



2014 Texas 4-H

# Photography Contest Rules & 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 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 FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST:

- Adventures With Your Camera – B (Grades 6 to 9) (Available from National 4-H Council Supply)
- 4-H Guide to Digital Photography by Daniel Johnson. (Available from Amazon.com)
- Digital Photography for Teens by Marc Campbell and Dave Long (Available from Amazon.com)
- Texas 4-H and Youth Development Photography Project Resource Page located on the 4-H website. Any reference to a product or company is not to endorse or support them and their causes. Links to companies are provided for their educational resources only.

## CONTEST RULES

1. **Participation Age:** The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Photography contest will be displayed during the 2014 Texas 4-H Roundup and is open to all senior age 4-H members that have passed their 14th but not their 19th birthday before August 31, 2013. Participants must have been born during the period beginning September 1, 1994 and ending August 31, 1999.
2. **Eligibility of Photos:** All photographs must have been taken by 4-H members between the dates of January 1, 2013 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category to the state photography contest.
3. **Manipulation of Photos:** Photos can only have minor manipulation, touch-up performed for all categories except Digital Darkroom. The only acceptable manipulation includes correction of red-eye, cropping, and straightening of photos. Any other manipulation, edits, to a photo would require the photo to be entered into the Digital Darkroom category.
4. **Format of Photograph:** Photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible. Photographs must be in a .jpeg, .jpg, or .gif format. Files submitted may not be larger than 2,048k (2MB). Best of Show winners may be asked to submit a high-resolution file or an original negative, print, or slide. There is no minimum size requirement, however, your photograph must be large enough that it can be clearly evaluated for the contest (i.e. if it is too small, it can be disqualified).
5. **Number of Entries:** A county may have only one entry per class for a total of 15 entries per county, and all entries and entry fees must be submitted DIRECTLY TO THE TEXAS 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE via 4-H CONNECT (registration).
6. **Entry Fee:** A fee of \$10.00 per photograph must be paid for each entry. All entries paid by check must come from the County/ Club checking account and made payable to TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION – PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST for all entries.
7. **Contestants Participating at Texas 4-H Roundup:** Photography contest participants do not attend Texas 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.
8. **Entry Period:** All photos must be entered between April 1, 2014 and by midnight on April 15, 2014. All registrations must be

## 2014 Texas 4-H Photography Contest - Rules and Guidelines

submitted on 4-H CONNECT. All club/county checks must be received by April 21, 2014.

9. **Copyright and Content:** Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually-oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any laws are strictly prohibited. The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos should be based on a 4-H member's original photograph taken by the 4-H member. Use of a photo from other sources/people without permission is not allowed, and will lead to disqualification of the photo and possibility of all entries by the 4-H member. The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
10. **Model and Property Releases:** Any 4-H member submitting a photograph acknowledges that they have sufficient permission of any recognizable locations or people appearing in their photograph(s). This permission is hereby granted to both the photographer and the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program to publish and use as needed. Documentation should be retained by the 4-H member and will be requested by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program if needed.
11. **Disqualification of an Entry:** An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Disqualifications forfeit all entry fees. A general notice specifying reason(s) for disqualification will be sent to the county after Texas 4-H Roundup.  
Reasons for disqualification:
  - Extremely poor quality (resolution/size)
  - Does not meet category criteria (see category descriptions)
  - Inappropriate or unsuitable
  - Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed
  - Photo entered into multiple categories
  - More than one photo in a category from a county
  - Photograph was not entered into 4-H CONNECT
  - County did not select/certify photograph to represent county
  - Photograph was not certified by county office in timely manner
  - Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid
12. **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.
13. **Release of Liability:** The Texas 4-H and 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. By entry, the 4-H member accepts this release.
14. **Announcement of Results:** Results will be posted after Texas 4-H Roundup on the 4-H website.
15. **Display and Future Rights Use Rights:** By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member grants permission to the Texas 4-H and 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 and 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. By entry, the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.
16. **Judges:** Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final.

### DESCRIPTION OF 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.

### CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

#### 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.

### EXAMPLE



CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLE

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, handcolored photos.

**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 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. The multiple photos will illustrate the alterations made to the original photos. All photos should be incorporated into one file for submission.

**Examples**

Photoshop® composites 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.





CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLE

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 programs (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*

NO PHOTOS OF ALCOHOL  
BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED!

*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*

NO 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*

NO PHOTOS OF SUNSETS OR SUNRISES - NO SUNLIGHT AT ALL!!!!!!

*Examples*

*fireworks, lighting on buildings/structures, animals, plant/flora, people, etc.*



CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLE

**PEOPLE**

*Description*

Photos focus from all walks of life, parenting and family, children, babies, models/fashion, sports, and couples. See Rule #10 above.

*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.*



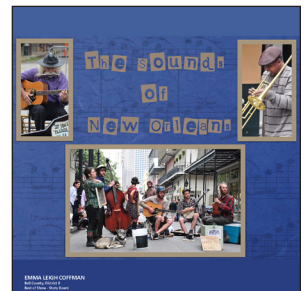
**STORYBOARD**

*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 "Beginning of Beauty".*



**THEME**

*Description*

Theme photo focuses on a subject announced and outlined in the contest rules and guidelines. For 2013-14 the theme is "What is Your WHY?" This year theme will focus on WHY you are part of 4-H. Think about why you are a member of Texas 4-H and then take a photo. It could be focused on leadership, community service, a particular project, a 4-H meeting, or your 4-H friends.

*What is NOT Allowed*

Photos which have been entered into other categories.

*Examples*

Images of 4-H members in action at a meeting, a community service project, or working at a county fair. Project photos which depict both the project and a 4-H member are also allowed.



Certain description terminology used from betterphoto.com photo contest category page. <http://www.betterphoto.com/contest/categories.asp>

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

1. **Quality Awards:** Blue, Red, and White quality awards will be given to entries based on the scoring criteria.
2. **Best of Show Awards:** One Best of Show Award will be presented to one photo in each category.
3. **Cash Awards:** Each Best of Show winner will receive a \$250.00 cash prize.

**TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP DISPLAY**

- 2014 Roundup Display: Photos will be displayed through a multimedia display at Texas 4-H Roundup.
- Best of Show Display: Best of Show winners will be displayed in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development State Headquarters office for a year following the contest.

**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:

<p>IMPACT (Max Points: 15)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>CREATIVITY (Max Points: 15)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>TECHNICAL (Max Points: 25)</p>	<p>Technical is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, minor straightening)</li> <li>• sharpness and 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>
<p>COMPOSITION (Max Points: 20)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>SUBJECT MATTER (Max Points: 15)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>STORY TELLING (Max Points: 10)</p>	<p>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.</p>

# 2014 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 points)	Red Award (80 to 51 points)	White Award (50 to 31 points)	Participant Award (30 to 0 points)
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JUDGES COMMENTS: