

PHOTOGRAPHY

Superintendent: Sam Basile

PHOTOGRAPHY RULES: Please read all rules carefully, entries not conforming to these rules may not be accepted.

- A. Photographs and digital images must have been taken by the exhibitor as part of a 4-H program during the current 4-H year and should reflect a meaningful, thoughtful process.
- B. There are a maximum number of 5 entries per class in this section except in class's #7, 9-15 where only 1 entry is allowed. **When more than one (1) entry is exhibited in a class, each must be of a different variety and be distinctly different from another entry in the same class. Please see rule O.**
- C. Exhibits will be judged on technical quality, composition, storytelling ability, and preparation of exhibit.
- D. Exhibit preparation to demonstrate good workmanship and use of materials.
- E. Exhibits **MUST** be flush mounted on sturdy background for hanging and with appropriate hanger firmly attached in case the entry is chosen for state fair. Matte board and foam core board are examples of sturdy mounting materials. **Exhibit must NOT be mounted on the back or front side of a pre-cut mat board.** A pop can tab is not an appropriate hanger.
- F. Do not submit exhibits in a commercial picture frame.
- G. Digital prints must be printed on photo paper and properly displayed.
- H. No photograph or digital image shall be smaller than 3 ½ "x 3 ½". Or larger than 11" x 14" Only 8" x 10" or larger entries will be considered for State Fair.
- I. **Exhibit must be titled or captioned to assist the viewer to interpret the message, on front below picture or back is acceptable**
- J. On the back of each exhibit, exhibitor's name, age, number of years in photography projects.
- K. If video project is submitted as a computer file, clear documentation for opening and viewing procedures, as well as software requirements, should be included in supporting documentation.
- L. **All images should have camera type and settings printed on back of the mounted piece or on an attached sheet of paper**
- **CAMERA TYPES & DATA TAGS: Youth are permitted to shoot on film, digital and/or cell phone cameras. The type of camera used must be included in project documentation. Youth may use automatic settings but should be able to find the metadata information on the photo to include in project documentation.**
 - **Exhibit must have additional information (Data Tag) attached to the back of the photo/print. For cell phone photography, downloadable Aps for Data Tags are available.**
 - **ANDROID: <https://bit.ly/AndroidEXIFApp>**
 - **APPLE: <https://apple.co/3NzzcD1>**
 - **Data Tags include the following information:**
 - **Camera/device used**
 - **Aperture (F-stop)**
 - **Exposure time (shutter speed)**
 - **ISO (film/sensor sensitivity) • Lighting used (flash, artificial, sunlight, other)**
 - **Photo editing software/application used (required for ALL edits and retouches except for cropping and red eye).**
 - **Filters used (lens filters and/or digital/software filters)**
- M. **To ensure that a video or power point project can be viewed and evaluated, the exhibitor should make arrangements with the 4-H office, prior to the fair so evaluation and exhibition can occur.**
- N. Photo hangers may be available for purchase at the 4-H office & on evaluation day.
- O. Photo Subjects: The following subjects are to be used for classes #1 and #2. Entry for these two classes must include class number and subject letter. Only 1 photo is allowed from a subject group.
- a) Abstract
 - b) Animal-Domestic (1 Animal)
 - c) Animal- Wild (1 Animal)
 - d) Animal Story- (2 or more animals)
 - e) Architectural- (Cities, Buildings, Factories)
 - f) Flower(s)
 - g) Food, Cooking, Farmers Markets
 - h) Forest Close-Up- (Forest Floor, Foliage, Forest and Tree)
 - i) Human Interest-(2 or more people-tells a story)
 - j) Informal Portrait- (1 Person)
 - k) Insects
 - l) Landscapes (Hills, Mountains, Rivers, Trees and Roads)
 - m) Rural Scenes- (Farm Locations, etc.)
 - n) Snow, Ice, Frost
 - o) Still Life- (Indoor/Outdoor)
 - p) Sunrise, Sunset, Clouds
 - q) Water, Underwater, Seascape

(Special Note: If photo(s) are of 4-H projects, activities, and trips, see class #6)

For classes #1 and #2 each entry must be from one of the above subjects (see rule O). Each entry must be from a separate subject up to the total of 5 entries.

Class #

1. **Single Image-** photo which demonstrates your understanding of a technique you learned from participating in a photography project. On your submission you should identify which technique you were focusing on. **No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal.**
2. **Single Image -** photo that demonstrates your understanding of (3) three techniques you have learned from participating in a photography project. **No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal.**

TECHNIQUES INCLUDE (but not limited to) SIMPLIFICATION, FILLING A FRAME, RULE OF THIRDS, FRAMING, CONTRAST, LINES AND SHAPES, SYMMETRICAL BALANCE, ASYMMETRICAL BALANCE, DEPTH AND LAYERING, EXPOSURE, WHITE BALANCE, TRIANGLES, EYE LINES.

Thumbnails for classes 3-5 should be at least 1" x 2", to give the evaluator the best idea of the original image(s).

3. **Single Slightly Edited Image-** image somewhat digitally edited or enhanced using 1 editing technique. Modifications may include: cropping, sharpening or blurring; brightness or contrast changes, or the addition of text. Thumbnail of the original image shall accompany exhibit. You must identify the editing technique you were focusing on and the software used.
4. **Single Heavily Edited Digital Image-** image has been radically digitally edited or enhanced using 2 or more editing techniques. Modifications may include: addition or removal of parts of the image, changes in the color scheme of the image, the use of filters or effects, or animation using digital images, etc. Thumbnail of the original image shall accompany the exhibit. You must identify the editing technique you were focusing on and the software used.
5. **Using Multiple Digital Images-** multiple images with 2 or more editing techniques may be combined to create a single print (prints may mix color and monochrome images for extra impact). Thumbnails of original images shall accompany the exhibit. You must identify the editing technique you were focusing on and the software used.

6. **Photo Study/Photo Story** – A collection of at least five and not more than ten photos that have a connection, a relationship or tell a story. The photos may be edited or unedited and should demonstrate strong understanding of basic photography techniques (found in Levels I – IV of the national curriculum). The photos should demonstrate a relationship to one another, whether they represent similar objects, have a theme or tell a story. The photos should be mounted uniformly whether on one mat or individually. Include original thumbnails on the backs if photos are edited and list the techniques you utilized/focused on in the project.

EXAMPLES:

- Select a type of photography (i.e. portrait, wedding, baby, landscape, sports, fashion, etc.) and explore the skills and equipment needed to be successful.
- Create a collection of images illustrating a “picture story” or a “documentary”.
- Experiment with a variety of lighting intensities and angles and apply your new knowledge to your photography.
- Learn to see in “Black and White” and explore how removing color changes the mood, focus of attention or even attractiveness.
- Use a specialized technique, such as selective focusing or enlarging to change an image’s focal point, feel, meaning, etc.
- Learn how to use the manual settings on your camera to your advantage (i.e. nighttime photography)

7. **Photography Portfolio – ONLY ONE ENTRY PER EXHIBITOR.** All participants will be expected to bring at least (1) one print for display, mounted at your discretion, illustrating what you consider to be the best representation of your skills in photography along with a portfolio of no less than (8) eight and no more than (12) twelve photos demonstrating your mastery of basic photography techniques learned by completing levels I-V. You may choose to exhibit some edited photos and some unedited photos, and the subjects of the photos do not need to be related. On each photo you will need to identify two strong points and one area that would like to improve. Other than the one piece you choose to exhibit mounted, you may exhibit the rest mounted in a portfolio. Youth must have taken Photography Levels 1 – V or have educator permission to enter this class.

8. **Photography Innovation -** Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Photography project. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. The exhibit may include, but isn’t limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, apps, performances, or posters which you have made, and which photography is the main subject. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

EXAMPLES

- A website you design to display your photography.
- A digital presentation on the work of a professional photographer.
- A poster illustrating how to do a particular photography technique or use a piece of photography equipment.

VIDEO PROJECT

9. **Video Project: Video project is a movie type project. For presentation of a project using static images see class #11. Only one entry per exhibitor.**
 - Project can be a 30-second television spot, a documentary demonstrating 4-H activities, a narrative or dramatic group project by 4-H members or an informational presentation promoting 4-H.

- Project to feature a 4-H project or activity or promote 4-H.
- Products longer than 10 minutes should include a short “preview highlights” show as a separate tape, disc, or file.
- Project will be evaluated on technical quality, organization, creativity, and ability to communicate a message.
- Project can be submitted on USB jump drive

10. Public Presentation Video – Only one entry per exhibitor.

- Video must be recording of Public Presentation from presentation dates of the current 4-H year. Original videos will be accepted but new and improved versions with presentation day comments from evaluators taken into consideration are **highly suggested**.

- Must be submitted on USB jump drive

- Project will be evaluated similarly to Public Presentation rubrics. This includes appropriate length, organization, grammar, proper equipment, understanding of the subject, eye contact, voice, posture, etc.

- Videos will also be evaluated on overall quality such as editing, lighting, camera positioning, transitions, audio, etc. Camera quality itself will not be taken into consideration due to differences in availability and cost.

- If the 4-H member created a poster for their video, it can be entered under Section U Class 2.

11. Computer Graphic Design – Use a computer graphic design program to create an 8.5 x 11 or 11 x 17 poster that promotes any aspect of 4-H. Programs that can be used include but are not limited to: Adobe InDesign, Illustrator or Photoshop, and Canva. Only one entry per exhibitor.

The design must:

- Be computer generated – indicate which software programs you used for design.
- Use the official 4-H clover (<https://nys4-h.org/logos-graphics>).
- If using graphics from the internet note source and permission to use.

Submissions will be evaluated based on composition, typography, clarity of message, proper use of 4-H logo and imagery and creativity.

12. Power Point Presentation/ Slide Show (only one entry allowed per exhibitor)

- Presentation must be between 7-10 minutes long with using automatic review and timing per slide of a minimum of 20 seconds per slide with accompanying audio/ written narration. Submit a hard copy of your presentation as well as a disc/ flash drive with the file.

13. My Web Page (only one entry allowed per exhibitor)

- Entry must include web page address and short write-up of what you would like to accomplish through web page.
- Web page acknowledges NYS 4-H Youth Development/Cornell Cooperative Extension and other resources (both human and material) that provide the means for learning and developing the skills necessary to create the web page.
- Web page must be accessible on-line.

14. Creative Framing

- One exhibit per exhibitor
- Exhibits simply placed in a commercial frame are ineligible
- Exhibitor is expected to draw on artistic sensibilities to enhance an existing image via the creative framing process.
- Photographic image may digital or non-digital. If edited a thumbnail of the original image shall accompany exhibit.
- Image may be the same as one used in class’s #1-5.
- Exhibitors should use their imagination such that creative framing serves to create a visual image that is more powerful than the sum of all its parts.
- Creative Framing Possibilities:
 - Create your own physical frame using materials discovered in the environment (i.e. leaves, sticks, pine cones)
 - Sandwich your photo between two commercially framed glass and then carefully add your own rendering to the piece.
 - See the physical frame as a three- dimensional space that uses depth in way to stimulate attention.
 - Decorating or adding to a commercial frame is acceptable as long as the exhibitor has “made it his own” by modification

15. Miscellaneous

- Reserved for those entries that do not fall into any of the above classes. Permission from the 4-H Extension Educator must be requested and received prior to July 1st.

AWARDS:

Blue \$2.50 Red \$2.00 White \$1.50

Classes 1 - 15

NOTE: Special Requirement for 4-H exhibitor who will not be talking with the Fair Evaluator

For any 4-H member who is unable to bring his/her exhibits/entries to the 4-H Youth Development Building on Saturday, August 2, 2025, to speak personally with the evaluator, the following Exhibitor Information Statement is required to be completed for each exhibit/entry. The evaluator will be requiring this in order to accept the exhibit/entry. (Cloverbuds should complete this information to the best of their abilities; regular 4-H’ers (ages 8-18) should complete these statements fully in their own handwriting if possible. Age and experience will be taken into consideration.)

1. What is the Kind _____ and Variety _____ of your exhibit (relates to vegetables, flowers, etc.)
2. Describe what you did to complete this project. Provide a list of materials, products and/or equipment used and why they were selected. Briefly explain your methods of construction process and your source of ideas. (3-5 sentences is sufficient)
3. In approximately 3 – 5 sentences, describe your feelings about this project: what you learned, what challenged you, and /or how you would improve your exhibit in the future.
4. Additional information requested in the Section for this class (Be sure to read complete guidelines in the section)
5. Additional information or special needs to be noted by the evaluator.