

Kalamazoo County 4-H

Photography Project Guidelines

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Project Social Media: N/A

Project Objectives & Life Skills*

- Gain an appreciation of photography as an art, a science and a communications tool.
- Learn photography skills for hobby, artistic, and vocational interests.
- Gain experience in recording events, ideas and situations in visual form for study, display, or reference.
- Develop a better awareness and understanding of our surroundings and appreciate beauty.
- Learn about photography equipment and become technically competent as they acquire knowledge, practice skills, explore self-expression and creativity, and learn about careers in photography and related fields
- **Head**
 - Keeping records
 - Planning/organizing.
 - Decision making
 - Goal setting
- **Heart**
 - Communication
 - Cooperation
 - Social skills
 - Sharing
- **Hands**
 - Marketable Skills
 - Teamwork
 - Self-motivation
 - Contributions to group effort
- **Health**
 - Self-discipline
 - Character
 - Self-responsibility
 - Self-esteem

**Note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

Additional Resources:

4-H Guide to Digital Photography by Daniel Johnson

[Nat Geo Kids Guide to Photography](#)

[Tips for Taking Great Photos | Brand and Style Guidelines | University of Arkansas](#)

[Smartphone photography - Adobe](#)

[Black and white photography tips and ideas - Adobe](#)

[Adobe Learn Photography](#)

[You be the photo judge!](#)

[Photography Project Sheet—California 4-H](#)

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Photography Project

Guidelines:

- Photos must be taken from the time of last year's fair to this year's fair.
- Photographs will be judged on the specific guidelines the photograph was entered in, artistic merit, originality, creativity, and technical aspects.
- First year photography members are highly recommended to do the first-year workbook as it helps introduce the camera, features, and special tips. First year photography members can also enter other categories as well.
- Photographs should reflect the members' age, years in the project and experience. More experienced members should be doing more challenging shots than they did previously.
- Photographs should be uncropped 5x7" and affixed to a mount board, mat board, foam core board or frame. Photograph edges and corners **MUST** be showing.
- Each photograph may only be entered once.
- No captions are permitted on the front of the mat unless specified in the class specific guidelines.
- On the back of your mat board, you need to include:
 - Name
 - 4-H age
 - Years in photography project
 - Class numbers your photo belongs in
- **Beginner (1st and 2nd year) photography 4-H members should start out by**
 - Researching the history and evolution of the camera (can use this research for educational project)
 - Know your camera and its parts.
 - Learn the basics of camera care.
 - Understand how to organize and store photographs (digitally and physically)
 - Learn about composition.
 - Learn to brace your camera for a sharp photograph.
 - Explore basic lighting techniques.
 - Take photos of places, people, and pets
 - Learn how to self-critique your photographs.
 - Look for more ways to exhibit your photographs for fun or competition.
- **Intermediate (3rd and 4th year) photography 4-H members should learn:**
 - To better control lighting
 - Use flash techniques.
 - Adjust the depth of field.
 - Gain more knowledge about photography terms such as aperture and rule of thirds.
 - Understanding focal point, background, foreground, and framing
 - Self-critique your photographs on a more advanced level
 - More in-depth history of the camera than previously known (eligible for education project)
 - Use of a photograph (multiple photos) to tell a story
 - Historically–Tiananmen Square “Tank Man”
 - <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/05/world/tiananmen-square-tank-man-cnnphotos/>
 - Dorthea Lange– “migrant mother”
 - <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/50989>
- **Advanced (5th year and beyond) photography 4-H members should**
 - Master composition using symmetry, shape, pattern, and texture to capture creative photos.
 - Understand the impact of color.
 - Try out different lenses (prime, macro, telephoto, fisheye, wide-angle and color lenses)
 - Lens filters can be a cost-effective way to try out new lenses without the large cost of buying a whole new lens.
 - Explore specialized genres like aerial, underwater, or astronomy photography.
 - Practice with different light sources and light meter readings.
 - Apply technical and artistic skills in both film-based and digital photography.

B&H (<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/>) is a reliable resource for film, digital and alternative photo supplies.

Section A –Photography Education

- 4-H members can participate in one of the workbooks (1st, 2nd, or 3rd year), the photography educational project and the college and career readiness all in one year.
- Photography educational projects and workbooks can be done year after year but should be doing more challenging projects the farther they get into the project.
- When exhibiting any of the workbooks, the exhibit should be a notebook, binder, or portfolio folder with the photos taken for each activity with the activity labeled along with a brief explanation of how your photo supports the activity, and answering the “talking it over” portion of each activity.
- 1st year workbook–Photography Basics Book 1– [2019 Photography Curriculum Level 1: Photography Basics](#)
 - **Highly recommended first year photography project members or those who want to get back to the basics of photography.**
 - This workbook helps 4-H members to understand.
 - Parts of the camera and how to use your camera
 - Best features/tools/techniques to use in different circumstances.
 - How to take the best photo from different angles/perspectives.
 - and so much more.
- 2nd year workbook–Next Level Photography Book 2– [2019 Photography Curriculum Level 2: Next Level Photography – Shop 4-H](#)
 - **Highly recommended for second year photography project members or those who have not done the second-year workbook.**
 - This workbook helps 4-H members to understand:
 - Different lenses and the effects you can get from using one or multiple.
 - Different ways to use lighting to affect the mood/outcome of the photo.
 - Ways on how to take interesting photos with different compositions.
 - And so much more.
- 3rd year workbook–Mastering Photography Book 3– [2019 Photography Curriculum Level 3: Mastering Photography – Shop 4-H](#)
 - **Highly recommended third year photography project members or those who have not done the third-year workbook.**
 - This workbook helps 4-H members to understand.
 - How to frame the main subject in your project
 - How to take long exposure photographs and get the desired effect.
 - How to set up and take still life and portraiture photographs
 - And so much more
- Photography educational project
 - Create a notebook, binder, or poster to educate someone about photography or the camera itself.
 - Use notes, photographs, photocopies, diagrams, before and after photos, photo collages, etc. to share your knowledge with the public.
 - **Example** education projects
 - Knowledge of photography
 - History of photography
 - Build a pinhole camera and explain how it works.
 - Venn-diagrams of film and digital cameras. Using photos to explain your points.
 - Film/alternative photo processes.

- College and career readiness
 - Recommended for advanced photography 4-H members or 4-H members in Junior/Senior year, getting college ready or looking to enter into a photography career.
 - Choose one from the list below or something else that will help prepare for college or career.
 - Create a photography portfolio that can be used to apply to schools, jobs or internships.
 - Explore careers in photography and learn what education or training is required.
 - Interview someone in the photography field that you are interested in.
 - Find scholarship opportunities available for young photographers.
 - Learn about product photography from a business standpoint.
 - [What is product photography and how do you do it?](#)

Section B–Color Photography and Section C–Black and White Photography

- Photographs should be uncropped 5x7” and affixed to a mount board, mat board, foam core board or frame. Photograph edges and corners MUST be showing.
- No digital editing will be allowed in these 2 categories. Any digitally edited photograph should be entered into section E.
- 4-H members can enter each class each year but should do more challenging projects the farther they get into the project.
- 3 Photo Series
 - Tips on how to create a series of photographs.
 - [5 Steps to Producing a Powerful Photography Series](#)
- 4-H Photography–
 - One photograph of last year’s fair, 4-H community club activities or community service projects, 4-H member working on a 4-H project, etc.
 - **You must make sure you have consent from people in the photographs for them to be displayed at the fair.**
- Abstract
 - Tips for abstract photography
 - [Abstract photography: What is abstract photography? - Adobe](#)
- Action/Trick Shot
 - Tips for action/sports photography
 - [Sports photography: Tips for getting started - Adobe](#)
- Animal(s)
 - Tips for photographing animals
 - [Wildlife Photography Tips: The Complete Guide to Getting Started](#)
- Architecture, Building or Statue
 - Tips for photographing architectural photography.
 - [Tips for shooting stunning architectural photography - Affinity Spotlight](#)
- Birds or Fowl
 - Tips for photographing birds/fowl
 - [Bird photography: A beginner's guide - Adobe](#)
- Butterflies, Bees, Dragonflies, Moths
 - Tips for photographing butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and moths
 - [Top 10 Tips for Taking Great Photos of Butterflies](#)
 - [Guide to Photographing Bugs: Macro Photography - Apogee Photo Magazine](#)
- Favorite Photo
 - Choose your favorite photograph. It must be different from any other photograph displayed.
- Flower(s)
 - Tips for Flower/Foliage photography
 - [Plant and flower photography ideas and tips - Adobe](#)

- Foliage
 - Tips for foliage photography
 - [10 Tips for Shooting Autumn Foliage](#)
- Insects, Worms, Larva, Bugs, Spiders
 - Tips for insects, worms, larva, bugs and spiders
 - [Tips for Photographing Insects](#)
 - [Insect Photography Tips – How to Capture Cool Critters](#)
- Holiday (Any)
 - Tips for holiday photographs
 - [Ten Tips for Better Holiday Photos](#)
- Joiner Photography
 - Joiner photography is created by photographing a single scene in small sections that overlap and then joining them all together either digitally or physically.
 - Tips for joiner photography
 - [3rd year workbook– “Mastering Photography” Activity 13](#)
 - [Joiner Photography](#)
- Landscapes
 - Tips for landscape photography
 - [Landscape photography tips - Adobe](#)
- Macro-Photography
 - Tips for macro-photography
 - [What is macro photography? - Adobe](#)
- Pets & Pets in Costumes
 - Tips for pet portraiture
 - [Pet photography tips and ideas - Adobe](#)
- Portrait, Self-Portrait–
 - Tips for portrait photographs
 - [Creative ideas for self-portrait photography | Adobe](#)
 - [Black and white portrait photography - Adobe](#)
 - [Portrait photography tips and ideas from experts - Adobe](#)
 - **Please make sure the person (or parent of person) in the photo gives consent to having their photo displayed at the fair.**
- Snakes, Lizards, Reptiles
 - Tips for reptile photography
 - [8 Reptile Photography Tips and Tricks for the Best Images](#)
- Traveling Photography
 - This section is for photographs taken while being a passenger traveling in a car, plane, train, boat, etc.
 - Tips for travel photography
 - [Travel photography tips - Adobe](#)

Section D–Film photography

- 35mm Film Color
- 35mm Film Black and White
- Any other film photography
 - Anything that is shot with film that is not of the above dimensions, for example, large or medium format cameras.

Section E–Digitally Altered

- Digitally corrected photo
 - All photos must be original photos of the 4-H members.
 - Either digitally shot or film shot (and scanned in) photograph that a problem is fixed
 - Example of problems are.
 - red eye
 - dust on the print
 - Something unwanted in the shot
 - Know the software you use to do the correction.
 - Digitally corrected photographs must show the before and after prints when submitted for judging.
- Digitally modified photos
 - All photos used must be original photos of the 4-H member.
 - 2-3 photos combined digitally as 1 photo or many artistic alterations in fewer photos.
 - Know the software used to make alterations.
 - The original unedited photos must accompany the digitally altered print for judging.
- Any other digitally altered photos.

Section F–Photo Album/Journal

- Depicting good labeling and captioning, older photos are ok.
- This category is to encourage good labeling and informative captions. Not decorated pages like a scrapbook.
- You can use your own photos or family photos.
- Label so the next generation knows who is in the photo. Example: write 'Grandma Mabel', not just 'Grandma' Put the date on photo, if your family can't pinpoint it, write 'circa 1980' Meaning 'about 1980'
- Digital
 - Make sure to write who is in the photo, when it was taken and where along with any special memories you want to later look back on
 - To create a digital photo album, you can create your own or follow the link below to create a photo journal in Google Docs with video directions to help.
 - [Create a Photo Journal in Google Docs](#)
 - If you use a digital photo journal, make sure to bring a print version of your photo journal to judging in a presentation folder, binder or something similar
- Physical
 - When using a physical journal make sure that you are using archival safe adhesive to attach your photographs to your journal and allow any pen to dry before flipping the page to make sure it doesn't smudge or bleed onto the next page
 - Make sure to write who is in the photo, when it was taken and where along with any special memories you want to later look back on. If writing on the back of photographic paper, make sure to write with a photo safe pen and let dry for 10 minutes before putting anything on top of it so it has time to dry and adhere to the photo paper.
 - Do not use regular felt tip markers. They don't dry properly on photographic paper and will wipe off onto any surface it touches.

Section G—Alternative Photo Processes

- Note: These processes are less specific than printing a digital photograph so be prepared to do some experimentation and don't have a specific outcome in mind as some of these techniques come from the beginning/experimental phases of photography
- Each class under section G is allowed to submit 1-3 images mounted together per class.
- 4-H members can enter each class each year but should do more challenging projects the farther they get into the project.
- Camera less photographs
 - This is the creation of an image without the use of a camera, such as a photogram (directly placing objects directly onto a surface of light-sensitive material, such as photographic paper.
- Cyanotypes
 - A camera-less technique that involves laying an object on paper coated with a solution of iron salts before exposing it to UV light and washing it with water to create stunning white and Prussian blue images.
- Image transfers
 - This is taking a printed image and transferring it from one medium (paper, metal, etc.) to another surface which creates a unique, ethereal image similar to the monotypes produced by traditional printmaking.
- Chlorophyll print
 - Chlorophyll print is an image directly recorded on a plant leaf without using any chemistry or ink on the leaf.
 - This process is temporary as the leaf or plant matter used will dry up and turn brown as it dies. It is recommended that when the chlorophyll print is completed, youth take a photo close up of the plant/leaf with a plain background and bring that photograph in.
 - *Note: you are working with nature so it may take a few attempts to get the image to come out the way you want*
- Pinhole
 - By using a quick pinhole camera and use of photo paper you can create a pin hole print by allowing light to pass through a small aperture onto light sensitive paper or film.
 - This process creates a dreamy and magical photograph.
- Any other alternative photo process
 - Any process of creating a photograph that has not been listed above.