

# 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

## Rules & Guidelines

### PURPOSE

The 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 gain knowledge about cameras, camera settings, photography dimensions and resolution.
- To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives.
- To provide 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.

### RESOURCES

- An extensive list of resources can be found on the Texas 4-H Photography Project page:
- <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/>

### IMPORTANT DATES

**County Entry Deadline:** March 5, 2026 by 11:59 pm. Absolutely NO late entries will be accepted.

**District/State Entry Deadline:** *Photos entered at District or State must qualify at the county level first!* County Agent will complete all District and State entries by appropriate March and April deadlines.

### CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES. PHOTOS NOT ADHERING TO GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

1. **Eligibility.** Participants must be 4-H members currently enrolled and have an “active” status on 4-H Connect with the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and actively participating in the Photography project.
2. **Age Divisions.** Age divisions are determined by a participant’s grade as of August 31, 2022 as follows:
 

<u>Division</u>	<u>Grades</u>	
Clover Kid	K, 1, or 2	
Junior	3*, 4, or 5	<i>*Must be at least 8 years old</i>
Intermediate	6, 7, or 8	
Senior	9, 10, 11, or 12*	<i>*Must not be older than 18 years old</i>
3. **Eligibility of Photos.** All photographs must have been taken by the 4-H members between the dates of last year’s contest (March 5, 2025) and time of entry (March 5, 2026). Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
4. **Qualifying for State and District Contests.** This county contest is for all age divisions. It is the qualifying contest for the Texas 4-H Photography Contest for Seniors ONLY and the qualifying contest for the District 8 4-H Photography Contest for Junior, Intermediate and Senior age divisions. Only one entry per category in each age division will qualify to advance for the next level. No photos will advance for the Clover Kid age

division.

5. **Entry Deadline & Fee.** All entries for the contest must be electronically submitted via email to [Kristen.clark@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Kristen.clark@ag.tamu.edu) by March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm. No late entries will be accepted. No entry fee.
6. **Alteration of Photos.** 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.
7. **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.
- ★ 8. **Format of Photograph.** Photographs must be in a .jpeg or .jpg format. If your photo is not in the correct format and the correct size, it will be disqualified.
- ★ 9. **Size of Photographs.** Any size ratio, except for panoramic, is acceptable. For this contest, panoramic is defined as a photo with an aspect ratio of 3:1. **File size:** Photo must be a minimum of 1 MB (1000 KB) and a maximum of 20 MB. Please check this before submitting.

If you need assistance in resizing photos, you can use: <http://webresizer.com>, <http://resizepixel.com> or a program of your choice. If your photo is not in the correct format and the correct size, it will be disqualified.

10. **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 regard to the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct signed by the 4-H member.
11. **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 in Johnson County, District 8 reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
12. **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.
13. **Display and Future Rights Use Rights.** By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member 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 maybe used for 4-H program and marketing uses.
14. **Release of Liability.** 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 non-displayed photographs. By entry the 4-H member accepts this release.
15. **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.

16. **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 returned to the county. Reasons for disqualification:
- 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.
  - **Does not meet category criteria, rules, or guidelines. (see category descriptions) \*Please make sure you read the category descriptions completely and enter your photo in the correct category.**
  - One photo entered into multiple categories.
  - Extremely poor quality/resolution.
  - Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed.
  - **Photograph does not meet the minimum resolution or size.**
  - **Photography does not meet the file format requirements.**
17. **Judging & Awards.** Each photograph will be evaluated against a set of judging criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, or a white ribbon. See Contest Judging Criteria. Judges will determine the point values and all decisions are final.
- Category Champion.** The photo with the highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Champion of their respective category.
- Age Division Best of Show.** Best of Show awards will be given to one photo in each age division. The Champion photo from each category will be considered for the Best of Show award and judged by a separate judge.
18. **Announcement of Results.** Results will be emailed to participants after the judging and posted on the Johnson County 4-H Facebook Page.

★ *Categories will be broken down per age division as follows:*

- *Junior Age Division 4 Categories*
  - a) *Animals – Domestic/Wildlife*
  - b) *Plant/Landscape/Nature*
  - c) *People*
  - d) *Catch All*
- *Intermediate Age Division 8 Categories*
  - a) *Animals – Domestic/Wildlife*
  - b) *Plant/Landscape/Nature*
  - c) *People*
  - d) *Details/Macro*
  - e) *Elements of Design*
  - f) *Catch All*
  - g) *Dominant Color*
  - h) *Theme – Volunteers in Action*
- *Senior Age Division: All 18 Categories*