

Florida 4-H Photography Contest Rules

FLORIDA 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST OBJECTIVES:

- To develop photography skills in composition, light, story line, posing, and awareness.
- To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives.
- To provide photography project showcase opportunity for all 4-H members.
- To continue to share the message of 4-H.
- To utilize photographs this may promote and strengthen the 4-H program.

DESCRIPTIONS OF CLASSES	
Classes:	DESCRIPTIONS:
People	People (babies, children, adults, and senior citizens) alone or in a group, active or inactive. Such photos may be photojournalistic, or an interpretative portrait where the person rather than the environment is emphasized.
Animals	Animal life, including domestic, wild, insects, and underwater creatures. The animal(s) should be the focus of the photo and not human subjects or nature/scenic. No harm or injury should be inflicted on the animal in order to acquire the photo.
Plant/Flora	Any photo that focuses on the plant or flower structure and not on a scene or landscape.
Scenic	Scenes of natural landscapes, seascapes, skylscapes (sunsets, clouds, etc), buildings that are part of a landscape, or underwater scenes.
Architectural Elements	Photos that emphasize geometric details such as lines, patterns, textures of inanimate objects.
Still Life	Photography where objects are pre-arranged or set up by the photographer. The composition does not occur naturally.
Hat Tricks and Magic	Special effects by playing tricks with distance and objects and not altering the picture in a computer.
Photo Story	A sequence of pictures, consisting of a minimum of 3 photos and a maximum of 5 photos, that tells a story, or how to make or do something.
Black and White	True black and white photo using black and white film, or shades of sepia,
4-H Theme	<p>This theme category encourages submissions of photos emphasizing 4-H people, events and activities and places that relate to Florida 4-H. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 4-H volunteer(s) engaged in an activity either alone or working with youth (individually or groups), active or inactive. The volunteer is the focus of the photo. • 4-H camp life, including a person, adult or youth, individual or group, active or inactive or a photo of the natural settings at any of the Florida 4-H camps (Cherry Lake, Timpoochee, Cloverleaf or Ocala). • 4-H youth or adult or judges engaged at county or state fairs. The person in the environment is emphasized. • 4-H members engaged in project work, community service or a leadership role. <p>Photographs cannot be dually entered into another as well as this one (i.e. people photos cannot be entered into 4-H theme as well as the people category).</p>
<p>See attached Florida 4-H Photography score card, judging definitions, and standards of excellence for detail descriptions of each criterion.</p>	

RESOURCES FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST:

Although it is strongly recommended that youth enroll in the photography project curriculum, enrollment is not required to participate in the state photography contest. Using the curriculum resources provided will help develop a stronger entry into the state contest.

These resources are available from the National 4-H Supply Service at www.4HMall.org.

- 4-H Focus on Photography - Level 1
- 4-H Controlling the Image - Level 2
- 4-H Mastering Photography - Level 3
- Adventures With Your Camera – B (Grades 6 to 9)
- 4-H Guide to Digital Photography

Florida 4-H Youth Development Photography Project Resource Web Site at:

http://florida4h.org/events/photo_contest/resources.shtml

Any reference to a product or company is not to endorse or support them and their causes. Links to companies are provided for educational resources only.

AGE DIVISIONS/PARTICIPATION CRITERIA:

- Junior 4-H'ers must be 8-10 years old by September 1 of the current program year.
- Intermediate 4-H'ers must be 11-13 years old by September 1 of the current program year.
- Senior 4-H'ers must be 14-18 years old by September 1 of the current program year.

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

1. **Number of Entries:** A 4-H'er may submit up to 5 entries. However, each entry must be in a different class. Photographs cannot be dually entered into the same class.
2. **Eligibility of Photos:** All photographs must have been taken by 4-H members within one year of the date of the photo contest. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one class to the state photography contest.
3. **Previous Winners:** Previous Best In Show winners, are eligible to compete again but not in the same photo class. For example, a Best In Show junior winner in the Animals class can compete again by submitting a photo in another class.
4. **Size of Photo:** Photos submitted must be 8" x 10" and mounted properly for an overall maximum size of 8" x 10".
5. **Mounting of Photographs:** All prints must be securely and permanently mounted on a non-frame board that may be of 5mm foam board or mat board no larger than 8 " X 10". Masonite, photo folders, corrugated cardboard or thin poster board is not acceptable. Double faced tape, glue or rubber cement is not allowed for mounting purposes. An adhesive spray or special adhesive board is best. Mat Framing (of any kind) is not allowed and will result in disqualification. Additional resources and instructions for mounting are available on the State 4-H Web at the Photography Contest Resource Web site.
6. **Photo Story Class Submissions:** A minimum of 3 photos to a maximum of 5 photos can be submitted individually in this class. Each photos should be sized 8" x 10" and individually mounted properly. On the back of the photo on the label/release statement, please outline the sequence of the photos and provide an explanation about your "Photo Story".
7. **Entry Deadline:** ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED to the state public relations coordinator by end of business on June 1st of the current program year. Only county 4-H Extension Agents and their designated staff can submit entries into the State 4-H Photo Contest.

8. **Digital Files:** Entrants must attach original photo file in a JPEG file format on a CD to the back of the submitted photograph. Photos taken with film or transparencies will need to be converted into a JPEG file, placed on a CD and attached to the back of the submitted photograph.
9. **Refusal Rights:** The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries. Photograph must NOT be offensive, degrading, racist, or contain pornography of any form.
10. **Alterations of Photo:** 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.
11. **Judges:** Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final.
12. **Model Release Statement:** New to the Florida 4-H Photography Contest, recognizable pictures of adults or youth under the age of 18 must include a "Model release" signature. If a minor is in the photo, the signature MUST come from their parent or guardian. If the adult or parent/guardian will not sign the Model Release, then do not submit the photo into the contest. Examples of recognizable and un-recognizable photos of people are included on the Photography Contest resource Web page.
13. **Judging Criteria:** Photographers aiming for the Florida 4-H Youth Development Photography contest should be mindful of the criteria used in judging entries. In general, contest judges establish a viewing distance when evaluating photo quality, 8X10 photos are generally viewed from 14 to 16 inches. Participants should use viewing distance and the following criteria as guidelines:
 - Required Elements
 - Lighting
 - Impact & Creativity
 - Focus
 - Subject
 - Composition

Criteria	Definition	Standard
Required Elements	Elements in the photo release/label statement that is attached to the back of the submitted work	All required elements are include on the back of the photo
Focus	Adjustment of the distance setting on a lens to appropriately define the subject.	The focus is appropriate to the theme/mood and or photographic class.
Lighting	The illumination of subject.	Use of light produce the desired mood or effect; no shadows unless intended
Subject	The photos use the subject to deliver a message in a creative way.	The photo clearly communicates the subject and fits the chosen category.
Composition	Placement of the subject in the photo demonstrating artistic ability.	A pleasing balance exists among all components of the composition.
Creativity & Impact	Use of originality, camera angle, and photo captures the attention of the viewer	The photographer exhibits creativity through the photo and conveys a strong message.

AWARDS

Junior, Intermediate and Senior entries will be judged separately. Blue, Red and White quality awards will be given to entries based on the score sheet criteria. Best of Show Award will be presented to one photo in each age division and class. Best of Show Winners prints will be framed and displayed at various events throughout the year and displayed on the website.

RETENTION OF PHOTOS:

A select number of pictures will be retained by the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program for the purpose of marketing and program promotion. Pictures retained are based on both quality and subject matter. Pictures retained could be of all quality award colors.

COUNTY SUBMISSIONS:

County 4-H Agents can submit all Blue Ribbon placed photos into the State 4-H Photo Contest. However, each youth submit up to 5 photos, provided each photo is in a different class. Entries must be submitted to the State 4-H Office no later than close of business on June 1 of the current program year to be eligible for judging and exhibition at Florida 4-H Congress. Previous year's entry may not be resubmitted to the state contest. Previous Best In Show winners are not eligible to participate in the same class that they won, in a previous year.

PROPER LABELING OF PHOTOS:

Each entry must include the following information to ensure proper entry. Some information will be based on the division and class entered. The information **MUST** be legibly printed or typed on the photo release and affixed to the back of the photo in the center. This form can be found online in a PDF format on the Florida 4-H Youth Development Photography website, located at:

http://florida4h.org/events/photo_contest/index.shtml

County	Class (i.e. people, landscape, plant/flora, theme, etc)
Age Division	Make & Model of Camera Used
Name	Film Speed Used (if applicable)
Address	City/Zip
Software Used	
Phone	E-mail
Title of Picture	
Description: (50 words or less)	

Entries that do not follow the proper labeling procedures WILL be disqualified.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OF ENTRIES:

Entries that do not follow the rules, division and class guidelines or any general guidelines will automatically be disqualified. A general form letter specifying reason(s) for disqualification will be returned together with photo to the county after Florida 4-H state Congress. County entries received past the deadline will be automatically be disqualified and will be returned to the county.

Reasons for disqualification:

- Inappropriate size and/or mounting material.
- Mounted improperly or not securely mounted
- No signature(s)
- Inappropriate or unsuitable photograph
- Postmarked after deadline date of June 1st (State Contest)
- Black and White photos not a true black and white
- More than one entry in a class from a youth.
- JPEG digital original image not attached
- Model release statement not signed by adult subject or minor's parent/guardian.
- Substantially altered photography, such as changing colors or applying design styles or using computer graphics will disqualify an entry.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS:

Results will be posted prior to the Florida 4-H state Congress on the 4-H website.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, UF/IFAS Extension, and the Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc. and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, damaged, or non-displayed photographs. By entry the 4-H member accepts this release.

DISPLAY AND FUTURE USE RIGHTS:

By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member grants permission to the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, UF/IFAS Extension, the Florida 4-H Foundation, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Florida 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 will be retained for future 4-H program and marketing uses. Other photos will be returned through county offices after the state Congress. By entry the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.