

2026 Photography Exhibit – Department M

SENIOR DIVISION

Don Aittama, Department Superintendent

Rules and Regulations

The Photography Department will accept entries on Saturday, August 8, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

* Pre-Registration of your entries will be available through the Rockingham County Fair Website. The link will be posted from July 1 through midnight on Wednesday, August 5. Pre-Registration will save considerable time for both you and the Photography Department staff during the intake process and everyone is encouraged to use it.

Entries are to be reclaimed on Sunday, August 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. A claim ticket must be presented. Any exhibitors removing their entries prior to this time will be prohibited from future participation in this event.

The department reserves the right to refuse to accept or display a photograph that is deemed to be inappropriate in content for viewing by a general audience.

Care will be taken in handling and displaying your photos, however, the Photography Department and the Fair Association assumes no liability for damaged or stolen entries.

Senior Division Entrant Eligibility

The senior division is open to all amateur photographers over 19 years of age that reside in the City of Harrisonburg or the County of Rockingham. January 1, 2026, will be used to determine the contestant's age.

For the purpose of this event, an amateur is defined as an exhibitor who has not advertised their services, or received money from the sale of photographs in the past year with the exception of winnings from a photography contest.

Photo Eligibility

Previous entries exhibited at the Rockingham County Fair are not eligible.

Photos must be the work of the exhibitor

Only one photo per class may be entered. The same subject may not be used more than once in any class.

Entries may be in color or black & white and commercial processing is acceptable. *Except for the Artistic category below, digital enhancements are limited to cropping and basic corrections for exposure, color and contrast.*

Cropping to custom sizes is encouraged such as 5" x 10" or 12" x 6" to enhance the composition of the image.

Photo Requirements

SIZE: Minimum photo size is 5" in any direction and the maximum photo size 12" in any direction.

PRESENTATION: Only one image per entry

BACKING: All photos shall be either mounted on foam board or matted. NO OTHER ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Mounting photographs on a foam board with permanent adhesive is the most secure way to display your photographs. It is recommended that you make the foam board ½" longer at the top of your picture to allow for space to attach hanging clips. If this space is not provided the clips will have to be placed directly on your print and will leave a mark on your print.

Matted photos will also be accepted. The preferred color of the mat is black or white. All matted prints must be secured to the back of the mat. Wide tape or permanent adhesive is recommended for securing the prints between the mat and backing. DO NOT USE FOAM TAPE TO TAPE THE PICTURE TO THE BACK OF THE MAT.

The entrants name and class description must be on the back of each entry at the top of the back. In cases where it is difficult to determine the proper orientation of the print, the orientation of the entrant's name on the back will be used. In addition, entries in the following classes must also include the following information:

1. Rural Rockingham & Rocktown: location taken
2. Abstract: identify the subject matter
3. Artistic: identify the process or technique used

HANGING:

All photos must be ready for hanging. Binder clips and pegboard hooks will be provided. Do not attach hanging hooks.

Determining Class Eligibility

1. Class eligibility will be determined by the main subject matter of each photo.
2. The same photo or similar photo cannot be entered in multiple classes.

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SENIOR DIVISION CLASS DEFINITIONS:

401. People – A posed or candid photo of a person
402. Pets - Your best shot of your companion animals
403. Wildlife - Wildlife in a natural habitat or zoo
404. Landscapes – Depicts natural scenery
405. Cityscapes – An urban landscape that includes man-made structures and scenery
406. Rural Rockingham – A photo that defines our county
407. Rocktown – A unique photo that depicts our county seat, Harrisonburg
408. Humorous – An amusing or humorous moment caught in the image
409. Action – The focal point is a moving object
410. Architecture – A structure, such as a building or bridge that is the focal point
411. Close-up – The subject is photographed at a very close range and is clearly defined and recognizable
412. Pictorial – A photo that conveys a feeling or an emotion
413. Abstract – Contains a design of patterns or shapes where the subject matter is not evident. Subject matter must be identified on the back
414. Photojournalism - Depicts a newsworthy event
415. Artistic - A photo that has been altered using digital editing software or post printing. This would include, but is not limited to, digital stitching techniques or those enhanced or altered through the use of digital software programs such as Photoshop. It may include composites of several images. Any digital processing technique may be used. (the technique or process must be described on back of entry)
416. Patriotic. A photo that exemplifies the patriotic spirit of our country.

AWARDS

Photographs will be judged on originality, composition, technical merit, overall quality and subject matter pertaining to the class. The number of ribbons awarded per category will be as follows:

- Blue Ribbons (First Premium) – up to 3
- Red Ribbons (Second Premium) – up to 3
- White Ribbons (Third Premium) – up to 3

Ribbon winners will receive a cash award, as follows:

- Blue Ribbons: \$5
- Red Ribbons: \$4
- White Ribbons: \$3

Judging will occur on Monday morning by a panel of independent professional photographers.

A “Sweepstakes” ribbon will be awarded to the exhibitor winning the most blue ribbons in the senior division. In case of a tie, the number of second place awards of the tied participants will determine the sweepstakes winner.

A “Best of Show” ribbon will be presented to a single entry in the senior division that is judged to be the most outstanding in composition, technical merit and creativity. All first place entries are eligible.

Rockingham County Fair
PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

