2024-2025
FORT BEND COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
<u>RULES & GUIDELINES</u>

<u>PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES</u>

The Fort Bend 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 process of photographs.

- 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 Fort Bend County 4-H members.
- To continue to share the message of 4-H.
- To utilize photographs which can promote and strengthen the 4-H program.

<u>DIVISIONS & SUBMISSIONS</u>

- **Participation Divisions (must have an active status in 4-H Online)**
  - Clover Kid (grade Kindergarden-2nd grade)
  - Junior (3rd-5th grade)
  - Intermediate (6th-8th grade)
  - Senior (9th-12th grade)
- **Submission Entry**
  - **Timeline:**
    - Opens: Friday, January 17, 2025, at 8:00 AM
    - Closes: Friday, February 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM
  - **Method**
    - Entries can be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Fort Bend County Extension Office located at 1402 Band Road, Suite 100, Rosenberg, TX 77471.
  - **Fees**
    - $10.00 per 4-H youth for Junior, Intermediate & Senior Divisions.
    - Zero cost to youth in Clover Kid Division.
    - Please see *"PAYMENT METHOD & DEADLINES"* section for all payment options.
  - **Limits:**
    - All age divisions (Clover, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) may enter only one photo per category, for a total of 18 entries per youth.
    - No duplicate entries of either photo or in category WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- **Photo**
  - **Eligibility:**
    - 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, 2024 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
    - All prints MUST BE 8x10 ONLY, securely, and permanently mounted on an 8x10 solid photographic mount board or a board of like thickness and suitable for hanging without

an additional frame. Masonite, photo folders, corrugated cardboard or thin poster board is not acceptable. Entrants should be aware that double faced tape, glue or rubber cement will not hold up when the photo is displayed under high heat and humid conditions. Use dry mounting if possible. Matting or framing (of any kind) is not allowed and will result in disqualification. Some resources for mounting supplies include Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Blick Studio, (www.clickblick.com), local framing shops and art supply stores.

- o **Entry Form**
  - A completed Photography Contest Entry Form **MUST BE COMPLETED** and accompany each submission entry.
- o **Judging**
  - Will be held on one submission entry timeline has closed. Participants will be notified once judging is completed about picking up photos and awards, as well as Senior age division photos advancing to state.
- o **Awards, Recognition & Results**
  - 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. See Texas 4-H Photography Contest Score Sheet. The Best of Show Awards is a competitive process whereby judges will select the best photo within a given category. The Best of Division Awards is a competitive process whereby judges will select the best photo within a given division from the pool of Best of Show recipients. Volunteer judges will make those determinations and all decisions are final. Results will be available on the Fort Bend County 4-H Website after judging concludes.
  - Top submissions will be rewarded by inclusion in a public photography exhibit. Blue, red, white, and green quality ribbons, and Best of Show rosettes will be awarded per Division. Photos will be judged and scored according to the Texas 4-H Photography Contest. The first-place photos in each Senior Division Category will be eligible for entry to the State 4-H Photography Contest.

PAYMENT METHODS & DEADLINES

- **Payments can be made one of three ways.**
  - o In person to the FBC Extension Office (Payment Deadline: February 7, 2025, by 5 PM).
  - o By Mail (must be postmarked by Friday, February 7, 2025).
  - o Online using Venmo (Payment Deadline: February 7, 2025, by 11:59 PM).
    -Venmo site for payment: www.venmo.com/FortBendFourH-Program

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- An eligibility form is required for all participants. Your submission is your request for an eligibility form to be sent to your school on your behalf for participation in this event.
- Clover Kids will submit their entries eligibility form will **NOT** be sent to their school, as their photos are not being judged for competition. They will however receive feedback as to how they can make their entries better.
- Eligibility Forms (No Pass, No Play) are required for any competitive 4-H event regardless of the day of competition. Even if the participant will not be missing school, a completed eligibility form is still required.

ALTERATIONS & TEXT USAGE

- **Alterations**
  - o 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.

- **Text on Photographs**
  - o 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.

ORIGINAL WORK OF 4-H MEMBER

- 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.

RELEASES

- **Content**
  - o 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.
- **Display and Future Usage Rights**
  - o 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**.**
- **Model and Property Releases:**
  - o 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.

DISQUALIFICATION

- Possible Reasons for Disqualification:
  (Disqualification for any reason will forfeit all entry fees. No refunds will be given.)
  - o Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content.
  - o 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.
  - o Broken display and future rights usage rule.
  - o Broken model and property release rule.
  - o Category: Does not meet category criteria, rules, or guidelines. (See category descriptions)
  - o Category: Multiple youth entries into a category.
  - o Category: Same photo entered in multiple categories.
  - o Entry fee not paid, or only partial fee paid.
  - o Extremely poor quality and/or low resolution causing the subject matter to be unrecognizable.
  - o Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed.

RESOURCE: Texas 4-H Website: http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/

CATEGORIES

- All categories and descriptions are derived from the Texas 4-H Photography Contest 2024-205 State Rules & Guidelines

CATEGORY TITLE	CATEGORY DESCRIPTION
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, hamsters, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, etc. All waterfowl (ducks and geese) should be entered in Animals - Wildlife.
Animals - Wildlife	Category focuses on animals not typically tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wilderness or 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. **Not allowed**: A duplicate photo also entered in another category.
Details & Macro	Getting in VERY close is the name of the game for this category. The goal is to zoom in close on an object to see its finer details or to make small objects appear life-sized or larger that we do not normally get to see with the naked eye. **Examples**: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a single water droplet, etc.
Dominant Color (New)	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 sun lighting 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. Other variations are allowed as well. **Examples**: Software edited composites and creations, images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters, photos with artistic borders, photos stitched into a panoramic, etc.
Food	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.
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. **Example**: A river that begins in the foreground and draws your attention to a photogenic bridge in the background.
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. **Examples**: fireworks, moving water, light trails, Milky Way, light painting, night or low-light conditions, etc.
Motion/Action	The capture of movement within a single photo. The subject appears stopped or "frozen". **Examples**: Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across a field, etc.
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.
Reflections **(New)**	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.
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
Transportation **(New)**	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.
	Examples: bustling urban streets, serene bicycle paths, busy waterways, trains, single vehicles, and even rockets!
Theme - Patriotism **(New)**	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.

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ENTRY FORM

THIS SECTION IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

Assigned Photo ID: _____

Photo Quality: Blue   Red   White   Green   Clover

Eligible to Participate: YES   NO
(Does not apply to Clover Kids)

Photo Placing: BOD   BOS   1st   2nd   3rd   4th   5th

PARTICIPANT SUBMISSION ENTRY INFORMATION SECTION

Photo Category Title: _____

Age Division: _____

Youth First & Last Name: _____

Club Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

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 participa- tion 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 or emotion. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his/her 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 (Green) Award (30 to 0 pts)

JUDGES COMMENTS: