



## Description of Contest

Photography encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment, photography techniques and processing of photographs.

## Levels of Competition

Unit (county), District, State

Age categories are as follows, using September 30<sup>th</sup> of the 4-H year as the determining date. The exception is for national contests, in which January 1 or another date may be used. It is the contestant's responsibility to check national rules for age deadlines.

Juniors (ages 9-11)

Intermediates (ages 12-13)

Seniors (ages 14-18)

### Categories:

Portrait – depiction of head, full figure, posed

Human Interest – candid, people, interacting

Scenic/Architectural – buildings, landscapes, sunsets, water, etc.

Floral – flowers, gardens, plants, wild or cultivated

Animals – wild or domestic – pets

Children – including babies

Photography Humor – make us laugh, no digital manipulation is allowed

A Fair to Remember – color or black and white depicting any aspect of the Virginia State Fair

## Awards to be Earned

The Danish awards system will be used at all levels of competition. Blue ribbons will be awarded to competitors earning 90-100 points; red ribbons will be awarded to competitors earning 75-89 points; white ribbons will be awarded to competitors earning 74 points or less.

Some Extension districts award a purple ribbon to the highest scoring youth in the category. At the state contest, the highest scoring youth will be awarded a project medal. Youth who win the state project medal are ineligible to compete in that category in future years.

## Rules for this Contest

1. Photos entered must be the original work of the exhibitor.
2. A conventional camera (i.e. film) or a digital camera (i.e. not film) may be used to take the photo.
3. Only one entry per class per person. "Entries can consist of a single photo or a series of photos possibly illustrating "before and after" scenes or "how to do it" steps.



4. Photo must have been taken in the past calendar year.
5. All prints must be enclosed by a photo mat, though the size of the photo mat is not prescribed.
6. The color of the mat is left to the discretion of the exhibitor, though it should enhance the focus of the photo.
7. No framed photos will be accepted.
8. Rectangular photos can be 5x7 plus mat or 8x10 plus mat. Panoramic photos can be 5x15 plus mat or 8x18 plus mat.
9. Each entry must have the Participant's Name, Age, Unit, Club, and Photo Title on the back top left corner.

## Educational Resources to Help Prepare for this Contest

"Photo Tips," Kodak. Available:

[http://www.kodak.com/ek/US/en/Home\\_Main/Tips\\_Projects\\_Exchange/Learn/Photo\\_Tips.htm](http://www.kodak.com/ek/US/en/Home_Main/Tips_Projects_Exchange/Learn/Photo_Tips.htm)

"Photography," 4-H. Available: <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-photography/>

"Filmmaking," 4-H. Available: <http://www.4-h.org/curriculum/filmmaking/>

"Kids in Action: The Rule of Thirds," Michael Connet. Available:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6mKH5S0q8A>

"What is the Rule of Thirds and how do you use it," photocoachpro's channel. Available:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPjS3KDEv38>

**Disclaimer:** *The Virginia 4-H Youth Development Program and Virginia Cooperative Extension do not support or endorse any sites other than their own, National 4-H Council, and NIFA (National Institute for Food and Agriculture). They bear no responsibility for any information contained on other sites. These sites are suggested merely to guide visitors to potentially helpful resources.*

## Score Sheets for this Contest

VCE Publication 4H-259NP, "4-H Photography Contest Score Sheet". Available: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/4-H/4H-292/4H-292.html>

## Other Guidelines, Suggestions, or Pertinent Information

### Sample YouTube Videos of 4-H Youth in This Contest

None available at this time, but this is a goal for Virginia 4-H! If you are interested in creating a how-to video or posting a sample of your work, please contact your unit Extension staff who will work with the State 4-H Office.