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 life skills in composition, light, story line, posing, and awareness.

• To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives.

• To provide 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.

RESOURCES

The Texas 4-H website has a variety of resources related to photography. http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/

RULES AND PROCEDURES

The Palo Pinto County 4-H Photography Contest will follow the guidelines of the District 3 4-H Photography Contest and the Texas 4-H Photography Contest, with the addition of providing an 8X10 copy of the photo for display and limiting the number of entries per class to three per member. Photos that are selected to advance to the next level of competition will be submitted electronically to those contests, so please submit digital copies that meet the size requirements.

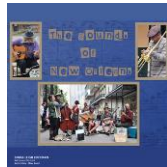| Age Divisions	• Clover Kid – Grades K-2 • Junior – Grades 3, 4, and 5 • Intermediate – Grades 6, 7, and 8 • Senior - between the grades of 9th and 12th as of September 1, 2015
Photo Eligibility	Photo must be taken by participants between the dates of January 1, 2015 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
Photo Format	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, or .gif formats.
Number of Entries	Each member is limited to 3 photos per category.
Entry Method	All entries must be submitted to the Palo Pinto County Extension office by the March 16th deadline. Participants must provide an 8" X10" copy (for county display that will be kept until June 15th) along with a digital copy. The digital copy will be utilized for photos that advance to the next level. Please see the information below about size and alterations. The digital copy can be submitted on a CD or emailed.
Size	Must be 8" x 10" in size. Photos should be at least 800 pixels by 1000 pixels. The ideal 8×10 quality is 2400 pixels by 3000 pixels, which is the same as an 8×10 photo at 300 dpi (resolution). Higher variations of the 8×10 ratio are allowed but the final file size may not be larger than 2,048k (2MB). The best way to tell is to take the lower pixel number and divide by the higher pixel number. If you get 0.8 then you've successfully hit the mark. If your photos have a different pixel ratio you may still submit. However the photos will be judged using the 8×10 pixel dimensions. Which may cause your photo to appear stretched, compressed, or distorted. If you view a photo's properties on your computer it will tell you the width and height in pixels. View the resources for information on a free online photo resizer to assist with this process.
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 Digital Darkroom category.
Text on Photographs	Beyond the storyboard and digital darkroom categories photographs should not contain "user placed text." This includes such things as 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 and Recognition	**Quality Awards** Blue, Red, White and Green Participation quality awards will be given to entries based on the scoring criteria. **Best of Category** Best of category will be presented to one photo in each category of each age group. These photos will advance to either the district (junior and intermediate) or state (senior) levels. **Best of Show** One Best of Show will be selected from each age group.
Judging and Results	Each photograph will be judged against a set of judging criteria. 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.
Display and Participation	Photos will be displayed at the Extension office and possible other locations following judging through mid-June.
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 is not allowed.
Display and Future Usage Rights	Participant grants permission to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, the use, and rights associated to the use of the photographic likeness, in promotional publications, and other media, without compensation. Certain photos may be used for 4-H program and marketing.
Liability Release	The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing or non-displayed photographs.
Model and Property Releases	It is required that each participant have sufficient permission of 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. This permission should be granted to both the photographer and the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program to publish and use as needed.

CATEGORY AND CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

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.

Please refer to the charts on the next two pages for category descriptions. If you have a question about which category to enter, please ask when you bring your photos in to the Extension office to enter.

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

Dog, Sheep, Pig, Goat, Cow, Cat, Chicken, Horse, Camel, Goose, Ducks (domestic use), Hamsters.

ANIMALS - WILDLIFE

Description

Category focuses on animals not tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wild throughout the country and world. Photos can be of wildlife in nature, zoos, and/or petting zoos.

Examples

Deer, snakes, insects, rodents, elephants, etc.

CATCH-ALL

Description

Category for photos that do not fit into one of the other categories. This includes such photos as still-life, motion-blur, Polaroid transfers, SX-70 images, and handcolored photos.

What is NOT Allowed

Do not submit a photo in this category which can clearly be submitted in another photography cate-gory. Catch-all is not intended for counties to use to eliminate duplicate photos from multiple 4-H members.

Examples

Polaroid image & emulsion transfers, still-life, long exposure zoomed images, and 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

Detail of a knot, a lock, or an abstract close-up - anything as long as it is a tight composition of a detail. Macro examples include parts of a flower bloom, insects, stamps, ice crystals, etc.

DIGITAL DARKROOM

Description

Photos are for digital art - images created or drastically altered in software like Adobe Photoshop®. For this category, a 4-H member will submit a minimum of at least two photos that demonstrate the before photo(s) and the altered, or final, digital piece.

Examples

Photoshop® composits and creations, images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters, photos with artistic borders, photos stitched into a panoramic.

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 commercial pro-grams (i.e. Adobe Illustrator®) nor for extreme digital creations.

Examples

Perspective, Line, Pattern.

FOOD

Description

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.

What is NOT Allowed

Photos of alcoholic beverages.

Examples

Thanksgiving dinner, cakes/pies, fruits and place settings, Easter eggs, sandwiches, ingredients, etc.

MARINE/AQUATIC		
Description Photos of any LIVING ORGANISM in bodies of either fresh or ocean (salt) water.	**What is NOT Allowed** Photos of boats, ships or fishing supplies	**Examples** Fish, stingrays, whales, starfish, divers under water, etc.

NATURE & LANDSCAPE		
Description 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** Landscapes, Scenics, Outdoors.	

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY		
Description Photos taken outdoors between after-dusk and before dawn. Generally these photos are achieved by using artificial light or using a long exposure. This category can include any subject as long as the focus is on the skill and technique used to acquire the photograph.	**What is NOT Allowed** Photos containing any natural light from the sun (sunset and sunrise).	**Examples** Fireworks, lighting on buildings/structures, animals, plant/flora, people, etc.

PEOPLE		
Description Photos focus from all walks of life, parenting and family, children, babies, models/ fashion, sports, and couples. See the Model and Property Release.	**Examples** Kids & Family, Models/Fashion, Sports.	

PLANT/FLORA		
Description 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.	**Examples** A rose, an upward shot of a tree, a flower bouquet, etc.	

STORYBOARD		
Description A storyboard is one digital entry (one photo) that contains three smaller images and minimal text that tells a story. The story should be easily understood by the viewer. This entry is one single file.	**Examples** Three images depicting the blooming of a rose bud at different stages, with the title of "Begin-nine of Beauty".	

THEME		
Description Theme photo focuses on a subject announced and outlined in the contest rules and guidelines. For 2015-2016 the theme is "4-H, Ribbons, Awards and Recognition". This year the theme will focus still life arrangements of 4-H awards, ribbons, recognition. The arrangement and positioning of items will be strongly evaluated as well as the quality of the photo. Photo should create emotion and have impact!	**What is NOT Allowed** Livestock show auction, winning photos. School, sports, church, or any outside of 4-H awards. The theme is to highlight 4-H awards.	**Examples** A senior 4-H members awards, ribbons, belt buckles, and/or plaques arranged so it creates a strong story of success or the impact of 4-H.

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 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.