



2017 Florida 4-H Marine & Aquatic Photography Contest

Rules and Guidelines



About the Contest

The Marine/Aquatic Photography contest provides 4-H youth with opportunities to practice and be recognized for their photographic skills. It also provides additional opportunities for youth to learn about the marine/aquatic environments through the art of photography. The website is [http://florida4h.org/programsandevents /marinephoto/](http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/marinephoto/). The Marine/Aquatic Photo Contest is held in conjunction with the 4-H State Marine Ecology Event (MEE). The date for the 2017 MEE is Saturday, November 4, at the Osceola County Extension Office in Kissimmee, FL. All photographs will be displayed at the MEE.

The **deadline** to receive all photos at 4-H State Headquarters is **5 pm on Friday, October 20th, 2017**. See registration form for delivery address. All entered photos must go through the county's Extension office. **IMPORTANT:** In order to meet the state's deadline, county Extension offices may have earlier deadlines for receiving photos. Please contact your county Extension office/4-H agent for this information.

Youth do not need to be present at the MEE to win an award. However, youth, and their families are welcome to come and observe and/or volunteer to help at the MEE. After lunch, winners of both the State Marine Ecology Contest and the Photo Contest will be announced. Selected and/or winning photos may be used in future 4-H and/or Sea Grant publications such as curriculum, project books, fact sheets, brochures, web sites, etc. Credit to the 4-H member is given if his/her photo is selected and permission to use their photo in a publication has been granted. NOTE: The Marine/Aquatic Photo Contest is open to all 4-H youth regardless of age! *Although photographs submitted by Cloverbuds are not officially judged in the competition, they will be on display at the MEE. See entry guidelines for additional information.*

Contest Categories

There are 5 categories. Youth may enter underwater and/or above water photos in any of the categories below. All photos must relate to habitats with water and can include photos of animals found in both marine and freshwater environments (such as many wading birds). Please make sure 4-H youth enter their photos in the most appropriate category.

Category 1: Marine Habitats - Includes photos of specific marine and brackish water habitats ("marinescapes") where the habitat is the focus and not an individual animal or plant. Examples include beaches, dunes, mangroves, salt marshes, coral reefs, etc. (Not freshwater habitats.)

Category 2: Marine Life - Includes individual photos of animals and/or plants of marine/brackish water, or groupings of marine life forms (more than one type in photo). Examples are marine fish, birds, mammals, invertebrates, plants/seaweeds, etc. (NOT photos of freshwater life, etc.)

Category 3: People and Water - Includes photos showing interactions between people and water (such as diving, swimming, boating, fishing, etc.) or how humans may impact marine or aquatic environments. Examples might be photos of pollution, beach clean-ups, etc.

Category 4: Aquatic Habitats - Includes scenes of freshwater lakes, ponds, wetlands or swamps, rivers, etc. The focus of the photo is on the scene or waterscape and not a particular object, plant, or animal.

Category 5: Aquatic Life - Includes photos of specific animals/plants in freshwater environments. For example – alligators in a lake, bass underwater, turtles basking in the sun, frogs on a lily pad, a water bird spreading its wings, insects resting on an aquatic plant, etc. The 4-H Website has links to a variety of resources to help the 4-Her improve his or her photographic skills. For information on photography and how to take pictures go to:

<http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/photo/photo-contest-resources/>



Photo Contest Entry Guidelines

Any 4-H member at any level can enter, including Cloverbuds. Each 4-H member may submit up to 5 entries. However, no more than two can be in the same category. Only single prints can be entered. Each county can send a total of 20 photographs. Cloverbud photos do NOT count toward the total. Each Cloverbud can submit up to 5 photos. There is a **\$3.00 entry fee for each photo**. There are no entry fees for Cloverbuds.

To be eligible as an entry, all photographs must meet the following requirements:

1. Photo was taken by a 4-H member within one year of the contest. Previous year's entries cannot be resubmitted. It is expected that photograph
2. Photo does not have any writing or date/time stamps on them.
3. All photos must be 8"x10" including any photos submitted by Cloverbuds.
4. All photo prints must be securely mounted on a non-frame board. This backing may be **5mm foam board or mat board but is cut to fit the photo and no larger than 8"x10"**. Not allowed: Masonite, photo folders, corrugated cardboard or thin poster board. 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.
5. **Photographs may be in black and white or color but should not be altered.** Although slight computer enhancements are allowed, such as crop, trimming, adjusting lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photographs, such as changing colors, applying design styles, or using computer graphics, are NOT allowed and will disqualify an entry.

These rules help to standardize the "presentation" of entries thus there is more focus on photo elements and makes transporting them easier!

Complete the Photo Information/Certification/ Release Form. On the back of each mounted photo, youth MUST attach the Photo Information/Certification/Release form.

(Please TRIM the paper to fit the back of the mount as necessary.) The first part of this form provides contest judges with the title/description of the photo, youth's name, age, and county. The certification statement certifies who took the picture and the release statement allows Extension to publish the photograph in print or on the web.

Model Release Statement: If there is a recognizable person in the photograph, the model release form (last section) needs to be signed. If the person in the picture is 18 or older, they will need to sign that part of the form. If the person in the photo is under 18, then the form must be signed by their parent or guardian. If the adult or parent/guardian will not sign the Model Release section, then the photograph should not be entered into the contest. Examples of recognizable versus unrecognizable photos of people are included on the 4-H Photography webpage -

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

Labeling the photo FILES: The original photo file must be submitted as a JPEG file format. Each photo file should be labeled this way: 1) Last name, first initial of youth who took the photo and 2) Short title of photo (Example - "smith.j.bird"). If the electronic file is not included with the entry, the entry will be disqualified.

NOTE: *Cloverbud photos cannot be judged (according to 4-H guidelines). However, Cloverbuds should follow the same guidelines above when they mount their photo(s), fill out the photo forms, provide jpeg(s) on disk and submit them with their photograph(s). Cloverbud photos will be on display in a "Budding Photographer" section at the Event. We hope these young photographers will continue taking pictures and submit photos for the competition as junior, intermediate, and senior 4-H members.*

Digital images/files and CDs: *If at all possible, counties should place ALL photos from their county on one CD. The CD should be formatted for a PC computer. Please write the county's name on the actual CD. **Please DO NOT tape any CD to the back of the photo(s).** Instead place CDs in a labeled envelope and mail them with your photos. This will eliminate wear and tear on the mounts and makes displaying them easier. Please write the county name on the CD and, if at all possible, the names of youth whose photo files are on the CD.*

Judging criteria: Photographers should be mindful of the criteria used in judging entries. In general, contest judges establish a viewing distance when evaluating a photo and 8" x 10" photos are generally viewed from 14 to 16 inches away. The following table provides criteria.

Criteria	Definition	Standard
Required elements	Mounted properly, completed certification and release form attached to back of photo	All are present
Focus	Adjustment of the distance setting on a lens to appropriately define a subject	Focus is appropriate to theme and mood and/or class of photo.
Lighting	The illumination of the subject	Use of light produces 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/shows the subject and fits the chosen category
Composition	Placement of the subject in the photo demonstrating artistic ability.	There is a pleasing balance among all components of the composition.
Creativity and 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.

Refusal rights: The 4-H Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries. Photographs must not be offensive, degrading, racist, or portray inappropriate messages.

Judging and Awards

- Judging will be based on the previous criteria.
- The top three photos in each category will receive ribbons.
- The People's Choice Winner will also receive a ribbon.
- Others may receive Honorable Mentions.
- Every youth will receive a Certificate of Participation.
- Some photos may be selected and used in future Extension publications with credit given to the youth photographer.
- All photos will be returned to the appropriate county Extension office after the contest.

DISQUALIFICATION OF ENTRIES: Entries that do not follow the rules and guidelines will be disqualified. A general form letter specifying reason(s) for disqualification will be returned together with photo to the county.

Reasons for disqualification:

- Inappropriate size and/or mounting material.
- Mounted improperly or not securely mounted
- No photographer signature(s) on form
- Inappropriate or unsuitable photograph
- Postmarked after deadline date
- JPEG digital original image not included on a CD
- Writing/labeling on photograph itself
- Model release statement not signed by adult subject or a minor's parent/guardian.
- Substantially altered photograph, such as changing colors or applying design styles, or using computer graphics.
- A photograph that was submitted but found on the world wide web.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS:

Results will be posted on the Florida 4-H website and sent to 4-H agents in an e-mail.

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 but all photos will be returned to

county offices after the contest. By entry the 4-H member accepts these conditions.

Procedures for Entering:

1. **Complete General Entry Forms.** County agents (or designated adult) will need to fill out a General Entry Form for county youth entering the contest. On the form provide the names of youth, their ages, and how many photos each youth will enter and total entry fee.
2. **Complete Photo Information/Certification/Release form:** On the back of every photograph entered, this form **MUST** be attached. If a signature is missing, the entry will be disqualified. Make sure youth indicate on the form what category the photo is being submitted for.
3. **Make the DEADLINE!** All photos must be in the 4-H State Headquarters by **5 pm on Friday, October 20, 2017** to qualify for the contest. PLEASE check with your county extension office for an earlier deadline at the county level. ONLY ONE COUNTY REGISTRATION FORM should be sent from each county.
4. **Make checks payable to the *Florida 4-H Foundation*.** Mail your county check, entry forms, and photos to: Dr. Karen Blyler, 4-H Youth Development, 2142 Shealy Drive, P.O. Box 110225, Gainesville, FL 32611-0225.