

Photography

The purpose of this project area is to establish basic to advanced knowledge of and abilities in using photographic equipment, lighting, and composition to capture images, express feelings, and communicate ideas. Participants can work through the three project levels, progressing from basic to advanced photography skills and techniques. For help getting started with this project contact your county 4-H Extension office.

Rules

1. 4-H members are allowed to exhibit in only one photography level.
2. An image may only be used on one exhibit with the exception of Portfolios, which may include images entered in other classes.
3. **Cameras:** Photos may be taken with any type of film or digital camera, including phones, tablets, and drones.
4. Photos must be shot by 4-H members during the current project year with the exception of Portfolios, which may include images captured and/or exhibited in previous years.
5. Securely attach photos, mats, backing, and data tags. Exhibits that are poorly attached may be disqualified. Do not use photo corners, borders, or place coverings over the exhibits.
6. **Portfolios:** All portfolios must include the following information: 1) 1-page max bio, 2) table of contents, 3) year each photo was taken, 4) title for each image, 5) device make and model used to capture each image, and 6) reflections for each photo. When writing reflections, youth should focus on what new photography techniques or skills they were practicing when they took the photo, what makes the image successful, and what could have been done to improve the image. Portfolios may be presented in either print or digital formats:
 1. Printed portfolios should be presented in an 8.5 inches x 11 inches three-ring binder or similar book format. Recommended photo size is 8 inches x 10 inches. Matting is not necessary.
 2. Digital portfolios may be presented online and must be exhibited along with a single 8.5 inches x 11 inches flyer. Flyers must include a link, URL, or QR code that takes users (judges and fairgoers) to their online portfolio.
7. **Display Exhibits:** At State Fair, display exhibits are only accepted in Level II. Displays consist of three 4 inches x 6 inches photos mounted on a single horizontal 11 inches x 14 inches black or white poster or mat board. Incorrect sizes will not be accepted. No foam board backing should be used. Each photo in the display must be numbered using a pencil. Numbers should be readable but not distract from the overall display. No titles, captions, or stick-on numbers will be allowed. Photos may be mounted vertically or horizontally. Appropriate Data Tags are required (see rule regarding Data Tags).
8. **Print Exhibits:** Print exhibits must be 8 inches x 10 inches printed mounted in 11 inches x 14 inches (outside size) cut matting with a sandwich mat board backing. Incorrect sizes will not be accepted. No foam board should be used for matting or backing. Mat openings may be rectangular or oval. Photos may be horizontal or vertical. No frames are allowed. Appropriate data tags are required (see rule
9. **Data Tags:** Data Tags are required on all print and display exhibits. Data tags are not required for portfolios. Each exhibit must have the appropriate number and level of data tags as outlined below. Data

tags should be securely attached to the back of the exhibit. Current data tags and help sheets are available at <https://go.unl.edu/ne4h-photography>.

1. Level 1 Prints: All level 1 prints must have a Level 1 Data Tag
2. Level 1 Displays: Each photo of the display must include a separate Level 1 Data Tag. Data Tags should be numbered with the corresponding photo's number.
3. Level 2 Prints: All Level 2 prints must have a Level 2 Data Tag
4. Level 2 Displays: Each photo of the display must include a separate Level 2 Data Tag. Data Tags should be numbered with the corresponding photo's number.
5. Level 3 Prints: All Level 3 prints must have a Level 3 Data Tag.

Level 2 Data Tag

Name: _____	Age: _____	County: _____
Years in Photography: _____	Years in the Current Level: _____	
Camera: _____	(brand make & model)	(digital or film)
Focal Length: _____		
Type/Source of light: _____		
Tell us about this photo. Include any special equipment or techniques used.		

Describe any edits or changes made to the picture using digital software.		

Special Awards

On-Campus Exhibition Selection - Level 2 and Level 3 prints exhibited at State Fair may be selected for special on-campus exhibitions. Selected prints will be collected at the end of State Fair and will be returned to county Extension offices after the completion of their on-campus exhibition.

Divisions

Focus on Photography – Not Eligible for State Fair

Class

66561L – Fun with Shadows Display or Print – Photos should capture interesting or creative use of shadows (Activity 4)

66562L – Get in Close Display or Print – Photo should capture a close-up view of the subject or object. (Activity 8)

66563L – Bird's or Bug's Eye View Display or Print – Photo should capture an interesting viewpoint of a subject, either from above (bird's eye view) or below (bug's eye view). (Activity 10)

66564L – Tricks and Magic Display or Print – Photos should capture visual trickery or magic. Trick photography requires creative compositions of objects in space and is intended to trick the person viewing the photo. For example, if someone is standing in front of a flowerpot, the pot might not be visible in the image, making it look as if the flowers are growing out of the person's head. (Activity 11)

66565L - People, Places, or Pets with Personality Display or Print – Photos should have a strong focal point, which could be people, places or pets. Photos should capture the subject’s personality or character. Photos may be posed or un-posed. (Activity 13)

66566L – Black and White Display or Print – Photos should create interest without the use of color. Photos should show strong contrast and/or textures. Photos may be captured in black and white or captured in color and edited to black and white. (Activity 15)

66567L – Challenging Photo Exhibit: Telling a Story Display – Exhibit will include three photos that tell a story without words. Photos may show something being created, destroyed, consumed, moving, or growing. Photos should capture the beginning, middle, and end of a single story, project, or event. Display will consist of three 4 inch x 6 inch photos mounted on a single horizontal 11 inch x 14 inch black or white poster or mat board. Each photo in the display must be numbered using a pencil. Numbers should be readable but not distracting from the overall display. No titles, captions, or stick-on numbers are allowed. Photos may be mounted vertically or horizontally. Data tags are required for each photo in the display. (Activity 14)

Level 2: Next-Level Photography

Class

B181010 - Level 2 Portfolio - (SF88) -: Level 2 portfolios should represent the photographer's best work and must include 5-7 different images from the 4-H member's photography career. At least 2 images must have been taken during the current year. The remaining images may have been taken at any time during the member's 4-H experience and may have been previously exhibited. Portfolios may include photos that are exhibited in other Level 2 classes during the same year. Portfolios must include: 1) 1-page max bio, 2) table of contents, 3) year each photo was taken, 4) title for each image, 5) device make and model used to capture each image, and 6) reflections for each image. When writing reflections, youth should focus on what new photography techniques they were practicing when they took the photo, what makes the image successful, and what could have been done to improve the image.

B181020 - Creative Techniques & Lighting Display or Print - (SF87) - Photos should capture a creative use of lighting, such as diffused lighting, backlighting, or hard lighting, reflections, or another lighting technique covered in Book 2 Next Level Photography (Activity 3, 4, 5)

B181030 - Creative Composition Display or Print - (SF87) - Photos should capture a creative composition using the Rule of Thirds, Golden Triangle, Golden Rectangle, or another composition technique covered in Book 2 Next Level Photography. (Activity 6, 7, 8, 9)

B181040 - Abstract Photography Display or Print - (SF87) - Photos should be abstract or capture a small piece of a larger subject. Abstract photos may not look like anything in particular but should be able to capture a viewer's attention. (Activity 11)

B181050 - Candid Photography Display or Print - (SF87) - Candid photos should capture a special moment or meaningful interaction. Photos should be un-posed. (Activity 10)

B181060 - Expression Through Color Display or Print - (SF87) - Photos should capture a creative use of color or a color scheme, such as complementary, contrasting, monochromatic, warm, cool, primary, secondary, or tertiary. (Activity 13)

Rules

1. Level 2 photographers should be utilizing all the skills and techniques they have developed thus far in their photography careers, especially topics covered in Book 1 Photography Basics, and Book 2 Next Level Photography.

Level 3: Mastering Photography

Class

B182010 - Level 3 Portfolio - (SF88) - Level 3 portfolios should represent the photographer's best work. Level 3 portfolios must include 9-11 images from the 4-H member's photography career. At least 3 images should be from the current year. The remaining images may have been taken at any time during the member's 4-H experience and may have been previously exhibited. Portfolios may include photos that are exhibited in other Level 3 classes during the same year. Portfolios must include 1) 1-page max bio, 2) table of contents, 3) year each photo was taken, 4) title for each image, 5) device make and model used to capture each image, and 6) reflections for each image. When writing reflections, youth should focus on what new photography techniques or skills they were practicing when they took the photo, what makes the image successful, and what could have been done to improve the image.

B182020 - Advanced Techniques & Lighting Print - (SF89) - Photos should show experimentation or exploration of advanced lighting, such as low-light or silhouette photography, or other advanced photography technique, such as astrophotography, underwater photography, or infrared photography. (Activity 3, 4, 5, or 12)

B182030 - Advanced Composition Print - (SF89) - Photos should show advanced compositions, such as using diagonal, horizontal, or vertical lines or repeating shapes to frame a subject or lead the viewer's eye through a scene; breaking the rule of thirds to compose a discordant image; or another advanced composition technique covered in Book 3 Mastering Photography (Activity 6, 7)

B182040 - Portrait Print - (SF89) - A great portrait captures not only a person's physical image but also something of the person's character or personality. Photos may be either formal or informal but must be of one or more human subjects. (Activity 9)

B182050 - Still Life Print - (SF89) - Photos should capture non-moving objects that have been arranged in an interesting way. Photos should demonstrate advanced control over lighting and composition. (Activity 8)

B182060 - Freeze/Blur the Moment Print - (SF89) - Photos should capture a subject in motion. Photographers should adjust the shutter speed to either freeze or blur the movement. (Activity 11)

Rules

1. Level 3 photographers should be exploring and experimenting with advanced techniques. This may include but does not necessarily require using an SLR camera, manual adjustments, or other advanced equipment. Level 3 photographers should be utilizing all the skills and techniques they have developed throughout their photography career, especially topics covered in Book 1 Photography Basics, Book 2 Next Level Photography, and Book 3 Mastering Photography.

Resources

Photography

Get to know your camera; Practice keeping camera steady and level; Practice taking photos, noticing natural light; Notice shadows and their potential in photography; Practice using natural light from several different directions; Practice using flash for fill, solving red-eye problems; Evaluate background, middle-ground, and foreground when taking photos; Practice filling the frame with the subject; Practice eliminating background clutter in photos; Practice using different viewpoints and perspectives in photos; Compose creative, unusual photos; Compose variety of selfies; Take photos of people, places, and things; Sequence photos to tell a story; Create black and white photos; Evaluate photos using critical thinking; Get to know your camera's capabilities using zoom; Practice using different lens filters; Practice using light to portray a specific mood; Practice taking photos of reflections; Practice taking photos without the flash feature on your camera; Practice using the Rule of Thirds and the Rules of the Golden Triangle and the Golden Rectangle; Practice taking photos from different points of view/perspectives; Practice creating photos with interesting negative spaces; Practice capturing unposed, candid shots of a subject or event; Practice taking photos of "bits and pieces" of ordinary objects to create a work of art; Practice using a camera to create a panorama; Use color to create photos that are cool warm, monochromatic, contrasting, and/or complementary; Practice taking photos with a specific purpose in mind to teach, instruct, or sell a product or service; Evaluate photos that represent body of work; Get to know your camera's capabilities using the mode dial; Practice capturing a focal point understanding how camera equipment and depth of field effects the photo; Practice taking photos in low-light situations; Practice taking photos that help you get the correct exposure; Practice taking silhouettes; Practice composing photos that include geometric shapes and interesting framing; Practice composing photos that break photography "rules"; Practice taking still-life photos; practice capturing portraits showing a person's character and personality; Practice taking photos of interesting shapes, patterns, and textures; Practice capturing photos where the subject is in motion; Practice taking photos that are outside the normal limits: astrophotography, underwater, infrared; Practice creating creative joiners; Evaluate photos that represent body of work

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/28