



## GET YOUR EXHIBIT FAIR READY WITH THESE HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE JUDGES

# Tips and Suggestions for Photography Projects

### GUIDELINES FOR YOUR 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

- You must have taken the photograph(s).
- The photograph(s) must have been taken in the current 4-H Club Year.
- You can use a variety of equipment for your photographs including a camera, tablet, cell phone, etc.
- **Keep in mind, ribbon placing is based on the photographic exhibit, your knowledge and skills AND your discussion with the judge.**
- The best of your photograph(s) always have the WOW factor.
- They stand out - make you say WOW!
- **Neatness counts!**
- You can use glue sticks, photo corners, rubber cement to adhere your photographs.
- Check to see if there is glue showing.
- If you use a pencil and ruler to mark where to place your photographs, did you erase the marks?
- Are there any fingerprints or stray marks to clean off your 4-H exhibit?
- Does it need a title? Will it help explain your exhibit? With a group of photographs (a photo story), a title is a great tool to describe your exhibit.
- Does each photograph(s) need a description or explanation? A short sentence for brief explanation under each photograph can be used to explain a story or photo.
- If you use individual letters or a short sentence printed on your computer, they should be carefully attached to your exhibit. Carefully cut around anything you print on your computer.
- If you are printing by hand, make sure it is straight and done neatly.
- Use either precut matte boards or make sure the ones you cut have clean edges.
- Neutral colors work best (black, white, off-white, grey). Don't choose a color that will compete with your photograph(s), they should be the first thing people see.
- See premium book for complete guidelines.
- **Keep it simple!**
- Don't include stickers or drawings that distract from your photograph(s).
- Colored paper should be used in limited amounts (1-2 colors work best).
- Are the photograph(s) straight and evenly spaced on your exhibit space?

## EXHIBIT IDEAS

### Elements of Photography

- **Photo story** of 3 to 7 (4 X 6") photos in a multiple opening photo matte or displayed on 14 X 22 poster board (large poster board cut in half) to show a process (before and after).
- **Photo story** can also include documentation, some examples might include:
  - Town's history could include photos of residences: e.g. families, government officials, veterans, teachers, service officials (fire, police, medical), volunteers, founding families, history, etc.
  - Your 4-H project, or another member's 4-H project
  - Your club's community service project
  - Environmental issue(s) or a community need
  - "A day in the Life" of... (rural or city youth, an elementary, middle school or high school youth, etc.)
- **Common theme** or subject of 3 to 7 photos (4 X 6"), for example:
  - people, building, landscape, and animal(s)-one of each topic or multiple photos of one of the topics
  - seasons/nature
  - action
  - close-ups
  - weather
  - shapes
- **Panorama**, a continuous series of pictures of one subject
- **Enlargement or multiple 4 X 6" photos** to show **photographic elements** you learned about and includes explaining how you used your camera to take these images. Ideas include:
  - aperture priority
  - shutter speed
  - rule of thirds
  - leading lines
  - ISO
  - flash photography
- **Enlargement or multiple 4 X 6" photos** to show **photographic style**. Ideas include:
  - illustrate lighting technique
  - journalistic photography
  - documentary photography
  - commercial photography
  - portrait setup
  - collage

## Creative/Applied Photography

- **Enlarged photograph** (5" X 7" or 8" X 10") digitally processed or software enhanced on neutral matting (white, tan, grey or black)

Note: The unaltered 4" X 6" photo must be included on the back of the exhibit.

- **Calendar, brochure, event poster, etc** (NO scrapbooks)

- **Illustrate software skills:** Using multiple layer techniques, selective coloring, HDR etc.

- **Slideshow**- compilation of photo images-use titles, voice over, background selections, to make a show, etc. For judging, the slideshow can show on a computer, tablet or DVD or be illustrated on a poster board.

### WHEN TAKING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS CONSIDER:

- Where are you standing in relation to the subject?
- How does where you stand and the time of day or weather affect how your photograph(s) will turn out?
- What settings should you use on your camera?
- Should you use a flash?
- Are there any distractions? (things you don't need in to include in a photo which would distract from the main subject)
  - For example, if you are taking a photograph of your little brother out in the yard, are there things laying on the ground behind him like a pail or basketball, or another person standing in the background that don't need to be included?)
- Fill the photograph with your subject. Don't be afraid to get up close. (this helps to avoid distractions in your photograph, which is mentioned above)
- Can you make your photograph better?
  - For example, are there parts of the photo that should be cropped? (changes the borders/margins on your photo) Can special effects from computer software strengthen the photograph?
  - Experiment - Editing software has many options. However, be prepared to tell the judge what you did to change the photograph(s) and why your chose to make these changes.

### WHAT DO 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGES CONSIDER WHEN THEY ARE JUDGING?

- The quality of your photograph(s) based on aspects listed above.
- Are your photography skills and knowledge (including terms you have learned) appropriate for your age and experience?
  - It doesn't make sense if a 4-H member has taken an outstanding photograph(s) but doesn't know how to use their camera or doesn't know how they took the photograph(s).
- How did you mount/display your photograph and how much care did you take in getting your exhibit ready? (check premium list for details)
- Did you seek help from an older youth or adult to learn more about photography? What did you learn from them and how did this affect your photography?

- What resources did you use?
  - 4-H Photography project books
    - <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/educationalresources/adventures-with-your-camera-b/PHOTO-2.aspx>
    - <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-photography.aspx>
  - Camera brand sites (i.e. Nikon, Canon, Sony, Kodak, etc.)
  - Internet sites such as Pinterest or photography websites
  - Photo books or DVDs from the library
- During this 4-H Club year, did you try something new to increase your photography knowledge and skills? What did you try and what did you learn?
- Do you own the camera you used or do you have to share it with others, or borrow it from someone? (The judge understands this can affect how available the camera is to you when you want to take a photograph.)
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#### **SOME POSSIBLE QUESTIONS THAT A 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGE MIGHT ASK**

- What makes this a good photograph or a good grouping of photographs?
- What is your main subject?
- Why did you place the subject where you did in the photograph?
  - Explain **composition**
- Tell me the story of your photograph(s)
- What was the setting when you took your photos?
  - Day or night, weather, fog, wind, moonlight, etc.
  - How did the setting affect your photograph?
- Tell me why you took these photograph(s).
  - For example, is it an important person, special occasion, recording a special event or vacation, or telling how to do something?
- Tell me how you took this photograph(s)?
  - What camera settings were used?
  - Did the camera automatically choose flash, or did you choose a flash setting?
  - What lens did you choose (if using an SLR) and why?
- Did you have to go back more than once to the same place to get the best photograph?
- Did you plan out this photograph(s) or did it just happen?
- If you could retake this photograph(s), would you do something different?

## BE PREPARED TO TELL THE JUDGE ABOUT YOUR 4-H PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE DURING THIS PAST 4-H YEAR

- What did you like the most about your experience in your 4-H photography project?
- What were the challenges in your 4-H photography project?
- How did you choose your photograph(s) for your exhibit?
- How did you put your exhibit together for the fair (matting, photo grouping, text used)?
- Did you have any help with your photography-printing photo(s), putting together your exhibit? If yes, explain what you learned from the person that helped you.
- What did you learn the most from your photography experiences this year?
- Is there anything you would like to change about your exhibit?

## POSSIBLE TERMS TO KNOW; BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THEM AND HOW DO THEY RELATE TO YOUR PHOTO EXHIBIT

- **Leading lines** - something in your photo that **leads** the person looking at your photograph from one place to another within your photograph (for example a road, river, fence row, crop line).
- **Rule of thirds** - (a term in composition) a tic-tac-toe grid (in your camera viewfinder or imagined) over your photograph
  - Helps determine the placement of your subject
  - Divides the sections your photograph
  - Creates balance and movement
- **Depth or Depth of Field** - aspects of your photo that help show distance, some items look closer, while others look further away
  - A long Depth of Field has focus through the foreground and background.
  - A shallow Depth of Field has focus on one point where the rest of the image is not sharp.

## KNOW YOUR CAMERA

- What camera did you use? (Brand and name)
- Did you use any camera settings? (If yes, which ones and why did you choose the settings)
- Did the flash fire? (If yes, how did this affect your photograph)
- Can you change the lens on your camera?
  - If so, have you used a different lens?
  - Which lens did you choose to use and why this lens?

- Did you use any software to enhance (change) your photograph(s)?
  - Which software tools did you use?
  - Why did you choose to use them?
  - How did it help the end result?
- Did you use a tripod? If yes, why did you use it?

### **IMPORTANT!!**

Judges understand if unexpected things happen that affect your 4-H exhibit. They also understand accidents can happen on the way to the fair. (For example, if someone stepped on your photo exhibit poster or it got water spots on it when you were bringing it into the 4-H building when it was raining). Explain to the judge what happened.



**Have fun with your 4- H photography exhibit! See you at the fair!**