

**DALLAS COUNTY 4-H ROUNDUP  
FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

# **DALLAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNTY ROUNDUP GUIDELINES**



## **CONTEST RULES/EVENT INFORMATION**

### **LOCATION:**

**DALLAS GOVERNMENT BLDG  
6820 LBJ FWY DALLAS, TX 75230**

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## Dallas County Roundup 2026 – Letter of Invitation

### Dear Dallas County Youth, Families, and Supporters,

We are thrilled to announce the **2026 Dallas County 4-H Roundup**—a dynamic celebration of the hard work, creativity, and talents of our youth! This annual event is your chance to experience the excitement of 4-H, explore new opportunities, and cheer on the next generation of leaders.

From inspiring contests to hands-on STEM activities, Roundup is more than just a competition—it's a day filled with learning, discovery, and unforgettable memories.

**Important Note:** Contest participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Priority will be given to enrolled 4-H members, so register early to secure your spot.

### Contest Highlights

1. **Public Speaking Contest** – Prepare and deliver a speech on a topic of your choice, showcasing communication skills.
2. **Educational Presentations** – Share your 4-H project journey in an engaging and informative way.
3. **Consumer Decision Making Contest** – Evaluate products, make informed choices, and explain your reasoning.
4. **Photography Contest** – Open to all youth, including Cloverbuds. Entries must be mounted on 8x10 mat board and submitted by February 9<sup>th</sup>. Photos will be displayed at Roundup and in the North Dallas Government Building lobby for one month.
5. **Entomology Contest (NEW!)** – Explore the fascinating world of insects through identification and classification challenges.
6. **4-H Project Spotlight: Tabletop Edition (NEW!)** – Showcase a 4H project of your choice using a tabletop display.

### STEM Fair

We are pleased to welcome Texas 4-H STEM Ambassadors, Faith Apodaca and Anya Bohil and the STEM member volunteers leading interactive activities throughout the event. These hands-on experiences promote curiosity, problem-solving, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math.

## Event Details

- **Date:** February 28, 2026
- **Start Time:** 8:00 AM
- **Location:** North Dallas Government Building  
6820 LBJ Fwy, Dallas, TX 75240

## About Roundup

- **Dallas County 4-H Roundup:** A countywide event featuring 6 contests, designed to help youth build skills, gain confidence, and prepare for district and state competitions.
- **District IV 4-H Roundup:** Featuring 24 contests this event bridges county and state opportunities, giving youth the chance to advance and shine.
- **Texas 4-H Roundup:** The pinnacle statewide event with 50 contests, scholarships, workshops, and high-energy assemblies for senior 4-H members.

Contest rules, guidelines, and registration details are included in the attached materials. We encourage all Dallas County youth to participate, explore new opportunities, and celebrate the spirit of 4-H.

We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our talented Dallas County youth!

For questions or more information, contact:

**Dallas County Extension Office**

469-224-4701



## Dallas County 4-H Youth Development Program

### Public Speaking Contest Memo

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Location: North Dallas Government Building – 6820 LBJ Fwy Dallas, TX  
75240

Rooms: American Sycamore and Texas Ash (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Check-In: **8:00am**

Orientation: **8:30am:** Brief overview of rules, where to go for contest

Contest: **9:00am:** Begins following orientation

**Registration.** Each participating member is required to [Register Here](#) at no cost. Registration opens on January 5, 2026 and closes at midnight on February 2, 2026. **No late registrations will be accepted.**

**Participation.** Participation is open to Dallas County youth and current 4-H members. However, the event will give priority to current 4-H members and organizations that are in the process of being chartered. Participants must be eligible to compete according to UIL rules.

Please note that this event is NOT a qualifier for District IV and State Public Speaking competition. However, if participants are interested in participating in the District IV Public Speaking contest, please visit: [District IV Public Speaking Contest](#).

**NOTE:** Registration for the District IV Public Speaking contest opens March 4<sup>th</sup> and closes midnight March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. **No late registrations will be accepted, and it is open to 4-H members only.**

We encourage participants to register as soon as possible and use the Dallas County Roundup as an opportunity to practice your speech!

**Age Divisions.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1, 2025, of the current 4-H year. Age divisions for this contest are:

Junior	Ages 8-10 (Grades 3, 4, 5)
Intermediate	Ages 11-13 (Grades 6, 7, 8)
Senior	Ages 14-18 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

**Contest Divisions.** Contestants will be assigned by rooms in each age division.

**Entries.** There is space for 10 participants per age group. Please register as soon as possible to secure a spot!

**Eligibility.** Public Speaking presentations are **ONLY** an individual effort regardless of their age division.

**Originality.** Public Speaking presentations *MUST be persuasive based on the topic selected.*

**Topic Subject.** Subjects in public speaking presentations should intend to persuade an audience on a desiring /provoking and emerging / current issue or topics. *Senior contestants are encouraged to research these emerging and/or current issues to develop a speech.*

**Judges' Gifts.** Gifts of any kind MAY NOT be presented to the judges in any contest.

**Awards – There are two types: 1) Quality Award.** Blue, Red, and White Participation quality awards will be given based on the total score value. **2) Best of Division.** A Best of Division ribbon will be awarded to one participant in each age division and category. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet. **County Roundup is not a pre-qualifier for District IV Competition.**

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST RULES**

- Speeches should be between 5 - 8 minutes. Point deductions will be taken for those under/over.
- The presentation should serve to persuade others regarding a particular issue or concern. It should also be appropriate for the members' age and experience. Appropriate credit must be given for references used.
- Public Speaking Score Sheet Version V.2023 will be used for the contest.
- **Visual aids and props may not be used.**
- Following the speech, there may be up to 5 minutes of question-and-answer period by the judges. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.
- Contestants may be asked to provide the title of their speech and a short statement related to what their speech is about at the time of registration.
- Speeches **MUST** be the original work of the participant. Contestants may **NOT** share/utilize the same presentations delivered by other members/siblings/family members.

**Participants with Disabilities.** If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact 4-H Prairie View Agent Elias Espinosa at [efespinosa@pvamu.edu](mailto:efespinosa@pvamu.edu) or 469-224-4701 at least 2 weeks prior to the program or note such needs when registering.

**Resource Links.** [District 4-H Public Speaking Contest](#) | [Texas 4-H Roundup](#)

**Public Speaking Resources.** [Rules](#) | [Project Page](#) | [Score Sheet](#)



## Dallas County 4-H Youth Development Program

### Educational Presentations Contest Memo

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Location: North Government Building  
6820 LBJ Fwy  
Dallas, TX 75230

Check-In: 8:00 am

Orientation: 8:30 am

Contest: Begins following orientation

**Registration.** Each participating member is required to register at the following link: [Educational Presentation Registration](#). No registration fee is required. Registration will open on January 5, 2026 and close at midnight on February 2, 2026. No late registrations will be accepted.

**Participation.** Participation is open to Dallas County youth and current 4-H members. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to [UIL rules](#)) to compete on the day of the contest. A contestant may compete as an individual or as a member of a team. This contest is not a qualifier for District or State contest, although, it is encouraged for all Dallas 4-H members for participation and practice. [District IV Competition](#) is on April 10, 2026. Must be a 4-H member to participate in District IV.

**Age.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1, 2025. Age divisions for this contest are:

Junior	Ages 8-10 (Grades 3, 4, 5)
Intermediate	Ages 11-13 (Grades 6, 7, 8)
Senior	Ages 14-18 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

**Eligibility.** Educational Presentations may be an individual effort or conducted by a team of two participants.

**Originality.** Educational Presentations **MUST** be the original work of the youth participant. Youth may **NOT** share/utilize the same presentations delivered by other's in the past.

**Topic Subject:** Subjects in the educational presentations should address emerging or current issues in each of the contest areas. Some contests provide a suggested list of topics that the educational presentation may cover along with a resource list. Senior contestants are encouraged to research these emerging and/or current issues to develop presentations. See the links below for the topic categories.

**Accuracy of Information/Resources.** With the computer and internet being used heavily in educational presentations, participants must know the difference between research and non-research based information. Contestants are required to use information that is factual and can be supported through adequate documentation. Examples of such websites are federal, state, and local governments, independent research sites, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service websites. Internet information that is questionable includes personal documentation sites, chat rooms, message boards, etc. Participants must prepare a list of references (i.e. bibliography, works cited) for their presentation.

**Subject Matter.** The skills and knowledge used in any 4-H contest should be the result of experiences in a project in which the participant has participated. A presentation must relate to the contest entered, contain current information, and not be better suited for another contest. It should also be appropriate for the participant's age and experience. Appropriate credit must be given for references used.

### **Educational Presentations Contest Rules**

**Time Limits.** A time limit of 12 minutes will be allowed for each educational presentation. An additional nine minutes will be provided for on-stage arrangements and cleanup in connection with the presentation. A penalty of two points per minute or partial minute overtime will be deducted from the final score. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges.

**Visuals.** Charts, photographs, computer graphics, and other visual materials are permitted and should enhance the presentation by clearly supporting the participant's message. Visuals must be appealing, easy to read, and easily seen by the audience—choose materials with this in mind.

While posters or pictures of restricted items are allowed, the following may **not** be used in any Roundup contest: firearms, weapons, fireworks, open flames, live ammunition, or live animals. Choose your visual taking that into consideration.

**Judges' Questions.** Judges may ask contestants questions at the end of their presentation. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question-and answer period by the judges. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.

**Score Sheets.** 4-H Educational Presentation Score Sheet, V 2023 will be used by contest judges in scoring educational presentations regardless of presentation style (method demonstration, illustrated talk, or speech). Separate score sheets are used in public speaking. All score sheets are available on the Texas 4-H Youth Development website.

**Judges' Gifts/Handouts.** Gifts of any kind MAY NOT be presented to the judges in any contest. Handouts may be made available to the entire audience.

**Use of Firearms, Weapons, Fireworks, Open-Flamed Burners and/or Ammunition.** No firearms, weapons, fireworks, open-flamed burners or live ammunition are allowed to be used in any Roundup contest. However, posters and pictures of such items are allowed and encouraged. No items and/or props that are combustible, flammable, or under extreme pressure can be used in any Roundup contest. These include camp stoves, propane tanks, and/or open flames.

**Live Animals, Insects, and Reptiles.** No pets or live animals/insects/reptiles are permitted for use by contestants in a contest. Service animals are permitted in accordance with ADA regulations. If you have questions on other items that may not be allowed, it is highly recommended you contact the local County Extension Agent and/or the District IV Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Youth Development.

**Service Animals.** Service animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities are permitted at the event. Non-service animals are not allowed. Comfort or emotional support animals are not service animals.

**Equipment.** There are limitations or recommendations for juniors and intermediates as it relates to equipment and visual aids. Outlined below are the age-division specific rules for educational presentations:

Juniors	Intermediates	Seniors
No computer aided/projected presentation equipment allowed. Posters and an easel are a suitable and recommended alternative. Props and other visual aids are allowed.	Computer-aided presentation equipment is allowed, but posters are highly recommended and encouraged. Props and other visual aids are allowed.	Any type of presentation equipment, props, and visual aids are allowed (if also allowed by state rules).

Participants are required to bring 100% of their own equipment (props, posters, easels, personal computer, visual aids, extension cords, etc.), with the exception of a screen, table and projector, which will be available in each presentation room. It is also encouraged to bring your own adapter in case your computer does not have a HDMI port.



Take into consideration that Internet connectivity may not be available. Be prepared to incorporate any video or other graphics that may require Internet to be directly embedded in the presentation. Make sure the image/video is included as part of the thumb drive or method used to provide your presentation to the contest Superintendent/Coordinator.

Contest officials will not have any equipment such as computers, projectors, or video adapters available. It is the contestant's sole responsibility to secure and bring all necessary equipment, and to know how to operate and troubleshoot it. Please have your presentation pre-loaded on your computer.

**FYI to Senior Contestants that advance on to Texas 4-H Roundup ..... All presentations must be in some form of Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Word, or Excel). All fonts used must be true type. These fonts specifically include Arial and Times New Roman (See Texas 4-H Roundup Rules & Guidelines for more information). Dallas County 4-H Roundup is not a prequalifier for Texas 4-H Roundup.**

**Awards.** Quality Awards: Blue, Red, and White Participation quality awards will be given based on the total score value. Best of Division: Best of Division Rossett will be awarded to one participant in each age division and category. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet.

County Roundup is not a prequalifier for District IV Competition. 4-H Member participants can view District IV Educational Presentation rules [here](#). It is the member's responsibility to register for the contest on [4-H Online](#). District competitors must be enrolled in 4-H.

**Participants with Disabilities.** If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Elver Pardo at 469-224-4701 or [elver.pardo@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:elver.pardo@ag.tamu.edu) at least 2 weeks prior to the program or note such needs when registering on the Google Form.

Resource Links. <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>

Educational Presentations Resources. [Guidelines](#) | [Categories](#) | [Score Sheet](#)



## Dallas County 4-H Youth Development Program

### Consumer Decision Making Contest Memo

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Location: North Dallas Government Building  
6820 LBJ Fwy  
Dallas, TX 75240

Schedule: Tentative schedule below. Times are subject to change.

Contest Check-in: 8:00 a.m.

Orientation: 8:30 a.m.

Awards: Awards will be announced after the event due to the time requirements for scoring.

**Registration.** Each participating member is required to [register here](#). No registration fee is required. Registration will begin on January 5, 2026 and closes at midnight on February 2, 2026. **No late entries will be accepted.**

**Participation.** Participation is open to Dallas County youth and current 4-H members.. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to [UIL rules](#)) to compete on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the day of the contest. A contestant may compete as an individual or as a member of a team. **This contest is not a qualifier for District or State contest, although, it is encouraged for all Dallas 4-H members for participation and practice.** [District IV Competition](#) is on Friday, April 10, 2026. **Participant must be a 4-H member to compete in District.**

**Age.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1, 2025. Age divisions for this contest are:

Junior	Ages 8-10 (Grades 3, 4, 5)
Intermediate	Ages 11-13 (Grades 6, 7, 8)
Senior	Ages 14-18 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

**Entries Per Member.** Each member may enter an unlimited number of teams/individuals per age division listed above.

**Members Per Team.** Teams consist of 3 or 4 participants. Junior members will be allowed to move up to the intermediate age division in order to complete a team. Juniors and intermediates

are not allowed to move up to the senior age division. **Senior teams MUST BE in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. No mixed age division for senior teams.**

Suggested materials to bring for contest: Clipboard, blank paper, and pencils. No calculators allowed. **CDM Work Sheet will be available for all participants.**

**Awards: Quality Awards:** Blue, Red, and White Participation quality awards will be given based on the total score value. **Best of Division:** A Best of Division Rossett will be awarded to the high point team in each age division. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet.

County Roundup is not a prequalifier for District IV Competition. Participants can view District IV Consumer Decision Making rules [here](#). It is the member's responsibility to register for the contest on [4-H Online](#). **District competitors must be enrolled in 4-H.**

**Participants with Disabilities.** Any competitor who requires auxiliary aids or special accommodations must contact Cara Kailukaitis [cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu) or note when [registering here](#), at least 2 weeks before the competition to request such needs.

**Contest Rules.** Dallas 4-H follows the rules set forth in the Texas 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest Guide. Junior and Intermediate contestants will judge 3 classes from the current category study guide (linked below) and one mystery class. Senior level contestants will judge 5 classes from the current category study guide (linked below) and one mystery class.

**Reasons:** Juniors will not give any reasons. Intermediates will give one set of reasons. Seniors will give two sets of reasons.

#### **Classes.**

- Professional Dress
- Wireless Speakers
- Meat
- Laptop
- Outdoor Equipment

#### **Resources.**

- [Categories](#)
- [Project Page](#)

**Contest Superintendents.** Questions regarding the Dallas 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest can be directed to Trisha Trcka at [trishatrcka@yahoo.com](mailto:trishatrcka@yahoo.com), or Cara Kailukaitis at [cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu).



# Dallas County 4-H Photography Contest

## 2025-2026 Rules and Guidelines

Last Revised: October 2025

### PURPOSE

The Dallas County 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 processing 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.

<https://bit.ly/44wV9NS>

Scan or click  
QR to register



## RULES AND PROCEDURES

<b>Participation Grades</b>	Clover Buds K-2 Junior: grades 3-5; Intermediate: grades 6-8; Senior: grades 9-12 All ages of September 1, 2025
<b>Photo Eligibility</b>	All photos must be taken with a digital camera (smartphone cameras are included). Photo must be taken by participants between the dates of January 1, 2025 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
<b>Photo Format</b>	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, Contestants may use any file naming structure. No RAW files or .png allowed. (updated; removed .png <b>*Please remember to save each photo entry as "category_lastname_firstname.jpeg, or jpg."</b> )
<b>Qualifying from County</b>	Each member may enter only one entry per category for a total of 18 entries. Dallas County will determine which photo will advance in the 18 categories. (Senior Members Only)
<b>Entry Fee</b>	There are no entry fees. However, this year we require that all photos be printed and mounted for display. The only cost involved will be for printing and mounting the images.
<b>Photo Entry Method</b>	Digital Submission: Members will submit digital photos through the Google form in using this <a href="https://bit.ly/40K3cpj">link</a>  Matted photos: For display must be turned into the Dallas 4-H Office by deadline.
<b>Deadlines &amp; Entry Period</b>	Submissions of the digital on Google Form opens January 5, 2026 and close on February 2, 2026, at 11:59pm.  Mounted photos are due in our Dallas County Office, no later than 4:00 PM on February 16, 2026.  <b>**No late submissions will be accepted**</b>

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.

<b>Event Name</b>	2025-2026 Dallas County 4-H Photography Contest
<b>Ratio and Size</b>	<p><b>Size Ratio:</b> 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. <b>File Size:</b> Photo must be a minimum of 1 MB (1,000 KB) and a maximum of 20 MB.</p> <p>*Seniors who qualify for State are responsible to submit photos with a maximum of 20MB.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b> 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.</p>
<b>Alterations</b>	Color and Black & White photos are allowed in all categories. Although slight computer enhancements are allowed, such as cropping, minor adjustment of lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography, such as applying design styles, or using computer graphics will disqualify an entry. Any other alteration, manipulation, or edits to a photo would require the photo to be entered into the Enhanced category.
<b>Text on Photographs</b>	Photographs must not contain camera or user placed text. This includes such things as date stamps, comments, watermarks, or titles. Text or wording that is part of the original photograph (i.e. photo of a street sign, etc.) is acceptable.
<b>Copyright/ Original Work of 4-H member</b>	The 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.
<b>AWARDS, DISPLAY AND JUDGING</b>	
<b>Awards and Recognition</b>	<p><b>Quality Awards:</b> Blue, Red, White, and Green (Participation ribbon) quality awards will be given based on the total score value. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet.</p> <p><b>Best of Category Awards:</b> A Best of Category Ribbon will be awarded to the highest-scoring blue ribbon photo entry in each age division and category.</p> <p>*Senior level best of category photos will qualify to State Competition, member is responsible to submit to State by deadline.</p> <p><b>Best of Age Division:</b> A Best of Age Division Rosette will be awarded.</p>
<b>Judging and Results</b>	For Quality Awards, 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 (outlined on the attached score sheet). The Best of Categories is a competitive process whereby judges will select the best photo within a given category. Volunteer judges will make those determinations and all decisions are final. Results will be available on the Dallas County 4-H Website after Judging is complete.

<b>Roundup Display and Participation</b>	<p><b>Print size:</b> 8x10 inches. <b>Mounting board:</b> mounted photo to matboard (similar to this <a href="#">link</a>), or mat cut flush to edge of photo without framing, no overhang or frame. <b>Mat Color:</b> Color of board does not matter as there is no frame or edge shown. Participant's name, club name (if applicable) category and age division must be labeled on the back. The mounted photos will first be displayed at Roundup. Another possible display location will be announced soon.</p> <p><u>Note: Participating in Roundup is optional for photography contestants; it's not a requirement.</u></p>
<b>RELEASES</b>	
<b>Content</b>	Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually-oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any decency standards or laws are strictly prohibited. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program reserves the right to determine and refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
<b>Display and Future Usage Rights</b>	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.
<b>Model and Property Releases</b>	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 photo showing 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.
<b>Possible Reasons to Disqualify</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content.</li> <li>• 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 &amp; Guidelines.</li> <li>• Broken display and future rights usage rule.</li> <li>• Broken model and property release rule.</li> <li>• Category: Does not meet category criteria, rules or guidelines. (see category descriptions)</li> <li>• Category: Multiple county entries into a category.</li> <li>• Category: Same photo entered into multiple categories. County did not select/certify photograph to represent county by the deadline.</li> <li>• Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid.</li> <li>• Extremely poor quality and/or low resolution causing the subject matter to be unrecognizable.</li> <li>• Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed.</li> </ul> <p>Disqualification for any reason will forfeit all entry fees. No refunds will be given.</p>
<b>Appropriateness of Category</b>	It is extremely important that participants, project leaders, parents or guardians, and/or 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 may be disqualified (judge's discretion).

## Dallas County 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

### 2025-2026 CATEGORIES (all descriptions have been revised/simplified)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	NOT ALLOWED
<b>Animals – Domestic</b>	Photos of domesticated animals adapted for human environments. Examples: dogs, cats, horses, pigs, chickens.	Wildlife, all waterfowl, zoo animals, or animals not under human care.
<b>Animals – Wildlife</b>	Photos of undomesticated animals in natural or zoo-like environments. Examples: deer, ducks, birds, snakes, whales.	Domesticated animals, livestock, or pets.
<b>Catch-All</b>	Photos that do not fit in any other category.	Duplicate entry of a photo already submitted in another category. Photo that belongs in another category.
<b>Details &amp; Macro</b>	Close-up photos highlighting fine details or making small objects appear larger than life. Examples: insect eyes, veins on a leaf, water droplets.	Standard close-ups that don't emphasize fine details; digitally created "macro look" (heavily cropped to simulate a close-up)
<b>Dominant Color</b>	Photos where one specific color is the primary visual element. Examples: a bowl of lemons in strong yellow light.	Black & white, sepia, duotone, or multiple equally dominant colors.
<b>Elements of Design</b>	Photos emphasizing line, shape, pattern, form, texture, or perspective. Examples: repeating tile patterns, ripples in water showing repeating patterns, a spiral staircase showing perspective, textured bark on a tree, etc.	Digitally created or computer-generated designs (Photoshop, Illustrator, etc.).
<b>Enhanced</b>	Photos significantly manipulated or created using editing techniques. Examples: composites, stitched panoramas, artistic filters.	Use of stock, AI-generated, or non-original images.
<b>Food</b>	Still-life style photos highlighting food for artistic or commercial effect. Examples: meals, cakes, fruits, table settings.	Alcoholic beverages or photos where food is not the main subject.
<b>Landscape &amp; Nature (Non-Animal)</b>	Photos of outdoor scenics and natural settings without animals as the main focus. Examples: gardens, seascapes, cityscapes.	People, man-made structures, or animals as the main subject.
<b>Leading Line</b>	Photos using lines to guide the viewer's eye toward the subject. Example: a river leading to a bridge.	Weak or implied lines that do not clearly guide the eye.
<b>Long Exposure</b>	Photos using extended shutter speeds to capture motion effects or low-light scenes. Examples: fireworks, night skies, light trails, waterfalls.	Images with artificial blur or digital effects simulating long exposure.
<b>Motion/Action</b>	Photos that capture and freeze movement. Examples: sports, running animals, spinning rides.	Images of objects that are typically stationary or slow-moving. Blurry or poorly focused photos unless intentionally artistic.
<b>People</b>	Photos of individuals or groups across all ages and activities. Examples: families, children, portraits, fashion, sports.	Photos without model consent; animals or objects as main subject.
<b>Plant/Flora</b>	Photos of a single flower, tree, bush, or plant as the primary subject. Examples: a rose, a tree's canopy. <i>(Large landscapes with multiple plants belong in Landscape &amp; Nature.)</i>	Large landscapes where a single plant is not the central focus.
<b>Reflections</b>	Photos capturing mirrored images in water, glass, metal, or other reflective surfaces. Examples: lakes, puddles, water droplet, building facades.	Images where the reflection is not the primary subject.
<b>Shadow/Silhouette</b>	Photos where a shadow or silhouette is the primary subject against a brighter background. Examples: shadows of people, animals, or structures.	Images where the shadow or silhouette is not the primary subject.
<b>Transportation</b>	Photos showcasing vehicles or modes of travel. Examples: bustling urban streets, cars, buses, trains, boats, bicycles, airplanes, and rockets.	Images where transportation is background only, not the subject.
<b>Theme – Volunteers in Action (New)</b>	Celebrate the heart of Texas 4-H by capturing volunteers in meaningful moments of service. From mentoring youth and leading workshops to organizing events and supporting communities, showcasing the dedication, passion, and behind-the-scenes efforts of 4-H volunteers who make a difference every day.	Posed portraits without volunteer activity shown; photos where the subject is not a 4-H volunteer.



# Dallas County 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
<b>Impact</b> (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.	<b>0-15</b>	
<b>Creativity</b> (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.	<b>0-15</b>	
<b>Technical</b> (Max Points: 20)	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"> <li>allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, minor straightening)</li> <li>sharpness and correct color balance.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>posing and capturing of the image.</li> </ul>	<b>0-20</b>	
<b>Difficulty</b> (Max Points: 5)	Difficulty is the level of challenge in capturing the image. It takes into account factors such as lighting conditions, subject movement, timing, and setting. Higher scores reflect images where the photographer successfully managed more complex or demanding conditions.	<b>0-5</b>	
<b>Composition</b> (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.	<b>0-20</b>	
<b>Subject Matter</b> (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.	<b>0-15</b>	
<b>Story Telling</b> (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.	<b>0-10</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS AWARDED</b>			

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:





## Dallas County 4-H Youth Development Program

### Entomology Contest Memo

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Location: North Dallas Government Building  
6820 LBJ Fwy  
Dallas, TX 75240

Schedule: Tentative schedule below. Times are subject to change.

Contest Check-in: 8:00 a.m.

Orientation: 8:30 a.m.

Awards: Awards will be announced after the event due to the time requirements for scoring.

**Registration.** Each participating member is required to [register here](#). No registration fee is required. Registration will begin on January 5, 2026 and closes at midnight on February 2, 2026. **No late entries will be accepted.**

**Participation.** Participation is open to Dallas County youth and current 4-H members. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to [UIL rules](#)) to compete on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the day of the contest. This contest is not a qualifier for District or State contest, although, it is encouraged for all Dallas 4-H members for participation and practice. [District IV Competition](#) is on Friday, April 10, 2026. **Participant must be a 4-H member to compete in District.**

**Age.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1, 2025. Age divisions for this contest are:

Junior	Ages 8-10 (Grades 3, 4, 5)
Intermediate	Ages 11-13 (Grades 6, 7, 8)
Senior	Ages 14-18 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

**Entries per member.** Each member may enter per age division listed above.

**Use of Electronic Devices.** No cell phones, smart watches, calculators, or electronic devices are allowed during the contest. Individuals found in violation will be disqualified.

**Recommended Items to Bring:** Clipboard and Pencils.

**Awards:** Quality Awards: Blue, Red, White & Participation quality awards will be given based on the total score value. Best of Division: Best of Division Ribbon will be awarded to one participant in each age division. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet. A Best of Category Ribbon will be presented to the top blue-ribbon entry within each category.

**Contest Format:** 4-H members will identify selected insects and complete a written examination on insects. Each part is worth 50% of the total score.

**Identification.** Specimens are identified to common name, as used in the 4-H Entomology ID Contest; and to order.

General requirements for divisions are as follows.

Division	Number of Specimens	Number of Orders
Junior	15	8
Intermediate	34	13
Senior	60	18

### Written Exam

The written exam may include question formats such as true/false, matching or completion

Division	Written Exam	Identification of Insects
Junior	10 Questions	10 Insects
Intermediate	25 Questions	15 Insects
Senior	50 Questions	25 Insects

**Tie-Breakers.** Five specimens or photographs will be selected as tie breakers in advance of the contest. If ties remain, winners will be determined by a method designated by the contest officials.

**Participants with Disabilities.** Any competitor who requires auxiliary aids or special accommodations must contact Cara Kailukaitis [matthew.orwat@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:matthew.orwat@ag.tamu.edu) or note when [registering here](#), at least 2 weeks before the competition to request such needs.

**Resources.** Entomology Identification Contest Guidelines (updated 2025) Can be found on the Texas A&M Entomology Department website <https://entomology.tamu.edu/extension/4-h-entomology-contest-guidelines/>

**Contest Superintendents.** Questions regarding the Dallas County 4-H Entomology Contest should be directed to Matthew Orwat at [Matthew.Orwat@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Matthew.Orwat@ag.tamu.edu).



## Dallas County 4-H Youth Development Program

### 4-H Project Spotlight Tabletop Edition

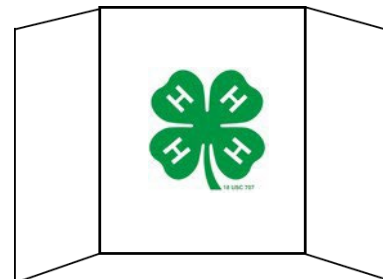
Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Location: North Government Building  
6820 LBJ Fwy  
Dallas, TX 75240

Check-In: 8:00 am

Orientation: 8:30 am

Contest: Begins following orientation



**Registration.** Each participating member is required to register at the following link:  
[4-H Project Spotlight Tabletop Edition](#)

No registration fee is required.

Registration will open on January 5, 2026, and close at midnight on February 9, 2026. No late registrations will be accepted.

**Participation.** Participation is open to Dallas County youth and current 4-H members.

Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to [UIL rules](#)) to compete on the day of the contest.

**Age.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1, 2025. Age divisions for this contest are:

Cloverbuds	Ages 5-7 (Grades K, 1, 2)
Junior	Ages 8-10 (Grades 3, 4, 5)
Intermediate	Ages 11-13 (Grades 6, 7, 8)
Senior	Ages 14-18 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

**Originality.** 4-H Tabletop Member Exhibits MUST be the original work of the youth participant. Adult guidance is allowed.

**Categories with Example Topics.** A list of example topics is attached. If you have an idea for another topic that fits within these categories—or if you're unsure whether it does—please reach out to your Extension Agent for the Dallas County 4-H Office: 469-224-4701.

**Accuracy of Information/Resources.** Contestants are required to use information that is factual and can be supported through adequate documentation. Examples of such websites are federal, state, and local governments, independent research sites, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service websites. Internet information that is questionable includes personal documentation sites, chat rooms, message boards, etc. Participants must prepare a list of references (i.e. bibliography, works cited) for their exhibit.

**Subject Matter.** The exhibit must relate to the project area entered, include current and accurate information, and be appropriate for the member's age and experience level. Exhibits should be original and fit in the category. Proper credit must be given for all references and sources used.

#### **4-H Tabletop Member Exhibit Contest Rules**

- One entry per exhibitor
- Open to clover buds, juniors, intermediates and seniors.
- Tri-fold Board up to 36" x 48" accepted
- All tabletop exhibits must demonstrate one main theme or idea and teach about the project.
- The entry may include items that represent the project or have been created by the exhibitor to be displayed in front of the tri-fold board.
- Exhibits will be judged on both visual quality and content including drawing attention to viewers, well planned/organized and pleasing appearance and appropriate content for project and age of 4-H member.
- Entries must be original each year and must be created by the 4-H member entering the exhibit.
- The back of the display should include Member Name, County, 4-H Club, 4-H Age, and Category.
- A 4-H emblem, AgriLife, Prairie View & Dallas County logo must be included somewhere on the exhibit. (See attached logos)
- Include citations for sources of information and photos either at the bottom of the front or on the back of the display board.
- **No flammable, combustible, or sharp items** are allowed in any Roundup contest to display. This includes firearms, weapons, fireworks, camp stoves, propane tanks, open flames, or pressurized containers. Pictures of these items are allowed and encouraged.
- **No live animals or insects.**

**Service Animals.** Service animals trained to assist individuals with disabilities are allowed at the event in accordance with ADA regulations. Comfort or emotional support animals are not considered service animals and are not permitted. If you have questions about what is allowed, please contact your County Extension Agent.

**Score Sheets.** The attached score sheet will be used during judging for the Tabletop Member Exhibit competition. The judging criteria outlined will give you a general idea of what evaluators will be looking for in your display.

**Judges' Gifts/Handouts.** Gifts of any kind MAY NOT be presented to the judges in any contest. Handouts may be made available to the entire audience.

**Awards:** Quality Awards: Blue, Red, White & Participation quality awards will be given based on the total score value. Best of Division: Best of Division Ribbon will be awarded to one participant in each age division. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet. A Best of Category Ribbon will be presented to the top blue-ribbon entry within each category.

Participants with Disabilities: If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Elver Pardo at [elver.pardo@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:elver.pardo@ag.tamu.edu) or the Dallas County 4-H office at 469-224-4701, at least 2 weeks prior to the program or note such needs when registering on the [Google Form](#).

### Categories with Example Topics:

<b>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Science</li> <li>• Pets (dogs, cats, birds, fish, rats, snakes, &amp; turtles)</li> <li>• Small Animals (chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs)</li> <li>• Horses</li> <li>• Veterinary Science</li> </ul>	<b>STEM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerospace</li> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Robotics</li> <li>• Engines</li> <li>• Weather and Climate</li> <li>• Woodworking</li> </ul>
<b>Plants and Gardening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any Plant Science Related (Fruits, flowers, &amp; vegetables) (Soil health, pest management, propagation, ecology)</li> </ul>	<b>Natural Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entomology</li> <li>• Outdoor education</li> <li>• Environmental Science</li> <li>• Marine and Aquatic Science</li> <li>• Shooting Sports</li> <li>• Wildlife</li> <li>• Natural Resources</li> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• Water and Land Use</li> <li>• Forestry</li> <li>• Mycology</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership &amp; Citizenship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizenship</li> <li>• Global Education</li> <li>• Leadership Development</li> <li>• Workforce Preparation</li> <li>• Theater &amp; Performance Arts</li> <li>• Communication and Media Arts</li> </ul>	

### Logos Required for Exhibit

(Your County logo if not Dallas County - Dallas 4-H Logo only for DC4-H members)

### 2026 Dallas County Roundup Contest



**EXTENSION**



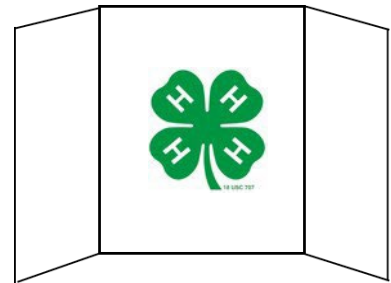
## Tabletop Member Exhibit Score Sheet

Exhibitor Name:

Category:

Age Division: CB JR INT SR

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_



Judging Criteria Description	Points Possible	Points Awarded
Includes one main theme or topic (Clear Message)	20	
Display effectively educates viewer on the topic (Appropriate Content)	30	
Attractive use of color and design to attract viewers (Artistic Design)	10	
Well planned and Organized Presentation (Organized Presentation)	20	
Age Appropriate Content and Depth suited to age of exhibitor	10	
Overall Quality Neat, Clean, Well-Assembled, No Spelling Errors	10	
Total Score	100	

*Judges Notes:*