

2023-2024 Calhoun County 4-H Photography Contest Rules and Guidelines

Adapted from District 11 4-H Photo Contest Rules and Guidelines

CALHOUN COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 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 a photography project showcase opportunity for 4-H members.
- To continue to share the message of 4-H.
- To utilize photographs which can promote and strengthen the 4-H program.

THIS YEAR:

- There are 15 categories for the photography contest.
- The Calhoun County 4-H Photography Contest will follow the Texas 4-H Photography Contest (state contest) guidelines (https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/photography_state_rules_2022_2023.pdf). All photos will be submitted and judged electronically.

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Participant Age Groups:

- Clover Kids: Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Youth
- Junior: 3rd – 5th Grade Youth
- Intermediate: 6th – 8th Grade Youth
- Senior: 9th – 12th Grade Youth
- **NEW for 2024**: Adult Volunteer: Registered Calhoun 4-H Adult Volunteers

All participants MUST be members of Calhoun County 4-H.

Photography contest judging will take place online between January 22-26, 2024. Results will be announced via Calhoun County 4-H Social Media Outlets and via email by February 5, 2024. All 1st place Junior and Intermediate winners will have the opportunity to register for the District 11 4-H Photography Contest. All 1st Place Senior winners will have the opportunity to register for the Texas 4-H Photography Contest.

Entry Deadline: January 13, 2024, via email to Emilee DeForest (emilee.deforest@ag.tamu.edu). Please save each photo file as: **AgeGroup_Catgeory_LastName_FirstName** (Ex: *Jr_Catch-All_DeForest_Emilee*)

Eligibility of Photos: All photographs must have been taken by 4-H members/volunteers between the dates of January 1, 2023, and the time of entry. The date the photo is taken can be viewed by right clicking and looking at properties; any photo that has a date taken other than what is allowed will be disqualified. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.

Number of Entries: Each member may have only ONE entry per category, for a total of fifteen (15) entries per member. All entries must be submitted via email to Emilee DeForest (emilee.deforest@ag.tamu.edu) by January 13, 2024.

Contestant Participation: Photography display participants are not to be present for judging.

Refusal Rights: The Calhoun County 4-H Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.

Judging: Judging will take place solely online. Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final.

Disqualification of Entries: Entries that do not follow the rules, division and class guidelines, or any general guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Entries received past the deadline will be automatically disqualified.

Announcement of Results: Results will be announced on all Calhoun County 4-H Social Media Outlets, as well as via email to those who participate.

Release of Liability: The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, damaged, or non-displayed photographs. By entry, the 4-H member accepts this release.

Display and Future 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 Service, the Texas 4-H 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 will be retained for future use. By entry, the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Individuals who require an auxiliary service or accommodation in order to participate need to contact the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension Office at 361-552-9747 no later than January 13, 2024, in order for proper arrangements to be made.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The members of the 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, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Criteria	Description
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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.
SUBMISSION OF PHOTO	<p>- Submit via email to Emilee DeForest (emilee.deforest@aq.tamu.edu) Please save each photo file as: AgeGroup_Catgeory_LastName_FirstName (Ex: <i>Jr_Catch-All_DeForest_Emilee</i>)</p> <p>- Size Ratio: any size ratio, except for panoramic, is acceptable. <i>For this contest, panoramic is defined as a photo with an aspect ratio of 3:1 or 3:1 or wider/taller.</i></p> <p>- File Size: Photo must be a minimum of 1MB and a maximum of 20MB.</p> <p>- Tips: 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.</p>

CATEGORIES:

TEXAS 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2023-2024 CATEGORIES	
<p>It is extremely important that 4-H members, project leaders, parents, and 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 will be disqualified.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>CATCH-ALL Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories. Not allowed: A duplicate photo also entered in another category.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>DETAILS & MACRO Getting in 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 than we do not normally get to see with the naked eye. Examples: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a water droplet, etc.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>PLANT/FLOORA Photos of interesting, unique, and beautiful flowers and flora. Photography can occur outdoors or indoors. Photo subject should be that of a <u>single</u> 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.</p>
<p>ENHANCED A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched or composite image. Others 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.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>THEME (New) The 2023-2024 theme is "Abandoned". Photographs capturing the essence of forgotten or neglected places, things, or structures; emphasizing its worn and forsaken nature.</p> <p>Please take all necessary safety precautions around abandoned buildings/structures.</p>