



Leon County 4-H Photography Contest

2024-2025 Rules and Guidelines

PURPOSE

The Leon 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 skills in composition, light, story line, posing, and awareness.
- To gain knowledge about cameras, camera settings, photography dimension and resolution.
- To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives.
- To provide a photography project showcase opportunity for junior, intermediate, and 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.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Participation Grades	Any registered member of Leon County 4-H who is a Clover kid, junior, intermediate, or senior level as of September 1, 2024
Photo Eligibility	Photo must be taken by participants between the dates of January 1, 2024 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted in only one category.
Photo Format	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, or .gif.
Entry Fee	\$10 entry fee to enter the Photography Contest. Enter 1 photo or 18 photos= \$10 entry fee.
Entry Method	Enter Photos in the Google Photography Doc- place photos in correct age division & category <u>All photos should be named "Age Level.Category.Last name.First Name" and all email subject lines should match the photo name.</u> Example: Senior.AnimalsWildlife.Smith.Mary See Youtube How To Video at: https://leon.agrilife.org/4-h/photography/
Entry Period	Entry Open Date: January 15, 2025 & Entry Close Date: March 17, 2025, at 11:59pm Photo Submitted to Google Doc by the Entry Date on March 17, 2025, at 11:59pm Entry Form: Fill out via Online Form or bring/mail to Extension Office- make sure form has correct categories!
Size	Size Ratio: any size ratio, except for panoramic, is acceptable. REVISED For this contest, panoramic is defined as a photo with an aspect ratio of 3:1 or 3:1 or wider/taller. File Size: Photo must be a minimum of 1MB and a maximum of 20MB. REVISED Tips: Upload the highest resolution possible
Text usage	Alterations: Color and Black & White photos are allowed in all categories. Although slight computer enhanced photos are allowed, such as cropping, minor adjustment of lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography, such as applying design styles, or using computer graphics will disqualify an entry. Any other alteration, manipulation, or edits to a photo would require the photo to be entered into the Enhanced category. REVISED Text on Photographs: Photographs must not contain camera or user placed text. This includes such things as date stamps, comments, watermarks, or titles. Text or wording that is part of the original photograph (i.e. photo of a street sign, etc.) is acceptable. REVISED
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 regards to the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct signed by the 4-H member.
Awards	Results will be announced <u>During</u> Leon County 4-H Talent Show & Spring Contest Awards. Photos will be placed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue or Red Ribbon • District 8 Qualifier or Alternate Qualifier for the Photos that advance to the District 8 4-H Contest. • Best of Category Awards • Prizes

RELEASES

Content	Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually-oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any laws strictly prohibited. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
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.
Display and Future Usage Rights	Participant grants permission to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 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 may be used for 4-H program and marketing uses.
Liability Release	The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for non-displayed photographs. It is required that each participant have sufficient permission granted to both the photographer and the
Model and Property Releases	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.

Reasons for disqualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Category: Does not meet category criteria, rules or guidelines. (see category descriptions) • Category: Multiple entries into a category. • Category: Same photo entered into multiple categories. • Extremely poor quality/resolution. • Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed. • Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid.
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2024-2025 Categories	<p>The categories for the Texas 4-H Photography Contest. The categories are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animals - Domestic 2. Animals - Wildlife 3. Catch All 4. Details & Macros 5. Dominant Color (NEW!) 6. Elements of Design 7. Enhanced 8. Food 9. Landscape & Nature 10. Leading Line 11. Long Exposure 12. Motion/Action 13. People 14. Plant/Flora 15. Reflections (NEW!) 16. Shadow/Silhouette 17. Transportation (NEW!) 18. Theme: Patriotism (NEW!)
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D8 4-H Qualifying Categories: *NEW FOR 2025*** .**

Categories will be broken down per age division as follows: (Descriptions Below)

We encourage all Clover Kids, Juniors, Intermediates, & Seniors to ENTER ALL 18 categories for the Leon County 4-H Photography Contest, just be aware the following are the ONLY categories that will be eligible to advance to the District 8 4-H level.

<p>Junior Age Division (3 Categories)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Animals – Domestic/Wildlife b. Plant/Landscape/Nature c. People <p>Senior Age Division (All 18 Categories)</p>	<p>Intermediate Age Division 6 Categories</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. Animals – Domestic/Wildlife e. Plant/Landscape/Nature f. People g. Details/Macro h. Elements of Design i. Catch All
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CATEGORIES

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.

2024-2025 CATEGORIES	
ANIMALS - DOMESTIC	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Chickens, cows, dogs, cats, 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 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 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.</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>Example: Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sunlighting 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, perspective, shape, etc.</p> <p>Not allowed: Digital creations or graphic designs made in software such as Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator.</p>
ENHANCED	<p>A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched or composite image. Others variations are allowed as well.</p> <p>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>
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: A photo of alcohol beverages.</p>
LANDSCAPE & NATURE (NON-ANIMAL)	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples: Gardens/landscapes, outdoors, scenics, etc.</p> <p>Not allowed: Primary subject is a person or wildlife.</p>

2024-2025 CATEGORIES - CONTINUED

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. 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 <i>(New)</i>	<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, architectures, or natural structures.</p> <p>Not allowed: reflections</p>
TRANSPORTATION <i>(New)</i>	<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 <i>(New)</i>	<p>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.</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	

JUDGES COMMENTS:

