

MCJLS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Rules & Guidelines

RESOURCES

- An extensive list of resources can be found on the Texas 4-H Photography Project page:
- <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/>

IMPORTANT DATES

November 17th – January 21st – Photo submissions open. Payments, paperwork and digital photos will be submitted to the McLennan County Extension Office

January 24th – February 4th – Digital photos will be sent off for judging

February 7th – Photography placings will be announced. All photos will be digitally exhibited during Country Store operating hours.

ENTRY FEES

- \$2 per photo
- Students not enrolled in 4-H will now have the option to enroll at the time of registration for the photography contest. Students who choose to enroll will pay \$32 for their first photo and enrollment fee, and \$2 per photo after that.

4-H ENROLLMENT

- Students will now have the option to enroll in 4-H at the time of registration for the photography contest! Enroll online: <https://v2.4honline.com/> Entries won't be entered until confirmation is received.
- This will allow students to have their photographs submitted and judged at the District and State 4-H levels, as well as open doors for more exciting opportunities!

CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES. PHOTOS NOT ADHERING TO GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

1. **Age Divisions.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of August 31, 2022 as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Grades</u>	
Clover Kids	Under 3 rd grade	
Junior	3*, 4, or 5	<i>*Must be at least 8 years old</i>
Intermediate	6, 7, or 8	
Senior	9, 10, 11, or 12*	<i>*Must not be older than 18 years old</i>

2. **Eligibility of Photos.** All photographs must have been taken by the 4-H members between the dates of last year's contest and time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.
3. **Alteration of Photos.** Although slight computer enhanced photos are allowed, such as crop, trimming, adjusting lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography, such as changing colors or applying design styles, using computer graphics will disqualify an entry. Any other alteration, manipulation, edits to a photo would require the photo to be entered into the Enhanced category.
4. **Text on Photographs.** Photographs **MUST NOT** contain camera or user placed text. This includes such things as date stamps, comments, or titles. Text or wording that is part of the photograph (i.e. photo of a street sign, etc.) is acceptable.
5. **Format of Photograph.** All photographs will be digitally submitted, judged, and exhibited. Photographs must be in a .jpeg, .jpg, or .png format.
6. **Size of Photographs.** One of most important aspects of the photography project is learning about camera settings, photography ratios, and photo resolution. Volunteer leaders and 4-H members are encouraged to include a lesson on this topic in their project experiences.
- Size Ratio: Must be 3:2 (4"x6") or 5:4 (8"x10") ratio (either landscape or portrait).
 - File Size: Photo must be a minimum of 1MB and a maximum of 10MB.
 - Tips: Upload the highest resolution possible. Review your photo at 100% size before uploading

If you need assistance in resizing photos, you can use: <http://webresizer.com>, or a program of your choice.

7. **Photo Submissions .** All photo submissions and appropriate paperwork should be emailed to dana.gerick@ag.tamu.edu. Or Madeline.makovy@ag.tamu.edu

8. **Original Work of Student.** Entry must be the original photographic work of the student and not a photo taken by family members, other students, 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 student's entries into the Photography Contest.
9. **Content.** Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any laws are strictly prohibited. The McLennan County Junior Livestock Show reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.
10. **Copyright.** The McLennan County Livestock Show respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos should be based on a participant's original photograph. Use of a photo from other sources/people without permission is not allowed.
11. **Model and Property Releases.** It is required that each participant have sufficient permission granted to both the photographer and the McLennan County Junior Livestock Show to publish and use as needed any recognizable locations or people photographed. Documentation should be retained by the participant and be available upon request from MCJLS.
12. **Disqualification of an Entry.** **An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified.** Disqualifications forfeit all entry fees. A general notice specifying reason(s) for disqualification will be returned to the county. Reasons for disqualification:
 - Broken content rule. This includes inappropriate or unsuitable content.
 - Broken copyright rule. Photo is not the work of the 4-H member.
 - Broken display and future rights usage rule.
 - Broken model and property release rule.
 - Does not meet category criteria, rules, or guidelines. (see category descriptions)
 - Multiple county entries into a category.
 - One 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/resolution.
 - Manipulation of photo beyond what is allowed.
 - Photograph does not meet the minimum resolution or size.
 - Photography was not entered into 4-H Connect.

13. **Judging & Awards.** Each photograph will be evaluated against a set of judging criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, or a white ribbon. See Contest Judging Criteria. Judges will determine the point values and all decisions are final.

Category Champion & Category Reserve Champion. The photo with the highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Champion of their respective category. The photo with the second highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Reserve Champion of their respective category.

Age Division Best of Show. Best of Show awards will be given to one photo in each age division. The Champion photo from each category will be considered for the Best of Show award.

14. **Announcement of Results.** Results will be emailed after the judging to County Extension Agents, Ag Science teachers, participants and/or parents. All photos will be on display at the Country Store during the McLennan County Junior Livestock Show.

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Description of Categories

It is extremely important that participants, project leaders, parents, teachers, and county Extension agents review the descriptions of each category very carefully. **Please 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.**

Category Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
<p>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.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chickens • Cows • Dogs/Cats • Geese/Ducks (domestic use) • Hamsters • Horses • Pigs • Sheep/Goats
<p>ANIMALS - WILDLIFE Category focuses on animals not tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wilderness or the bodies of water throughout the country and world. Photos can be of wildlife in nature, zoos, and/or petting zoos.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos taken through glass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds • Deer • Elephants • Snakes • Whales
<p>CATCH-ALL Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not allowed: A duplicate photo also entered in another category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polaroid image & emulsion transfers • Still-Life (inanimate objects) • Flat Lay Photography
<p>DETAILS & MACRO Getting in close is the name of the game for this category. We welcome pictures of small details that suggest a larger story. This is also the place for macro photographs (although a macro image of a flower might equally go into the Flowers category).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clocks • Coins • Ice crystals • Insects • Stamps
<p>LONG EXPOSURE (New) 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.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks • Moving Water • Light Trails • Milky Way • Light Painting • Night or Low-light conditions • Etc.

Category Description	What is NOT Allowed	Examples
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital creations or graphic designs made in commercial programs such as Photoshop, InDesign, or Illustrator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line • Pattern • Perspective • Shape
<p>ENHANCED A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched, or composite image. Other variations are allowed as well.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photoshop composites and creations • Images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters. • Photos with artistic borders • Photos stitched into a panoramic
<p>FOOD Category is 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos of alcoholic beverages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos which primary subject is wildlife or person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes/Gardens • Scenics • Outdoors
<p>MOTION / ACTION The capture of movement within a single photo.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferris wheel spinning • Horse running across field/pasture.
<p>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 the subject.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babies • Families • Kids • Models/Fashion
<p>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.</p>	Reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadows/silhouettes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People • Plants • Animals • Structures • Architectures • Natural Structures

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 Nature & Landscape category.

- Rose
- An upward shot of a tree
- A flower bouquet

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Judging Criteria

Each photograph will be evaluated against the following set of criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded a blue, red, or white ribbon. The criteria for evaluating the photographs will be:

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.
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.
TECHNICAL (Max Points: 25)	Technical is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
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.
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.
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.

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Score Sheet

For the MCJLS Photography Contest, you are to be evaluated against a previously determined standards of excellence. *The photo with the highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Champion of their respective category. The photo with the second highest point value in each category in each age division will be awarded as the Reserve Champion of their respective category.* Before preparing your entry for submission please carefully review the judging criteria.

Name: _____

County: _____

Check one in each of the following:

Age Division: _____ Junior _____ Intermediate _____ Senior _____
 Category: _____ Animals- Domestic _____ Details & Macros _____ Enhanced _____ Motion/Action _____ Sports
 _____ Animals-Wildlife _____ Dominant Color _____ Food _____ People _____ Theme
 _____ Catch-All _____ Elements of Design _____ Landscape & Nature _____ Plant/Flora _____ Travel & Place

CRITERIA	POINTS AWARDED (circle one number on each row)																								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15										
Impact	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15										
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15										
Technical	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Composition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
Subject Matter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15										
Story Telling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10															
TOTAL POINTS																									
AWARD (circle one)	Blue Award (71-100 points)							Red Award (31-70 points)							White Award (1-30 points)										
JUDGES COMMENTS																									