



# California 4-H Photography Competition

## Official Rules and Criteria

### Official Rules

- All regular 4-H members aged 9-19 are allowed to participate.
- **Limit of 2** photographs per person may be entered.
- **MUST** pre-register to participate in the competition. Can register at: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/Programs/Events/SFD/Photo/>
- Photographs must be taken by the person entering the contest.
- Photographs must have been taken within the current 4-H year.
- Photographs must be mounted on a photograph mount/mat board or foam board. Maximum mount/mat board size is 11 x 14 inches.
- Photographs must be at least 8 x 10 inches.
- Framed photographs will **NOT** be accepted. A double mount board does not classify as framed.
- Covering photographs in a plastic protective is strongly discouraged.
- The following information is required on back of photograph:
  - Title of photograph
  - Date and Location the photograph was taken
  - 4-H Member's Name, Age, County, and 4-H Club/Unit
  - Contact Information Including: e-mail, phone, mailing address
- Online submission of photographs will **NOT** be judged. Photographs must be physically brought to contest at UC Davis the day of the competition.

- Photographs can be taken by either digital cameras, cell phones, or by cameras using film.
- Photos may be either developed by the member or professionally developed.
- Photographs can be printed via a photo printer with a high dpi or at a professional printing services.
- Digital enhancements to photographs are allowed.

## **Judging Criteria**

Entries will be judged in the following areas.

**FOCUS:** Adjustment of the distance setting on a lens to appropriately define the subject. Standard: Main subject in focus, unless blurriness is obviously intentional (ex: to show motion).

**EXPOSURE:** The overall brightness and contrast in the photo. Standard: A range of light-to-dark contrast, not over or under exposed, unless it is obviously intended.

**COMPOSITION:** Placement of the subject in the photo demonstrating artistic ability. Standard: A pleasing balance exists among all components of the composition (ex: Rule of Thirds).

**CREATIVITY USE OF SUBJECT:** The photograph uses the subject to deliver a message in a creative way. Standard: The subject can be easily identified by viewers, and captured in a creative way. Photograph not over cluttered with many subjects.

**UNIQUENESS:** Use of originality, camera angle, lighting, character studies, and/or creativity. Standard: The photographer exhibits creativity throughout the photograph.

**SIZE REQUIREMENTS:** Print and mount board size. Standard: Did the photographer follow the competition rules by using the correct size requirements?

**INFORMATION ON BACK:** Required information on back of matboard. Standard: All the required information listed in the competition rules found on the back of the entry; clear and legible.

**MOUNTING:** Photograph print is placed on a mount/mat board for display. Mount/mat board color should be selected based on the photograph. Does not distract viewer from photograph. Mount board should be clean and have smooth cut edges. Suggested method for mounting: Spray Adhesive Technique. Standard: Photograph is mounted straight and proper. Photograph must stay mounted on its board and not fall while on display.