PURPOSE
The Texas 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 processing 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 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	Junior, Intermediate and Senior age 4-H members in grades 3 through 12 as of September 1, 2024.
Photo Eligibility	All photos must be taken with a digital camera (smartphone cameras are included). Photo must be taken by participants between the dates of January 1, 2024 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
Photo Format	Must be .jpeg, .jpg, or .png. Contestants may use any file naming structure. No RAW files allowed.
Qualifying from County	Each county may have as many entries per category as they like. Each participant may only enter the category one time per category for a total of 18 entries. An automatic late fee will be charged if entries are not submitted by the deadlines. This fee can not be waived for any reason.
Entry Fee	$7 entry fee and $1 per photo
Registration and Uploading	Step 1: Register and pay for entries in 4HOnline Step 2: Members will upload photos in 4-H Online at the time of Registration. Please have your photos ready when you register.
Deadlines & Entry Period	Registration on 4HOnline Opens: March 3, 2025 Registration on 4HOnline Closes: March 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm Late Registration on 4HOnline Closes: March 23, 2025 at 11:59 pm

Event Name	D6 4-H 2025 Digital Photography Contest
Ratio and Size	**Size Ratio:** any size ratio, except for panoramic, is acceptable. For this contest, panoramic is defined as a photo with an aspect ratio of 3:1 or 1:3 or wider/taller. **File Size**: Photo must be a minimum of 1 MB (1,000 KB) and a maximum of 20 MB. **Tips**: Upload the highest resolution possible. Review your photo at 100% size before uploading. Check your photo's file properties and/or metadata to ensure it meets the file size requirements. 1 MB (megabyte) is equivelant to 1,000 KB (kilobytes). Photos that are less than 1,000 KB do not meet the minimum file size requirement.
Alterations	Color and Black & White photos are allowed in all categories. Although slight computer enhancements are allowed, such as cropping, minor adjustment of lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography or AI enhancements, 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.
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.
Copyright/ Original Work of 4-H member	The 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, including AI. 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, DISPLAY AND JUDGING

Awards and Recognition	**1. Quality Awards:** Blue, Red, White and Green Participation quality awards will be given based on the total scoring value. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet. **2. Best of Category and Age Division:** This will be the top scored photo in each age division and category. **3. Best of Show Awards:** A special Best of Show Award will be awarded to one photo in each category regardless of age. **4. Best of Age Division:** Each Best of Age Division winner will receive a Special prize. Tentatively, award packets for each county will be available for pickup at District 6 4-H Roundup. If the packet is not picked up, it will be mailed to the county office afterwards. Score sheets with comments will be emailed to the county offices.
Judging and Results	For Quality Awards, each photograph will be judged against a set of judging criteria, and not against photographs of peers. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, white, or a participation ribbon (outlined on the attached score sheet). The Best of Show Awards is a competitive process whereby judges will select the best photo within a given category. All decisions are final. Results will be available on the D6 4-H Website after D7 4-H Roundup concludes.

Roundup Display and Participation	This is a District 6 only contest. However, if timing and resources permit, photos may be displayed publicly in a physical or Digital format during District 6 4-H Roundup. If possible, county award packets will also be made available to pick up during Roundup. Roundup participation is not required to receive your award.

RELEASES

Content	Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually-oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any decency standards or laws are strictly prohibited. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program reserves the right to determine and refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
Display and Future Usage Rights	By entry, the 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.
Model and Property Releases	It is required that each participant have sufficient permission granted to both the photographer and the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program to publish and use, as needed, any photo showing 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.
Possible Reasons to Disqualify	• Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content. • Broken copyright rule. Photo is not the original work of the 4-H member. This action is considered theft, which is a major offense in the Texas 4-H Rules & Guidelines. • 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 county entries into a category. • Category: Same photo entered into multiple categories. • County did not select/certify photograph to represent county by the deadline. • Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid. • Extremely poor quality and/or low resolution causing the subject matter to be unrecognizable. • Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed or use of AI Generation. Disqualification for any reason will forfeit all entry fees. No refunds will be given.
Appropriateness of Category	It is extremely important that 4-H members, project leaders, parents, and County Extension Agents review the descriptions of each category very carefully. 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 may be disqualified (judge's discretion).

2024-2025 CATEGORIES

ANIMALS - DOMESTIC	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. **Examples**: Chickens, cows, dogs, cats, hamsters, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, etc. All waterfowl (ducks and geese) should be entered in Animals - Wildlife.
ANIMALS - WILDLIFE	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. **Examples**: Birds, deer, elephants, snakes, whales, etc.
CATCH-ALL	Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories. **Not allowed**: A duplicate photo also entered in another category.
DETAILS & MACRO	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 that we do not normally get to see with the naked eye. **Examples**: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a single water droplet, etc.
DOMINANT COLOR **(NEW)**	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. **Example**: Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sunlighting on it. **Not allowed**: Black & White photos and duotones.
ELEMENTS OF DESIGN	Images use of graphic elements of design. Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. Photo can consist of any subject matter. **Examples**: Line, pattern, perspective, shape, etc. **Not allowed**: Digital creations or graphic designs made in software such as Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator.
ENHANCED	A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched or composite image. Others variations are allowed as well. Examples: Software edited composites and creations, images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters, photos with artistic borders, photos stitched into a panoramic, etc.
FOOD	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. **Examples**: Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc. **Not allowed**: A photo of alcohol beverages.
LANDSCAPE & NATURE (NON-ANIMAL)	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. **Examples**: Gardens/landscapes, outdoors, scenics, etc. **Not allowed**: Primary subject is a person or wildlife.

2024-2025 CATEGORIES - CONTINUED	
LEADING LINE	This image composition technique features lines that draw the viewer's eye from point A to point B, which is the primary subject. **Example**: A river that begins in the foreground and draws your attention to a photogenic bridge in the background.
LONG EXPOSURE	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. **Examples**: fireworks, moving water, light trails, Milky Way, light painting, night or low-light conditions, etc.
MOTION/ACTION	The capture of movement within a single photo. The subject appears stopped or "frozen". **Examples**: Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across a field, etc.
PEOPLE	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. **Examples**: Babies, families, kids, portraits, models/fashion, etc.
PLANT/FLORA	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. **Examples**: A rose, an upward shot of a tree, etc.
REFLECTIONS **(New)**	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.
SHADOW/ SILHOUETTE	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. **Examples**: shadows/silhouettes of people, plants, animals, structures, architectures, or natural structures. **Not allowed**: reflections
TRANSPORTATION **(New)**	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. **Examples**: bustling urban streets, serene bicycle paths, busy waterways, trains, single vehicles, and even rockets!
THEME - PATRIOTISM **(New)**	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.

TEXAS 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
SCORE SHEET

Name: _____   County: _____

Category: _____

You are competing against previously determined standards of excellence, 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: • 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 pts)

JUDGES COMMENTS: