

## **CALHOUN COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT GUIDELINES**

### **1. Objectives of Photography Project**

- To provide boys and girls of all ages with an interesting project or activity.
- To help members learn to use their camera to take pictures they will prize and cherish
- To give guidance to help members develop skills in taking and using pictures including: composition, effective use of lighting, shooting and mounting pictures
- To help members learn how to spot and correct mistakes (evaluate their pictures)
- To provide experience in recording events, ideas, and situations in picture form for study, reference or use in other 4-H projects
- To help youth learn to use photography as a communication art form

### **2. Resources Available for Photography Projects**

- A. Printed Materials (available through Extension Office)
- Calhoun County Photography Project Guidelines (13DL064 Rev. 8/04)
  - Career Ideas – Photography (4-H 1065)
  - The 4-H Photography Project – Leader's Guide (4-H 1204)
  - Unit 1 – Adventures with Your Camera A: for ages 8-10 – Member's Guide
  - Unit 1 – Adventures with Your Camera B: for ages 11-14 – Member's Guide
  - Unit 2 – Exploring Photography – Member's Guide (4-H 1206)
  - Unit 3 – Mastering Photography – Member's Guide (4-H 1207)
  - Solving the Mystery of Publicity Photos (4-H 1403)
  - 4-H Photography Exhibit Evaluation Guide Sheet
  - Investigating Portraiture (4-H 1405)
  - Adventures with Adjustable Cameras (4-H 1507)
- B. Other Printed Materials
- The Operating Manual that came with your camera
  - Instruction Sheet which comes with your film
- C. Resource People
- Your Leader
  - Photography Superintendent
  - Your local camera dealer
  - Photographers working for the local newspapers
  - Photographers – Commercial/Portrait (check phone book)
  - MSU Extension 4-H staff (about 4-H, not photography techniques, except guidelines)

### **3. Exhibit Requirements for the Fair**

- A. Pictures must be from current project year (Fair to fair). Any photo taken from general projects judging day through the next fair will be useable in your project.
1. All photos used in any project must be taken with amateur status. Photos you have been paid to take or reimbursed for your supplies are not eligible in this area.
- B. Your Exhibit
1. Album (Required for all entries)
    - a. Number of pictures is determined by guidelines for project year.
    - b. Pictures should be arranged by categories, listed in guidelines, and the category pages should be neatly labeled with black or white ink, at the top of the first page of the category. Captions are optional, but when included, should use the same, neatly lettered, black or white ink. You may use the computer to print your labels.
      - \* Use plain-color, scrapbook-style pages – black, white or gray complement most photos, ***Do not use plastic photo sheets*** – glare makes it hard for the judge to see your pictures' quality
      - \* Categories should not be mixed on a page. A suggestion is to put photos only on the right page in your book so as to not overwhelm the viewer with too many photos.

- \* No picture may be used in more than one category in the photo album (may use duplicates for poster pictures)
  - \* Pictures must be 3x5 or 4x6 inch prints.
  - \* Keep pages free of extras, such as stickers or use of patterned sheets used in Scrapbooking. Use of scrapbook techniques detracts from the quality of your pictures and can result in a lower ribbon.
- c. Each album should have a front page with the following neatly lettered, or computer generated information:
- \* Name and age (1 line)
  - \* Address of member (may be 2 lines)
  - \* Club Name
  - \* Number of years in 4-H
  - \* Number of years in Photography
  - \* Leader's name (s)
- d. Mounting photographs
- \* Try rubber cement. It rubs off easily if it seeps out when putting the album together and you can remove pictures fairly easily after the fair, if you want to keep them somewhere else.
  - \* Some of the newer, clear scrapbook corners, mounting tape (permanent is better than repositionable) or glue dots may work for mounting your photographs, as well
- e. You may use either black and white or color or both types of prints, but not on the same page.
2. Poster (required for all entries)
- \* The main purpose of the poster is to share with fairgoers the results of the member's efforts in the photography project because albums are unavailable for the public to see.
- a. Each poster must be **16" wide x 20" high and white**.
- \* Mat board works very well. It is sturdy enough to keep from blowing or bending in the breeze in our booths
- b. The back of the poster should be labeled with the member's name, age, address, and club, for identification purposes. Attach yellow exhibit tag to your poster back, and let it hang down so it can be seen from the front.
- c. Nothing but the required number of photographs should appear on the front of the poster. This means no writing, no photo corners, or no special matting materials
- d. Pictures on the poster should be among the member's best pictures. They *may* be pictures used in the album, or they may be in addition to the required number for the album.
- e. Covering your poster with plastic wrap is a good idea once you get it in your booth, to protect the photos from dust, fingerprints, etc.
3. Camera
- a. First and second year members are encouraged to bring their cameras with them for judging.
- b. Older exhibitors may bring their cameras or any special equipment used for the project.
- \* You should know what kind of camera you use. Also, know the basic parts of your camera, how to hold it when taking a picture, how to load the film or the memory card, and some basic rules of what makes a good picture
  - \* Any type of camera is acceptable for use.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

Any project which fails to fulfill any of the above requirements, or any requirements stated in the following guidelines of member exhibits will be lowered one ribbon rating from the judge's decision.

## **GLOSSARY OF PHOTO CATEGORIES**

Club Activities – photos of other members and/or leaders doing something regarding a club project or event (*Fair* photos from the previous year's fair are acceptable)

Action – photos showing some form of movement stopped on film or digitally

Animals – photos of any animal, wild or domestic, featuring the animal(s) over background

Black and White – photos taken using black and white film or printed from digital using black and white printing

Buildings or other Man-made Structures – photos showing buildings, parts of buildings, statuary, etc.

Digitally Enhanced – photos which have been changed using a digital imaging program on the computer. i.e. using special effects, straightening, edge fading, etc. Original and enhanced photos must appear side by side and count as one print. For the enlargement categories, a regular sized 4x6 print must be included with the exhibit, but need not be mounted.

Filter (any subject) – photos using filters on the lens of the camera

Flash &/or Flood – photos using a flash attachment or other special lighting techniques

Landscape or Scenery – “nature” photos, including fall color, beach scenes, skylscapes, cityscapes, fields

Miscellaneous – any photo which does not belong in any other category listed in the guidelines

Pattern and Design – photos which show nature or man-made items in a regular pattern (i.e. brick walls) or an irregular design (i.e. stone walls)

People at Work or Play – photos showing people doing “something” rather than posing for a “memory” photo. Showing action = more interest than a body in a pose.

Portraits (animal or people) – photos showing head and shoulders or full body length of a person, people, or animals

Sequence or story-telling – photos which tell “how-to” or show an event from start to finish or explore various aspects of a subject (i.e. baking cookies: assemble ingredients, measuring, mixing, spooning on sheets, put in oven, take out of oven, TASTE!)

Still Life – photos showing inanimate objects, tastefully arranged, including floral subjects

Time exposures – photos using a relatively long exposure period, generally longer than half a second.

### **\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

All photos used in any project must be taken with amateur status. Any photo for which you have been paid for your services or reimbursed for your supplies will not be eligible in this project area.

## **PROJECT GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER EXHIBITS**

### Lot 3300 Adventures with your Camera: First year, beginner, or ages 11 and under

It is recommended that all 1<sup>st</sup> year members complete this Lot, and follow years in project rather than age, unless the older member has more experience with photography and chooses to move up to the age recommendation. Older members with more experience are encouraged to step up to higher levels based on age, after completing this lot in order to be judged with others of similar abilities. Members who have exhibited this lot once should move on to another level, regardless of age rather than repeat until age 11 is reached.

Number of pictures in the album: 30

Number of pictures on the poster: 6-8 regular sized prints

Five pictures in each of the following categories are required:

Animals

Pattern and Design

Miscellaneous

People at Work or Play

Landscape or Scenery

Buildings or other Man-made Structures

\*\*\*If member's camera has a flash, at least 5 of the above should be taken with the flash.

### Lot 3301 Challenges: Second year, or ages 11-12

Number of pictures in the album: 30-40

Number of pictures on the poster: 6-8 regular sized prints

Select at least 5 of the 7 following categories and exhibit at least 5 pictures in each of your chosen categories:

Pattern and Design

Club Activities

Miscellaneous

People at Work or Play

Landscape or Scenery

Buildings or other Man-made Structures

Sequence or story-telling

\*\*\*If member's camera has a flash, at least 5 of the above should be taken with the flash.

### Lot 3302 Exploring: Third year, or ages 12-14

Number of pictures in the album: 30-50

Number of pictures on the poster: 6-8 regular sized prints

Select at least 6 of the 8 following categories and exhibit at least 5 pictures in each of your chosen categories:

Pattern and Design

Action

Club Activities

Miscellaneous

Sequence or story-telling

Landscape or Scenery

People at Work or Play

Flash and/or Flood\*

\*Members may borrow equipment to complete requirements in this category.

Lot 3303 Mastering: Fourth year, or ages 13-15

Number of pictures in the album: 30-50

Number of pictures on the poster: 2-4 5" x 5" or 5" x 7" enlargements

Select at least 6 of the 8 following categories and exhibit at least 5 pictures in each of your chosen categories:

Flash and/or Flood  
Digital Enhancements<sup>+</sup>  
Still Life  
Miscellaneous

Club Activities  
Action  
Sequence or story-telling  
Black and White\*

Member should become familiar with and develop a filing system for photographs.

\*Black and White category is required.

<sup>+</sup>In Digital enhancements category, original and enhanced prints, side by side, count as 1 photo.

Lot 3304 Career Series: Fifth year, or over age 15

Number of pictures in the album: 40-60

Number of pictures on the poster: 2-4 5" x 5" or 5" x 7" enlargements

Select at least 3 categories from each of the 2 columns and exhibit at least 5 pictures in each of your chosen categories:

Column A  
Digital Enhancements<sup>+</sup>  
Filter (any subject)  
Portraits (animal or people)  
Time exposures  
Black and white (any subject)

Column B  
4-H activities  
Landscape or Scenery  
Still Life  
Sequence or story-telling  
Pattern and Design

<sup>+</sup>In Digital enhancements category original and enhanced prints, side by side, count as 1 photo.

Lot 3305 Sixth year and beyond: Special Assignment or Self-Determined Project

This project will be determined by the member and his or her project leader, with the final approval to be given by the County 4-H Youth Agent and/or Photography Superintendent before the project is undertaken.

Some examples of special assignments are: novelty techniques in printing and developing; nature photography; using various close-up and long-lens apparatus; photo journalism; time exposures, special effects; multi-media presentation; micro-photography; studio photography/portraiture; digital enhancements, etc.

Member must exhibit enough photos or other medium to adequately show his or her knowledge of an ability to work with the chosen assignment category. Poster, album, or educational exhibit displaying examples or techniques used in the project must be included in the project. A "story" explaining the project, problems encountered, equipment used, and member's experiences should also be included with the finished project.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

One of the previous Lots must be entered in the fair in order for a member to exhibit in the following categories. The purpose of this rule is to encourage members to develop an understanding and knowledge of photography techniques, instead of earning another premium because a picture taken happened to turn out well. All photos submitted must be taken with amateur status. No photo for which you have been paid or reimbursed for your supplies is eligible in this category.

**COMPETITIVE CLASSES FOR ENLARGEMENTS**

Members may, but are not required to, exhibit photos which they feel are of the quality to stand alone as an exhibit in the fair.

Requirements:

Members may enter as many of the following categories as they wish, but one and only one photo may be exhibited in each of the categories in color and one and only one photo may be exhibited in each of the categories in black and white.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Animals                                | Still Life (may include floral subjects) |
| People (may include Portraits)         | Pattern and design                       |
| Landscape or Scenery                   | Miscellaneous                            |
| Buildings or other Man-made Structures | Digital Enhancements                     |

Entries should be 8x10" enlargements mounted on an 11"x14" board (again, mat board works well, and comes in a variety of colors to complement your photographs) and a separate exhibit tag is necessary for each entry. Unlike the poster for the regular project areas, these photos may be mounted in either direction. Professional mounting, is allowed, but should be identified to the judge as such. Please attach your yellow exhibit tag to your project. They tend to blow away if not attached.

It is highly recommended if you plan to enter Enlargement Classes that you enter all of the classes, since it's easier to delete you from a class than it is to figure out how to enter your outstanding picture if you neglected to enter a class for it on your entry form.