



2024 BEXAR COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

RESOURCES FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST:

Texas 4-H State Photography Rules: [CLICK HERE](#)

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Eligibility of Photos:

- Participants must take photos between January 1, 2023, and the time of entry.
- The photo must be the original photographic work of the 4-H member.
 - Not a photo taken by family members or other 4-H members or secured from any other printed/electronic source. **Any photo proven to be found to be not original work will result in disqualification of ALL the 4-H members' entries into the Photography Contest.**
- Additionally, actions may be taken against the 4-H member regarding the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct signed by the 4-H member.
- **Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.**

Entry Fee:

- There is no entry fee; the contest is **FREE**.
- **4-H Members are limited to one photo per category.**

Entry Deadline & Late Entries:

Photo entries are due **Friday, March 1st at 5:00 p.m. via ONLINE GOOGLE FORM. [CLICK HERE](#)**

***You will need to create a free Gmail account **3+ entries require multiple forms**

(NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED)

Ratio and Size:

Photos may be any size ratio, except for panoramic (Panoramic is a photo with an aspect ratio of 3:1 or 1:3 or wider/taller.) The photo must be a minimum of 1 MB (1,000 KB) and may not be larger than 5120KB (5MB). Upload the highest resolution possible. Check your photo's file properties and/or metadata to ensure it meets the file size requirements. **Photographs must be in a .jpeg, .jpg, or .png format ONLY!**

Labeling/Naming Photographs

Each photograph will need to be clearly labeled with the Age Division, County, 4-H member's first and last name and the name of the category (see example below for label name).

PHOTO NAMES FORMATTED INCORRECTLY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

For example, Junior 4-H member John Smith, entering the Animals-Wildlife category, would upload a file labeled: *Junior_Bexar_John_Smith_Wildlife.jpg*

Please use the following labels for the categories and review the category descriptions:

Category	File Name	Category Description
Animals – Domestic	Domestic	Photos focus on the various animals tamed and made fit for a human environment. To be considered domesticated, the animal must have their behavior, life cycle, or physiology systemically altered due to 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 Wildlife.
Animals – Wildlife	Wildlife	The 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	CatchAll	Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories. Not allowed: A duplicate photo is also entered in another category.
Details and Macro	Details	Getting in 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 make small objects appear life-sized or larger than we normally see with the naked eye. Examples: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a water droplet, etc.
Elements of Design	Elements	Images use graphic elements of design. Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. A 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	Enhanced	A single photo that has been technically manipulated as an abstract, panoramic, stitched, or composite image. Other variations are allowed as well. Examples: Software edited composites and creations, images greatly manipulated with filters, photos with artistic borders, photos stitched into a panoramic, etc.
Food	Food	A still-life photography specialization aimed at producing attractive food photographs for use in 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 alcoholic beverages.
Landscape and Nature (Non-Animal)	Landscape	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: A primary subject is a person or wildlife.
Leading Line	Leading	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	LongX	Also known as time exposure or slow shutter, this technique uses 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 lowlight conditions. Examples: fireworks, moving water, light trails, Milky Way, light painting, night or low-light conditions, etc.
Motion and Action	Motion	The capture of movement in a single photo. The subject appears stopped or "frozen". Examples: Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across a field, etc.
People	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, etc.
Plant and Flora	Plant	Photos of interesting, unique, and beautiful flowers and flora. Photography can take place 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
Shadow and Silhouette	Shadow	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
Theme (NEW)	Theme	The 2023-2024 theme is "Abandoned". Photographs capturing the essence of forgotten or neglected places, things, or structures; emphasizing its worn and forsaken nature. Please take all necessary safety precautions around abandoned buildings/structures.

Alterations:

Although slight computer-enhanced photos are allowed, such as cropping, minor adjustment of lighting, and red eye reduction, substantially altered photography, such as applying design styles or using computer graphics, will disqualify an entry. Any other alteration, manipulation, or edits would require the photo to be entered into the Enhanced category.

Text on Photographs:

Photographs must not contain a camera or user-placed text. This includes 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.

Judges:

Judges will determine the placements using the enclosed judging criteria. Their decision on all entries is final.

Awards:

1st – 5th place awards for each category will be given to entries based on the score sheet criteria below.

TEXAS 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING CRITERIA AND POINT VALUES

Impact (15 pts)	Impact is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder, or other intense emotions. There can be an impact on any of the judging elements.
Creativity (15 pts)	Creativity is the original, fresh, and external expression of the maker's imagination by using the medium to convey an idea, message, or thought.
Technical (25 pts)	Technical is the quality of the image as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects: Allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, and 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.
Composition (20 pts)	Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all 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.
Subject Matter (15 pts)	Subject matter should always be appropriate to the story being told (i.e., the category in which the photo is entered) in an image. The subject matter also includes the center of interest for the photograph or where the maker wants the viewer to stop and view the image.
Story Telling (10 pts)	Storytelling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his or her message or read his or her own story in an image.

Entries that do not follow the rules or do not fit proper category criteria

WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

1st Place in each SENIOR category will advance

to State 4-H Photography Contest

Contest Steps:

1. Complete and email the photography contest entry form ([CLICK HERE](#)) to Kennedy Green (kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu) and Kevin Knapick (kevin.knapick@ag.tamu.edu) by Friday, March 1st at 5:00pm.
2. Upload all photos to the Google Form ([CLICK HERE](#)) by Friday, March 1st at 5:00pm using the file format below:
For example, Junior 4-H member John Smith, entering the Animals-Wildlife category, would upload a file labeled Junior_Bexar_John_Smith_Wildlife.jpg.
3. Judging will begin on Wednesday, March 7th, and be completed on Friday, March 22nd.
4. Results will be published on Wednesday, March 27th.
 - a. All 1st place Senior winners will receive instructions to register for the State Photography Contest.

Registration form **MUST** be emailed and photos uploaded via Google Forms by **Friday, March 1st, 11:59 p.m.**

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

VOLUNTEER JUDGES NEEDED!
ORIENTATION WILL BE PROVIDED!

SIGN UP: [CLICK HERE](#)



2024 BEXAR COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM

1. 4-H Member Name: _____

2. Check Age Category:

Junior (Grades 3 – 5) **Intermediate (Grades 6 - 8)** **Senior (Grades 9 – 12)**

3. Family Contact Email: _____

4. Photo Category Selection:

Please check all categories you will be entering a photo submission into.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals - Domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion and Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals - Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Food	<input type="checkbox"/> People
<input type="checkbox"/> Catch-All	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape and Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant and Flora
<input type="checkbox"/> Details and Macro	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Line	<input type="checkbox"/> Shadow and Silhouette
<input type="checkbox"/> Elements of Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Exposure	<input type="checkbox"/> Theme (Abandoned)

This form must be emailed to Kevin Knapick (kevin.knapick@ag.tamu.edu) AND Kennedy Green (kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu). Or dropped off at the Bexar County AgriLife Extension Service office at 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr. STE 212, San Antonio, TX 78230

If you email entries and upload photos, the family assumes all responsibility for entries not received. The Bexar County AgriLife Extension Service office is NOT RESPONSIBLE for emailed or electronically uploaded entries that are not received by Friday, March 1, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

4-H Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____