Texas 4-H Photography Contest

2019 - 2020 Rules and Guidelines

Revised: August 2019

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

RULES AND PROCEDURES	
Participation Grades	Senior age 4-H members in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 as of September 1, 2019.
Photo Eligibility	Photo must be taken by participants between the dates of January 1, 2019 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
Photo Format	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, or .png.
County Entries	Each county may have only one entry per category for a total of 15 entries.
Entry Fee	$10.00 per photograph paid through 4HConnect.
Entry Method	4HConnect: http://texas.4honline.com
Event Name	2020 State 4-H Photography Contest
Deadlines & Entry Period	Entry Open Date: April 1, 2020 Entry Close Date: April 15, 2020 by 11:59 pm Entries must be approved by county office by April 17, 2020 Payment with a 4-H county or club check is due by April 24, 2020
Resolution and Size	One of most important aspects of the photography project is learning about camera settings, photography ratios, and photo resolution. Volunteer leaders and 4-H members are encouraged to include a lesson on this topic in their project experiences. • Photo must be a minimum of 300 dpi quality resolution. • Size: Must be 3:2 (4”X6”) or 5:4 (8”x10”) ratio (either landscape or portrait). • Size: Photo may not be larger than 5120KB (5MB). If you need assistance in resizing photos, you can use: http://webresizer.com/, or a program of your choice.
Alterations	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.
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 regards to the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct signed by the 4-H member.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

AWARDS, DISPLAY AND JUDGING	
Awards and Recognition	**1. Quality Awards**: Blue, Red, White and Green Participation quality awards will be given based on the scoring values. **2. Best of Show Awards**: A Best of Show Rosette will be awarded to one photo in each category. **3. Cash Awards**: Each Best of Show winner will receive a $250.00 cash prize. *The Best of Show ribbons and award information will be mailed to the address on 4HConnect. All other award ribbons will be mailed to the county Extension office.*
Judging and Results	Each photograph will be judged against a set of judging criteria, and not against photographs of peers. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, white, or a participation ribbon. See Contest Judging Criteria. Judges will determine the placings and all decisions are final. Results will be available on the Texas 4-H Website after Texas 4-H Roundup concludes.
Roundup Display and Participation	Photos will be displayed at an exhibit during Texas 4-H Roundup. Photography contest participants are not required to attend State 4-H Roundup unless they are competing in another contest. If a 4-H member/adult chooses to attend to view the display they may do so, but are required to pay the required registration fee.
RELEASES	
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 Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
Copyright	The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos must be the participant's own work. Use of a photo from other sources/people without permission is not allowed.
Display and Future Usage Rights	By entry, the participant grants permission to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 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 may be used for 4-H program and marketing uses.
Liability Release	The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for non-displayed photographs.
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	
Reasons for disqualification *Disqualification for any reason will forfeit all entry fees. No refunds will be given.*	• Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content. • Broken copyright rule. Photo is not the work of the 4-H member. • Broken display and future rights usage rule. • Broken model and property release rule. • Category: Does not meet category criteria, rules or guidelines. (see category descriptions) • Category: Multiple county entries into a category. • Category: One photo entered into multiple categories. • County did not select/certify photograph to represent 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. • Photograph was not entered into 4-H CONNECT.

TEXAS 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2019-2020 CATEGORIES

It is extremely important that 4-H members, project leaders, parents, and County Extension Agents review the descriptions of each category very carefully. 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.

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.
Examples: Chickens, cows, dogs, cats, geese/ducks (domestic use), hamsters, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, etc.

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.
Examples: Birds, deer, elephants, snakes, whales, etc.

CATCH-ALL
Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories.
Examples: Long exposure zoomed images, painting with light, polaroid image & emulsion transfers, still-life, etc.
Not allowed: County's use of this category to eliminate duplicate photos from multiple 4-H members.

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.
Examples: Clocks, coins, ice crystals, insects, stamps, etc.

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.
Example: Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sunlighting on it.
Not allowed: Black & White photos and duotones.

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.
Examples: Line, pattern, perspective, shape, etc.
Not allowed: Digital creations or graphic designs made in software such as Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator.

ENHANCED
A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched or composite image. Others variations are allowed as well.
Examples: Photoshop composites and creations, images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters, photos with artistic borders, photos stitched into a panoramic, etc.

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.
Examples: Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.
Not allowed: A photo of alcohol beverages.

LANDSCAPE & NATURE (NON-ANIMAL)
The focus of this category includes landscapes, outdoor scenics, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors.
Examples: Gardens/landscapes, outdoors, scenics, etc.
Not allowed: Primary subject is a person or wildlife.

MOTION/ACTION
The capture of movement within a single photo.
Examples: Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across field, etc.

NIGHT
Photos that capture objects in or against the night sky. Photos can include objects such as buildings, landscape features, people, light trails, etc. seen at night. Objects seen in the night sky such as stars and planets are also acceptable. The use of a telescope is permitted.
Examples: Milky Way, meteor shower, moon, cityscape at night
Not Allowed: Sunset and sunrise photos.

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 subject.
Examples: Babies, families, kids, portraits, models/fashion, etc.

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 Landscape & Nature category.
Examples: A rose, an upward shot of a tree, etc.

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.
Examples: shadows/silhouettes of people, plants, animals, structures, architectures, or natural structures.
Not allowed: reflections

THEME - THE ELEMENTS
The 2019-2020 theme is "The Elements". This category must contain one of the 4 elements: earth, air, water, or fire. Photos can include a combination of one or more elements, but the element(s) itself must be the focal point of the photo.
Examples: dust devil, river, steam, snow, campfire, water droplets, clouds, etc.

Texas 4-H Photography Contest
Score Sheet

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: • 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)

JUDGES COMMENTS: