

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between the Plant/Flora Class and the Scenic Class?

The Plant/Flora class will focus on capturing a certain specific feature of a flower. This is more of a "close-up" category focusing in on the details and beauty of one flower or part(s) of a flower. The Scenic class is focusing in on what was placed there by nature. Examples of this would be the Grand Canyon, a forest, a lake, etc.

2. What class would a picture of a bouquet of flowers be entered?

A bouquet of flowers is an arranged object; therefore it would be best suited for the Still Life category. However, if it is one flower and you are focusing in on a certain part of the flower it could go in the Plant/Flora Class.

3. What exactly is the Architectural Elements Class?

The Architectural Elements class allows 4-H members to focus on a certain unique piece of architecture such as a unique gable of a house, the gingerbread trim of a house, a computers circuit board, a row of fence post, the pipes of a refinery, etc. This division stretches the mind to explore the *repetitive features* of something complex.

4. You use the word "Mat Board" in the Instructions, but you say that we are not allowed to add a frame to our photographs, can you clarify this?

The materials that is commonly used as "MAT BOARD" is a great thickness and hardness to mount your photos on. It is attached to the back of the photograph to make it firm and stable. Framing photographs are no longer allowed. A "MAT BOARD" can be purchased at almost any art or craft supply store. So, we say to use "MAT BOARD" for mounting only, but don't place any object on top of the photo (i.e. a frame). Additional resources and videos demonstrating how to properly mount a photo are available at:

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

5. What is the Still Life Class?

Still Life is the depiction of inanimate subject matter, most typically a small grouping of objects that are either human-made or "natural". The still life class allows for photos to be taken of arranged or set objects. This could include such things as a scene with a scarecrow on hay bales with pumpkins placed around it, bowl of fruit, vehicle, a table setting, or a bouquet of arranged roses to name a few examples.

6. What are some techniques that can be used in the Hat Tricks and Magic Class?

These are effects created by the use of filters on lenses, techniques using distance that manipulate the photo and use of different spectra of lights, etc. Any photo substantially altered using computer graphics will be disqualified.

7. Can I submit work that has been substantially manipulated using computer software?

No. Photos that have been substantially manipulated using a graphic design program will be disqualified. For example, photos that have been manipulated by substantially changing the colors, stylize or warped are no longer accepted and will be disqualified.

8. Can I use computer software at all?

Yes. Using software to crop, trim, eliminate red eye and make slight improvements to the lighting to a photography is encouraged. In fact, on the Photography Contest Resource page, we provide some freeware tools to make slight changes to your photo.

9. What is the 4-H Theme Class?

The purpose of the 4-H Theme class is to focus on activities that 4-H members, alumni, volunteers and faculty would do as part of their 4-H experience. Although you will not lose any points towards judging, please encourage your subject to wear a shirt with the 4-H emblem, a camps t-shirt, 4-H club shirt or a UF/IFAS clothing.

10. Explain the Photo Story Class.

The Photo Story class correlates to the Level 1 “Focus on Photography” curriculum project book. It is to encourage youth to learn to tell a story with 3 to 5 photos. Each photo must be individually submitted and properly mounted. On the photo release/label statement, youth must provide a description of the story that is being told and the order of the photos. Each photo’s order should be labeled on the back of the respective photo.

11. How do I create a true black and white photo without using the computer?

Several professional techniques exist for people who are interested in true black and white photography. Photographers can use black and white film, shot in RAW, add a filter lens to the camera, use a disposable black and white camera, and many digital cameras today provide ‘in camera editing’ features and modes for different types of filters including black and white and sepia. Advanced photographers may also want to experiment with creating black and white photos by self-developing.

12. How will I know when I must have a Model Release signed by a Parent/Guardian?

Obtaining a signed model release from an adult or a parent/guardian of a visible facial picture of a youth who is under the age of 18 is an important practice to follow. However, there are times when a model release is not necessary. Please go to the Photography Contest resource Web page to see examples of when a Model Release is required.

13. If I took a photo in 2009 can I submit it into the 2011 Photo Contest?

No. Photos submitted should be taken within the one year of the date of entry.

14. Can I enter the same photograph in more than one class?

No. 4-H’ers are allowed to submit up to 5 photos in this contest; however each photo must be submitted into a different class.

15. Do I have to be enrolled in the photography project to participate in the State Photo Contest?

Although enrollment in the photography project curriculum is not required at this time, *IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED*. The lessons taught in the photography curriculum books provide a strong foundation for youth to excel in the state contest. In addition, since many of the judging elements are taken directly from the curriculum books, youth can benefit from using the book to learning photographic skills and thereby earn the best possible score.

16. Where can I find resources to help me improve as a photographer?

Our Florida 4-H state web site has a list of resources to help youth develop photography as a skill. http://florida4h.org/events/photo_contest/resources.shtml.