/Gardens • Scenic • Outdoors
<p>LEADING LINE This image composition technique features lines that draw the viewer’s eye from point A to point B, which is the primary subject</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A river that begins in the foreground and draws your attention to a photogenic bridge in the background.
<p>LONG EXPOSURE Also known as time-exposure or slow-shutter, this technique involves using a long-duration shutter speed. It can be used to sharply capture stationary elements of an image while blurring, smearing, or obscuring the moving elements. It is also used in low-light conditions.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks • Moving Water • Light Trails • Milky Way • Light Painting • Night or Low-light conditions • Etc.
<p>MOTION/ACTION The capture of movement within a single photo. The subject appears stopped or “frozen”</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferris wheel spinning, • sporting events, • horse running across a field, • etc
<p>PEOPLE Photos focus from all walks of life, parenting and family, children, babies, models/fashion, sports, and couples. All individuals in the photos must have provided consent and permission as a subject. If requested, a release will be needed from the photographer and the subject.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babies • Families • Kids • Models/Fashion
<p>PLANT/FLORA Photos of interesting, unique, and beautiful flowers and flora. Photography can occur outdoors or indoors. Photo subject should be that of a single flower, plant, bush, tree, etc. Large collections of plant/flora should be considered for entry into the Nature & Landscape category.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose • An upward shot of a tree • A flower bouquet
<p>REFLECTIONS Focus on capturing reflections in various environments, such as water, mirrors, glass, or metallic surfaces. Highlight the symmetry and intriguing visual effects that reflections create, from serene landscapes mirrored in a lake to bustling cityscapes in puddles or building facades.</p>		
<p>SHADOW/SILHOUETTE A silhouette is an outline that appears dark (typically a single color) with little or no details/features against a brighter background. Recording patterns of light and shade for a desired effect or emphasis is the definition of a shadow. The silhouette or shadow must be the primary subject and focus of the image.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadows/silhouettes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People • Plants • Animals • Structures • Architectures • Natural Structures
<p>TRANSPORTATION Capture the essence of travel. From bustling city streets with cars and buses to serene rural scenes featuring bicycles and boats, this category celebrates the diversity of transportation methods that connect and move us through life.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bustling urban streets, • Serene bicycle paths, • Busy waterways, • Trains, • Single vehicles, • And even rockets
<p>THEME- The 2024-2025 theme is “Patriotism”. Showcase images that reflect national patriotism. Capture symbols, ceremonies, and landscapes that embody the spirit of our country, from flag displays and national monuments to patriotic events and celebrations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos manipulated by software 	

Judging Criteria

Each photograph will be evaluated against the following set of criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded a blue, red, or white ribbon. The criteria for evaluating the photographs will be:

IMPACT (Max Points: 15)	Impact is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of the judging elements.
CREATIVITY (Max Points: 15)	Creativity is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.
TECHNICAL (Max Points: 25)	Technical is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, minor straightening)• sharpness and correct color balance• lighting, which includes the use and control of light. The use of lighting whether natural or man-made and its proper use to enhance the image.• Posing and capturing of the image
COMPOSITION (Max Points: 20)	Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.
SUBJECT MATTER (Max Points: 15)	Subject Matter should always be appropriate to the story being told (i.e. category the photo is entered into) in an image. Subject matter also includes the center of interest for the photograph or where the maker wants the viewer to stop and they view the image.
STORY TELLING (Max Points: 10)	Story Telling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.

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Name: _____ County: _____

Category: _____

You are competing against standards of excellence outlined below, not against your peers. Before preparing your entry for submission please carefully review the judging criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, white, or a participation ribbon.

JUDGES, PLEASE INDICATE POINTS AWARDED IN FAR RIGHT COLUMN:

CATEGORY	JUDGING ELEMENT	POINT RANGE	POINTS AWARDED
Impact (Max Points: 15)	Impact is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of the judging elements.	0-15	
Creativity (Max Points: 15)	Creativity is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.	0-15	
Technical (Max Points: 25)	Technical is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, minor straightening) sharpness and correct color balance. lighting, which includes the use and control of light. The use of lighting whether natural or man-made and its proper use to enhance the image. posing and capturing of the image. 	0-25	
Composition (Max Points: 20)	Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.	0-20	
Subject Matter (Max Points: 15)	Subject Matter should always be appropriate to the story being told (i.e. category the photo is entered into) in an image. Subject matter also includes the center of interest for the photograph or where the maker wants the viewer to stop and they view the image.	0-15	
Story Telling (Max Points: 10)	Story Telling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.	0-10	
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED			

AWARD (circle one)	Blue Award (100 points to 81 pts)	Red Award (80 to 51 pts)	White Award (50 to 31 pts)	Participant Award (30 to 0 pots)
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JUDGES COMMENTS
