



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



2022-2023 Cass County 4-H
Photography Contest
Rules & Guidelines

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aide service or accommodation in order to participate in the any of these events are encouraged to contact our office within 10 working days prior to the program. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

MEMORANDUM

March 13, 2023

TO: Cass, and adjoining County 4-H members, leaders, and non-4H'ers
FROM: The County Extension Office
SUBJECT: 2022-2023 Cass County 4-H Photography Contest

This is the 2022-2023 release of the Cass County Photography Contest Information Packet. You may submit your photo entries to the Cass County Extension Office on or before 5 PM, March 28, 2023.

Photography resources and training is available upon request, and project leaders and parents may contact the Extension Office if they have needs. Also included is a survey in the packet, that participants are expected to complete and return, when they turn in their entries. The County Photography Contest is not in association with the District Contest, but is always in alignment with the State Contest. We therefore, encourage that with this release, you would use it to make plans for the State Photography Contest (Seniors ONLY), and other upcoming contests (everyone).

For your convenience, the county rules follow the [State Rules](#). Only senior level 4-H members (Grades 9 – 12) will compete on to the state level, which is a digital contest. Entries for the contest are usually completed through [4-H CONNECT/ Online](#) between April 1, 2023 to April 15, 2023. Entry fee is \$10.00 per photograph. One of most important aspects of the photography project is learning about camera settings, photography ratios, mounting, and photo resolution. Volunteer leaders and 4-H members are encouraged to include these lesson topics in their project experiences.

Resources:

4-H Photography Curriculum: http://tx4-h.tamu.edu/explore/Explore_Photography.pdf
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/>
<http://www.betterphoto.com/allAbout.asp>



2022-2023 Cass County 4-H Photography Contest

Location: Entries – Cass County Extension Office

Entry Deadline –Tuesday, March 28, 2023. All photos must be turned in by 5:00 PM for judging to be completed by the weekend after submission.

Participation: Note: only ONE photo per category per individual (maximum of 15 entries). **There are No FEES for county photography contest.**

Photos can be entered in Black & White or Color – these are no longer separate categories. They will be judged against one another within each category. Each photo must have an entry label (labels are included in this packet)

Age Divisions: 4-H Adult Volunteers (county level only)

Clover Kids – Grades K – 2 (county level only)

Junior – Grades 3 – 5 (may enter in CEP state level Contest) - **NEW**

Intermediate – Grades 6 – 8 (may enter in CEP state level Contest) - **NEW**

Senior – Grade 9 – 12 (Category winner will move on to Texas 4-H state contest)

All participants will receive a ribbon based on quality (Blue/ Red/ White etc.). Note: This event is used as a selection process for ONLY the state contests. The seniors are the only age division moving on to the Texas 4-H state contest, while the Juniors and Intermediate age division are the only one moving on to the CEP state level photography contest. (**NEW**)

Awards: All County level entrants must be current enrolled 4-H members. Non-4-H'ers will compete in a separate category or group. All photos must have been taken by the 4-H member between the dates of **January 1, 2022 and the time of entry**. No previously submitted photos are eligible to be entered. Carefully follow the guidelines for mounting your photographs – see instructions below.

Eligibility:

Submit this via 4-H ONLINE:

<https://texas.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> between April 1 –15, 2023.

The categories for 2022-2023 are:

For state contest:

Photo Entry

- 1. 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. **Examples:** Chickens, cows, dogs, cats, hamsters, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, etc. All waterfowl (ducks and geese) should be entered in Animals - Wildlife.
- 2. Animal - Wildlife** (this category will now include aquatic and marine animals)
- 3. Catch-All – Revised** (this category should not be used to enter photos that clearly align to another one of the categories). It is designed for miscellaneous photos which do not clearly fit into another category. **Not Allowed:** A duplicate photo also entered in another category.
- 4. Details & Macro** - Getting in close is the name of the game for this category. The goal is to zoom in close on an object to see its finer details or to make small objects appear life-sized or larger than we do not normally get to see with the naked eye. **Examples:** Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a water droplet, etc.

- 5. Elements of Design** - Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. Photo can consist of any subject matter. **Examples:** Line, pattern, perspective, shape, etc.
- 6. Enhanced** – formally the Digital Darkroom category. A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, stitched, or composite image. Other variations are allowed as well.
7. **Food** - 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. **Examples:** Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc. **NOT ALLOWED:** A photo of alcohol beverages.
8. **Landscape & Nature (Non-Animal)** - outdoor scenics, nature images **Ex:** Seascape, Cityscape etc.
9. **Leading Line** - This image composition technique features lines that draw the viewer’s eye from point A to point B, which is the primary subject. **Example:** A river that begins in the foreground and draws your attention to a photogenic bridge in the background.
10. **Long Exposure** - 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 lowlight conditions. **Examples:** fireworks, moving water, light trails, Milky Way, light painting, night, or low-light conditions, etc.
11. **Motion/Action** – Photos capturing movement within a single photo. **Examples:** Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across field, etc.
12. **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 subject. **Examples:** Babies, families, kids, portraits, models/fashion, etc.
13. **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 Landscape & Nature category. Examples: A rose, an upward shot of a tree, etc.
14. **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. Examples: shadows/silhouettes of people, plants, animals, structures, architectures, or natural structures. **NOT ALLOWED:** reflections.
15. **Theme** – **For 2022-2023, the theme is “Reflection”**. Reflection photography uses reflective surfaces to create an artistic “echo” of a scene. It includes photos that are creatively composed to capture an image from a reflective surface. The reflection should play a significant part of the image’s composition. **Examples:** reflections on polished metal, glass, mirror, and water.

TIPS

General comments from judges:

1. Get your subject in focus. See Texas 4-H 2019 [Photography Book](#).
2. Read and follow the rules of the competition you are entering. Each photography contest will have different rules and classes.
3. Be careful when enlarging pictures; the photo can lose its sharpness and effect.
4. Use a sharp utility knife when cutting the foam or mat board. Jagged edges are taken into consideration as part of the quality of your entry. Have adult supervision and assistance when cutting your foam or mat board.
5. Cut the board AFTER the photograph is attached to it so the size of the mat and photo are exactly the same.
6. Take shots from different angles so you can see the difference when published and decide which shot is best.
7. Remember to look at the background of your shot - it is part of the photograph too. It can make or break a photo.
8. Do not forget the lighting.
9. Remove dates from the photo if possible. (turn feature off before taking photos)

DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES

It is extremely important that 4-H members, project leaders, parents, and county Extension agents review the descriptions of each category very carefully. Please do not enter photographs into categories, which 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.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1. **Quality Awards:** Blue, Red, and White quality awards will be given to entries based on the scoring criteria. An honorable mention will also be selected from each age division.
2. **Best of Show Awards:** One overall Best of Show Award will be presented.
3. **A CEP Youth Board Special Award(s):** For the **most entries** in the overall competition.

THE COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST – DISPLAY

Photo Entries – may be displayed at the County Office or other determined location, after judging is completed and sometimes during the Wildflower Trails Festival.

- **Best of Show Display:** Best of Show Photos may also be displayed on the 4-H Blog and or the Extension Website.

2023 Cass County 4-H Photography Contest Score Sheet



Name: _____ Club/County: _____

Category: _____

You are competing against previously determined standards of excellence, not against your peers. Before preparing your entry for submission please carefully review the judging criteria. Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the participant will be awarded either a blue, red, white, or a participation ribbon, and an additional award for "Best of show"

JUDGES, PLEASE INDICATE POINTS AWARDED IN FAR-RIGHT COLUMN:

CATEGORY	Minimum Points	Maximum Points	POINTS AWARDED	
Impact	0	15		
Creativity	0	15		
Technical	0	20		
Composition	0	20		
Subject Matter	0	15		
Story Telling	0	10		
Mounting	0	5		
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED				
AWARD (circle one)	Blue Award (100 points to 81 points)	Red Award (80 to 51 points)	White Award (50 to 31 points)	Participant Award (30 to 0 points)

JUDGES COMMENTS:

Content: Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, hateful, threatening, violate any laws or otherwise distasteful will be prohibited. All photos should be based on a 4-H member's original photograph taken by the 4-H member. Cass County 4-H reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.

Model & Property Release: any 4-H member submitting a photograph acknowledges that they have sufficient permission of any recognizable locations or people appearing in their photograph(s). This permission is granted to both the photographer and the Texas 4-H program to publish and use as needed. Documentation should be retained by the 4-H member and may be requested by Cass County 4-H staff as needed. The staff and volunteers involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, or non-displayed photographs. **By entry, the 4-H member/ participant accepts this release.**

Mounting Requirements:

- ✿ All prints must be permanently mounted on PHOTOGRAPHIC MOUNT BOARD OR A BOARD OF LIKE THICKNESS (foam board is acceptable), nothing larger or smaller than 8"x10", suitable for hanging without additional framing.
- ✿ Photos must completely cover foam or mount board backing.
- ✿ Masonite, photo folders, corrugated cardboard or poster board is **not** acceptable.
- ✿ Entrants should be aware that double faced tape, glue, or rubber cement will not hold up when the photo is displayed under high heat or in humid conditions (use dry mounting, if possible).
- ✿ Matting of any kind is not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- ✿ Do not attach Velcro grip to the back of your photo.

Photo size:

- ✿ Photos are to be 8"x10". They should not fall below or above these parameters.
Panoramic shots DO NOT meet this requirement. 8 ½ x 11 DOES NOT meet this requirement.
Both will be disqualified.

Proper Photo Identification:

Use photo label included in packet.

Judging Criteria: Participants should use viewing distance and the following criteria as guidelines

Standards of Excellence & Judging

Definitions

- Impact:** Definition: 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:** 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:** Definition: Technical is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects: • 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:** Definition: Placement of the subject in the photo demonstrating artistic ability. Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all 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.
- Standard: A pleasing balance exists among all components of the composition.
- Subject Matter:** Definition: Subject Matter should always be appropriate to the story being told (i.e. category the photo is entered) 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:** Definition: 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.
- Standard: The photo clearly communicates the subject and fits the chosen category.
- Mounting:** Definition: Use of recommended sizing and mounting guidelines.
- Standard: The photographer utilized the contest sizing and mounting instructions.

****Entries are judged according to the standards of excellence established for this project contest. You are competing against previously determined standards of excellence, not against your peers for ribbon selection.** Before preparing your entry for submission, please carefully review these judging definitions and standards of excellence section or page.

CASS COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENTRY LOG

(Submit this form to the Cass County Office along with photographs,
and surveys.) CLUB _____

PARTICIPANT	Division Clover JR or INT SR or AD																Total # of Pics
		Animal - Domestic	Animal - Wildlife	Catch All	Details & Macro	Elements of Design	Enhanced	Food	Landscape & Nature	Leading Line	Long Exposure	Motion/ Action	People	Plant/ Flora	Shadow/ Silhouette	Theme	
1																	
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	
6																	
7																	
8																	
9																	
10																	

Total # of Photographs: _____

Signature of Club Manager/Teacher/ Project Leader or Parent _____

PHOTOGRAPHY LABEL

Name (First Last):		✓	Select Category	
			Animals-Domestic	
Age Division:	<input type="checkbox"/> Clover Kid		Animal-Wildlife	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (grade 3, 4, or 5)		Catch-All	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate (grade 6, 7, or 8)		Details & Macro	
County:	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (grade 9, 10, 11, or 12)		Elements of Design	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult		Enhanced	
4-H	Circle one (YES/ NO)		Food	
Non-4-H	Circle One (YES/ NO)		Landscape & Nature	
Did you use any special effects? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			Leading Line	
If yes, briefly describe in the space below:			Long Exposure	
			Motion/Action	
			People	
			Plant/Flora	
			Shadow/ Silhouette	
			Theme	
JUDGING RUBRIC (for judge's use only)				
Category	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Impact				
Creativity				
Technical				
Composition				
Subject Matter				
Story Telling				
Mounting				
Comments:				



Mark as shown: Please use a ball-point pen or a thin felt tip. This form will be processed automatically.

Correction: Please follow the examples shown on the left hand side to help optimize the reading results.

1. Science Skills and Interest in STEM Careers

BEFORE the Program

For each of the topics listed below, Mark the **ONE** number that best reflects your level of understanding and INTEREST before participating in this activity.

- 0=Never Knew This
- 1=Poor
- 2= Fair
- 3= Good
- 4= Excellent

0 1 2 3 4

1.1 **Analytical:** I know the steps to take a successful photo such as: subject selection, lighting focus, and camera settings.

1.2 **Observational:** I can describe characteristics of my photo such as shape, size, texture, and subject.

1.3 **Observational:** I can recognize if the quality of a photo is acceptable.

1.4 **Technical:** I can use and maintain photo equipment safely and properly.

1.5 **Technical:** I know how to adjust the lighting in my photo.

1.6 **Interest in STEM Careers:** I learned more about photography and/or STEM Careers.

1.7 **Interest in STEM Careers:** I would like to have a career in photography or another STEM related career.

AFTER the Program

For each of the topics listed below, Mark the **ONE** number that best reflects your level of understanding and INTEREST after participating in this activity.

- 0=Never Knew This
- 1= Poor
- 2= Fair
- 3=Good
- 4= Excellent

0 1 2 3 4

1.8 **Analytical:** I know the steps to take a successful photo such as: subject selection, lighting focus, and camera settings.

1.9 **Observational:** I can describe characteristics of my photo such as shape, size, texture, and subject.

1.10 **Observational:** I can recognize if the quality of a photo is acceptable.

1.11 **Technical:** I can use and maintain photo equipment safely and properly.

1.12 **Technical:** I know how to adjust the lighting in my photo.

1.13 **Interest in STEM Careers:** I learned more about photography and/or STEM Careers.

1.14 **Interest in STEM Careers:** I would like to have a career in photography or another STEM related career.



2. Life/Leadership Skills

Rate the level of importance the 4-H photography project has on the following life skills listed below. Please mark the most appropriate choice for each skill.

	Not at all important	A little important	Important	Very important
2.1 decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 build positive self-esteem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 organizational skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 ability to problem solve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5 setting goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.6 self-motivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.7 How has this program helped you? How will you use this information?

3. Getting to Know You

Please tell us more about yourself.

3.1 You are a Male Female

3.2 Your age is...
 10 or younger 11-12 13-15
 15-17 18 or older

3.3 Are you Hispanic? Yes No

3.4 Your race is...
 African-American/Black Asian Native American/Native Alaskan
 White Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Other
 Choose not to respond

Thank You!

