

District 12 4-H Photography Categories

2024-2025 Categories	
Animals – Domestic	<p>Photos focus 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.</p> <p>Examples: Chickens, cows, dogs, hamsters, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, etc. All waterfowl (ducks and geese) should be entered in Animals – Wildlife.</p>
Animals – Wildlife	<p>Category focuses on animals that are 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.</p> <p>Examples: Birds, deer, elephants, snakes, whales, etc.</p>
Catch-All	<p>Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories.</p> <p>Not allowed: A duplicate photo also entered in another category.</p>
Details & Macro	<p>Getting in VERY close is the name of the game for this category. The goal is to zoom in close to 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.</p> <p>Examples: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a single water droplet, etc.</p>
Dominant Color (NEW)	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sun lighting on it.</p> <p>Not allowed: Black & White photos and duotones.</p>
Elements of Design	<p>Images use of graphic elements of design. Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. Photo can consist of any subject matter.</p> <p>Examples: Line, pattern, shape, etc.</p> <p>Not allowed: Digital creations or graphic designs made in software such as Photoshop, InDesign, or Illustrator.</p>
Enhanced	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.</p> <p>Not allowed: A photo of alcohol beverages.</p>
Food	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.</p> <p>Not allowed: Primary subject is a person or wildlife.</p>

Landscape & Nature (Non-Animal)	<p>The focus of this category includes landscapes, outdoor scenic, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors.</p> <p>Examples: Gardens/landscapes, outdoors, scenic, etc.</p> <p>Not allowed: Primary subject is a person or wildlife.</p>
Leading Line	<p>This image composition technique features lines that draw the viewer’s eye from point A to point B, which is the primary subject.</p> <p>Example: A river that begins in the foreground and draws your attention to a photogenic bridge in the background.</p>
Long Exposure	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Fireworks, moving water, light trails, Milky Way, light painting, night or low-light conditions, etc.</p>
Motion/Action	<p>The capture of movement within a single photo. The subject appears stopped or “frozen”.</p> <p>Examples: Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across a field, etc.</p>
People	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Babies, families, kids, portraits, models/fashion, etc.</p>
Plant/Flora	<p>Photos of interesting, unique, and beautiful flowers and flora. Photography can occur outdoors or indoors. The 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 Landscape & Nature category.</p> <p>Examples: A rose, an upward shot of a tree, etc.</p>
Reflections (NEW)	<p>Focus on capturing reflections in various environments, such as water, mirrors, glass, or metallic surfaces. Highlight the symmetry and intriguing visual effects that reflections create, from serene landscapes mirrored in a lake to bustling cityscapes in puddles or building facades.</p>
Shadow/ Silhouette	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: shadows/silhouettes of people, plants, animals, structures, architecture, or natural structures.</p> <p>Not allowed: reflections</p>
Transportation (NEW)	<p>Capture the essence of travel. From bustling city streets with cars and buses to serene rural scenes featuring bicycles and boats, this category celebrates the diversity of transportation methods that connect and move us through life.</p> <p>Examples: bustling urban streets, serene bicycle paths, busy waterways, trains, single vehicles, and even rockets!</p>

Theme – PATRIOTISM	Showcase images that reflect national patriotism. Capture symbols, ceremonies, and landscapes that embody the spirit of our country, from flag displays and national monuments to patriotic events and celebrations.
Panoramic (Only offered in District 12)	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.