



Brazos County 4-H Photography Contest

2023-2024 County Contest Rules & Guidelines

*Rules & Guidelines were taken DIRECTLY from the Texas 4-H Contest Rules & Guidelines. Some instructions and phrasing were edited to reflect the Brazos County 4-H Contest, but all rules remained the same. Texas 4-H Contest Rules can be found here: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/photography_rules_24.pdf

PURPOSE

The Brazos County 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 provide a photography project showcase opportunity for Brazos County 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 Age Divisions	Colver Kids (Kindergarten-2nd Grade), Junior (3rd-5th Grade), Intermediate (6th-8th Grade), and Senior (9th-12th Grade) as of September 1, 2023 <i>Clover Kids are PARTICIPATION ONLY</i>
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, 2023 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.
Entry Limitations	Participants are limited to one (1) photo <u>per category</u> for a total of 15 submissions.
Entry Fee	\$1 Per Photo, entry forms and payment instructions can be found at the end of this document.
Registration & Entry Deadlines	Photo Submission Link Opens: November 15, 2023 Photo Submission Link Closes: December 27, 2023 Entry Forms (at the end of this document) and Payment DUE: January 4, 2024
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 equivalent 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, 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.
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. 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	<p>Quality Awards: Blue, Red, White and Green Participation quality awards will be given based on the total score value. Score ranges for each award are outlined on the attached score sheet.</p> <p>1st-3rd Place of <u>each category</u> will be recognized for <u>each age division</u>.</p> <p>Best of Category: One photo will be selected from <u>each category</u> regardless of age division.</p> <p>Best of Show Award: One photo will be awarded the Best of Show title, <u>regardless of age or category</u>.</p> <p>The 1st place photo of each category in the senior division will advance to the state 4-H Contest.</p>
Judging and Results	<p><i>Qualified volunteer judges will make these determinations and all decisions are final.</i></p> <p>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 score sheet linked on the Brazos County Website).</p> <p>1st-3rd Place will be determined by comparing final scores of each photo to others in the same category and age division.</p> <p>Best of Category will be determined by sending category winners to a panel of judges.</p> <p>Best of Show will be determined by sending all Best of Category winners to another panel of judges.</p> <p>Results will be shared at the conclusion of contests at Brazos County Roundup (January 25) and then posted to the Facebook Page and County website following the award ceremony.</p>
Photo Display	All submitted photos will be on display in the Extension Office lobby during County Roundup.
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.
Copyright	The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos must be the participant's own original work. Use of a photo from other sources/people is not allowed. Violators will be subject to the Consequences of Misbehavior policies found in the Texas 4-H Rules and Guidelines.
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.

TEXAS 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2023-2024 CATEGORIES

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 will be disqualified.

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 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 than we do not normally get to see with the naked eye.

Examples: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a water droplet, etc.

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.

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.

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

THEME (New)

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.



BRAZOS COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Complete form & turn in with payment **BY JANUARY, 4, 2024**

Name: _____ Club: _____

Age Division (check one): ☐ Clover (no fee) ☐ Junior ☐ Intermediate ☐ Senior

#	Category	Title
1	Animals - (Domestic)	
2	Animals – (Wildlife)	
3	Catch-All	
4	Details & Macro	
5	Elements of Design	
6	Enhanced	
7	Food	
8	Landscape & Nature (Non-Animal)	
9	Leading Line	
10	Long Exposure	
11	Motion/Action	
12	People	
13	Plant/Flora	
14	Shadow/Silhouette	
15	Theme – “Abandoned”	

➤ **\$1** per photo (Jr., Int., Sr.) - Entrant responsible for fees. Bring **exact cash or check to the county Extension Office payable to: Brazos Adult Leaders**

➤ Fee Total: _____

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating