



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Texas 4-H Photography Judging Resource Guide



The members of 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 or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Contest Rules and Procedures

RESOURCES

The Beginner's Photography Guide, 2nd Edition, by Chris Gatum - Available in bookstores and online

National 4-H Photography Curriculum Level 1: Photography Basics - Available in the 4-H Mall at www.shop4-h.org

National 4-H Photography Curriculum Level 2: Next Level Photography - Available in the 4-H Mall at www.shop4-h.org

National 4-H Photography Curriculum Level 3: Mastering Photography - Available in the 4-H Mall at www.shop4-h.org

For practice power points and additional resources:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/>

ELIGIBILITY

1. All participants must be active Texas 4-H members for the current 4-H year and be a registered contestant in Texas 4-H Roundup.
2. The Texas 4-H Photography Judging Contest is open to all intermediate and senior aged 4-H members.
3. The invitational contest will be held as part of Texas 4-H Roundup in College Station, Texas.
4. Any youth who has completed a post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) course related to photography are ineligible to compete in this contest. In addition, any 4-H member that has participated in any post-secondary competitive event of a similar nature and in the same subject matter is ineligible to compete in this contest.
5. Teams will consist of 3 or 4 members. The overall team score shall be determined by totaling the top three scores of the members. All contestants are eligible for individual awards. Counties can enter more than one team in both the Intermediate and Senior Divisions of the contest. Individuals can participate in the contest if they are unable to form a county team. Intermediates can compete on Senior teams if their county does not have enough of one age category to make a complete team.

CONDUCT OF CONTESTANTS

6. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins or badges that will in any way reveal his/her identity, county or club that he/she represents. No hats are to be worn during the contest.
7. All electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Please advise your contestants to remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If a contestant's phone should ring, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.
8. Contestants may not leave once the contest has started unless permission is given by the contest superintendent.

9. Contestants should not separate themselves from the class on which their group is working.
10. Contestants should not in any way willfully obstruct the work of another contestant.
11. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no talking or any other type of communication between contestants or coaches. If a contestant has a question once the contest begins, please direct that question to the assigned group leader or the contest superintendent.

SCORING

12. Scan sheets will be provided. Contestants must provide their own #2 pencil and may bring an unmarked clipboard and/or manila folder and a blank piece of paper (lined or unlined) for use during the contest. Forms that are bent or abused will not be scored.
13. Ties will be broken using the results of predetermined classes (in order). If ties still exist, ranking with the ties will be the discretion of the contest superintendent(s).

RESULTS

14. Results, as announced, are final. Contestants, or representatives, must be present to receive their awards. Any remaining awards will not be mailed following Texas 4-H Roundup.

CLASS PROCEDURES

15. Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest. Movement of the group to each class will be controlled by the contest superintendent.
16. Classes – 4 minutes will be allowed for each class. Contestants will be given a warning of 1 minute before time is up.
17. Photos in the contest will be designated left to right as 1, 2, 3, and 4.
18. No oral reasons for this contest.

CLASSES	Maximum Points Per Class	Total Points Possible
6 photography judging classes	50	300
2 photo problems classes	50	100
Possible Individual Score		400

Judging classes can consist of photographs from the categories of people, animals, plant/flora, nature/landscape, special/digital effects, night photography, black & white, animals (domestic or

wildlife), details/macro, architecture, or other categories as deemed by the contest committee and judges.

Photography problem classes will cover such things as exposure, ISO, shutter speed, focal length, white balance, camera settings, composition, technique, photo shooting situations, and other questions as deemed necessary by the contest committee and judges. The official judging rubric for the Texas 4-H Photography contest should be used as a resource for the photography judging contest.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented to the 1st to 10th Intermediate and Senior individuals and teams.

Contest Resources

Top tips:

1. Follow the rubric from the Texas 4-H Photography Contest when evaluating the photos.
2. Stay subjective: Don't let your personal bias get in the way of seeing the photo for its' true quality.
3. Balance your judging between the technical aspects of the photo and the creativity/impact of the photo.
4. Allow yourself to take as long as you need in the allotted 4 minutes.
5. Turn your back from the photos after making your placing to avoid second guessing yourself.
6. Look at all of the photos together before inspecting them individually to establish the quality range of the photos (i.e. 4 poor photos vs. 4 high quality photos, 2 high quality and 2 poor photos, etc.)
7. Clear your mind of subject prejudice- evaluate the photo, not the subject.
8. Stick to your guidelines and what you've practiced.
9. Positives attributes + negative attributes = total evaluation

Questions to ask yourself about the photo on first look:

- Does the photo clearly belong in the category? If not, place it last. For example: a photo of an adult in a category marked "Children".
- Does the picture capture the eye?
- Is the photo special?
- Does the photo look at the subject in a new way?
- How does the image make you feel?

When determining technicality, consider:

- Lighting: is it under or over exposed? Was there a proper use of natural or created light?
- Composition: Is the photo properly composed; was the photographer shooting at the right angle for the best shot?
- Leading lines: Do the lines in the image draw your eye to the focal point?
- Framing: Did the photographer use aspects of the image to frame the focal point?

- Movement into space: Does the focal point of the image have space to move within the photo or is it moving toward the edge of the photo?
- White balance: What is the balance of color in the photo?
- Foreground/background mergers: Is the subject roughly the same color as the foreground or background? Can you determine the focal point from the background noise?

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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