



4-H Photography Project

PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT/PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The 4-H photography program helps young people:

1. Develop a greater visual awareness of their world.
2. Experiment with a new skill that could grow into a career or an enjoyable hobby.
3. Develop leadership and citizenship skills as effective communicators.

CURRENT EMPHASIS, TRENDS, CHANGES

A very significant change centers on the exhibitor's goal and how the exhibit shows progress toward that goal. Most evaluations should focus on what the 4-H'er tells you he or she wanted to accomplish with the exhibit.

The trend in equipment is clearly toward more automation in cameras. With auto-focus and auto-exposure programs, it's becoming easier for 4-H photographers to shoot sharp, properly exposed pictures. The equipment does a significant share of the technical decision-making automatically. One-time-use cameras have also become popular; at least one model shoots a panoramic view.

However simple or sophisticated the equipment, the 4-H'er still has control over several factors. For example, he or she can make decisions about composition, choice of subject, camera point of view, horizontal versus vertical format, lighting, camera movement and choice of mounting materials. In most cases, you will be most effective as a judge when you offer critique of what 4-H exhibitors can control.

SPECIAL EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

Most of the evaluation should center on the exhibitor's goal and how the exhibit relates to that goal. But there are other questions to consider in addition to the exhibitor's goal. For example, is focus sharp where it's supposed to be sharp? Are horizon lines straight? Was the 4-H'er careful about camera movement? Is the photography extremely over or underexposed? If the photography is mounted, was it done neatly? Does the mount color and size enhance or draw attention away from the photography?

PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT RESOURCES

It may be helpful for you to review the project material available to 4-H'ers in photography. The following are available from each county Extension office or can be ordered online at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/>.

Project Support and Manuals:

- 4H 6434-H Photography Project Worksheet (PDF)
- 4H 643A Adventures with Your Camera-A, for 8-10 year olds
- 4H 643B Adventures with Your Camera-B, for 11-14 year olds

After you have agreed to judge in a county, check with Extension staff to find out if 4-H photography members worked primarily on their own, or if they had access to a photography project leader or county workshops. It will also be helpful to know class descriptions, if you will be conference judging, and about how many 4-H'ers you can expect.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.