

2023 DISTRICT 12 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST RULES

These rules will be used in conjunction with the Texas 4-H Photography Contest Rules. The District rules will supersede state rules for this contest.

1. **Eligibility of Photos:** All photographs must have been taken by 4-H members between the dates of January 1, 2022 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category to the district photography contest.
2. **Number of Entries:** A county may have only one entry per class for a total of 15 entries per county in each age division. This results in a maximum of 45 photos. All entries and entry fees must be submitted directly through 4-H CONNECT (registration).
3. **Entry Fee:** A fee of \$8.00 per photograph must be paid for each entry. Online registration will open February 28, 2023 and will end March 21, 2023. Payment must be made on 4-H connect at the time of registration. Payments made by check must be postmarked within three business days of registration submission. No late entries will be accepted. No refunds will be given.
4. **Entry Deadline:** March 21, 2023 all registrations must be submitted on 4-H Online. Entry approval at the county and district level will be ongoing throughout the registration period.
5. **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 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 possibly all entries by the 4-H member. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
6. **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.
7. **Display and Future 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 Service, 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. By entry the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.
8. **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 form letter specifying

reason(s) for disqualification will be sent to the county after the judging period concludes. Reasons for disqualification:

- Photograph of extremely poor quality (resolution/focus) or size too small to adequately judge.
- Photograph does not meet category criteria or entered in incorrect category.
- Same photograph entered in multiple categories.
- Inappropriate or unsuitable photograph.
- Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid.
- County did not select/certify photograph to represent county.
- Photograph was NOT entered into the *4-H Online* system.
- More than one entry in a category from a county.
- Photograph was not certified by county office in timely manner.

9. **Format & Quality of Photograph:** Photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible. Photos that do not meet these requirements may be disqualified from the contest without notice.

- Photographs must be in a .jpeg, .jpg, or .png format
- Files submitted may not be larger than 5,120k (5MB)
- Photos must be a minimum of 300 dpi, and at least 1MB
- Must be 3:2 (4"x6") or 5:4 (8"x10") ratio (either landscape or portrait) except for the **PANORAMIC** category.

10. **Announcement of Results:** Results will be posted after the judging period concludes.

11. **Judges:** Judges will determine *Quality*, *Best of Class*, *Best of Show*, and *Grand Champion* placing. Their decision on all entries is final.

12. **Submitting Photographs:** All entries for the 2023 District 12 4-H Photography Contest will be completed using *4-H Online*. Photos entered incorrectly may be disqualified. Counties should review all entries submitted on *4-H Online* before approving.

2023 PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

TEXAS 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2022-2023 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/FLORA 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 2022-2023 theme is "Reflections". Reflection photography uses reflective surfaces to create an artistic "echo" of a scene. It includes photos that are creatively composed to capture an image from a reflective surface. The reflection should play a significant part of the image's composition. Examples: reflections on polished metal, glass, mirror, and water.</p>
	<p>PANORAMIC (New for District 12 only) An image that is in one of the following dimensions: 5x15, 8x24, or 12x36. The subject can be the photographer's choice, but the image nor any portion of the image can be submitted in any other category.</p>

2023 EVALUATIVE 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 both a blue, red, or white ribbon and a participation certificate. 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 EXCELLENCE (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"> • 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
<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>

Texas 4-H Photography Contest Score Sheet



Name: _____ County: _____

Category: _____

You are competing against standards of excellence outlined below, not against your peers. Before preparing your entry for submission please carefully review the judging criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, white, or a participation ribbon.

JUDGES, PLEASE INDICATE POINTS AWARDED IN FAR RIGHT COLUMN:

CATEGORY	JUDGING ELEMENT	POINT RANGE	POINTS AWARDED
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 the judging elements.	0-15	
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.	0-15	
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. 	0-25	
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.	0-20	
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.	0-15	
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.	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)
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JUDGES COMMENTS: