Texas 4-H Photography Contest

2017-2018 Rules and Guidelines

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, 2017.
Photo Eligibility	Photo must be taken by participants between the dates of January 1, 2017 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
Photo Format	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, or .gif.
County Entries	Each county may have only one entry per class for a total of 15 entries.
Entry Fee	$10.00 per photograph paid through 4HConnect. Entries paid with a 4-H county or club check are due by April 28, 2018.
Entry Method	4HConnect: http://texas.4honline.com
Event Name	2018 State 4-H Photography Contest
Entry Period	Entry Open Date: April 1, 2018 Entry Close Date: April 15, 2018 Entries will not be accepted after 11:59pm on April 15, 2018 Entries must be approved by county office by April 17, 2018
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 & Text usage	**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.

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 criteria. 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 after Texas 4-H Roundup concludes and published on the Texas 4-H website.
Roundup Display and Participation	Photos will be displayed at an exhibit during Texas 4-H Roundup. Photography contest participants do not attend State 4-H Roundup unless they are competing in another contest, however, if a 4-H member/adult chooses to attend to view the display they may do so, but are required to pay the necessary 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 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 Usage Rights	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.*	• 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 mimimum resolution of 300 dpi or minimum size of a 3:2 (4"X6"). • Photograph was not entered into 4-H CONNECT.

CATEGORIES

2017-2018 Categories	The categories for the Texas 4-H Photography Contest have changed for the 2017-2018 contest. The categories are: 1. Animals - Domestic 2. Animals - Wildlife 3. Catch All 4. Details & Macros 5. Dominant Color 6. Elements of Design 7. Enhanced 8. Food 9. Landscape & Nature (non-animal) 10. Motion/Action 11. People 12. Plant/Flora 13. Sports 14. Theme (2018 theme is "Backyard") 15. Travel & Place

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.

ANIMALS - DOMESTIC

Description
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
- Dogs/Cats
- Sheep/Goats
- Pig
- Cow
- Chicken
- Hamsters
- Horse
- Goose/Ducks (domestic use)

ANIMALS - WILDLIFE

Description
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.

What is NOT Allowed
Photos taken through glass.

Examples
- Deer
- Snakes
- Birds
- Elephants
- Whales

CATCH-ALL

Description
Category for photos that DO NOT CLEARLY FIT into one of the other categories.

What is NOT Allowed
Do not submit a photo in this category which can clearly be submitted in another photography category.

Catch-all is not intended for the use to eliminate duplicate photos from multiple 4-H members.

Examples
- Polaroid image & emulsion transfers
- Still-life
- Long exposure zoomed images
- Painting with light.

DETAILS & MACRO

Description
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).

Examples
- Insects
- Coins
- Clocks
- Stamps
- Ice Crystals

DOMINANT COLOR

Description
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. Black & White photos, duotones, are excluded from this category.

Examples
- Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sunlighting on it.

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Description
Images use of graphic elements of design. Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. Photo can consist of any subject matter. Category is not for graphic illustrations made in commerical programs (i.e. Adobe Illustrator®) nor for extreme digital creations.

What is NOT Allowed
Graphic design illustrations made in a program such as Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator. Digital creations DO NOT qualify in this category.

Examples
- Perspective
- Line
- Pattern
- Shape

ENHANCED

Description	Examples
A single photo that has been technically mainpulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched or composite images. Others variations are allowed as well.	• Photoshop® composites and creations • Images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters • Photos with artistic borders • Photos stitched into a panoramic.

FOOD

Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
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.	No photos of alcohol beverages are allowed!	Thanksgiving dinner, cakes/pies, fruits and place settings, Easter eggs, sandwiches, ingredients, etc.

LANDSCAPE & NATURE (NON-ANIMAL)

Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
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.	Photos which primary subject is wildlife or person.	• Landscapes/Gardens • Scenics • Outdoors.

MOTION / ACTION

Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
The capture of movement within a single photo.	Photos which would clearly fit into another category, such as sports.	• Horse Running across field/pasture • Ferris Wheel Spinning

PEOPLE

Description	NOTE:	Examples
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.	• Babies • Kids • Families • Models/Fashion

PLANT/FLORA

Description	Examples
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.	• Rose(s) • An upward shot of a tree • A flower bouquet

SPORTS

Description	Examples
Photo that captures individual or team sports. Can be either professional or amateur (human) and the focus could be on the sportsperson, the sport environment, the effort expended, or the conflict/rewards. Must reflect a strong message.	• Gymnast • Football player or team • Swimming • Rodeo contestant

THEME

Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
Theme photo focuses on a subject announced and outlined in the contest rules and guidelines. For 2017-2018 the theme is "BACKYARD". This creative category will feature photos what one would see when stepping out your back door.	Photos should not be of ranch rangeland, but focus on immediate outside area of one's house.	• Kids swinging • Swimming pool • Person mowing yard • Garden/Flower Beds

TRAVEL & PLACE

This category includes images that express the joys and adventures of travel photography, showcasing place as an important part of the photo. This category can include historic buildings, ruins, islands, any subject you might encounter while traveling, as long as the photo expresses a sense of PLACE.	**What is NOT Allowed** Photos in the travel and place category cannot be entered into other categories (landscape & nature), but may be similar, however, photos in this category must depict traveling and experiencing other parts of the world.	**Examples** • Disney World/Land • Roman Ruins • Great Wall of China

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each photograph will be judged against the following set of judging criteria, and not against photographs of your peers. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, white, or a participation ribbon.

The elements for judging 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 these twelve 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: • allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, minor straightening) • sharpness and 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.

2018 Texas 4-H Photography Contest Score Sheet

Name: _____   County: _____

Category: _____

You are competing against previously determined standards of excellence, not against your peers. Before preparing your entry for submission please carefully review the judging criteria.

JUDGES, PLEASE INDICATE POINTS AWARDED IN FAR RIGHT COLUMN:

CATEGORY	MINIMUM POINTS	MAXIMUM POINTS	POINTS AWARDED
Impact	0	15	
Creativity	0	15	
Technical	0	25	
Composition	0	20	
Subject Matter	0	15	
Story Telling	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: