Photography Judging Guidelines

Tuesday, July 21st, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Participation Guidelines:

- 4-H Members participating in all 4-H Photography projects may use either film or digital cameras.
- **All mounted prints must be identified by printing class #, sub-class letter, and member's name in lower right hand corner on the back of the exhibit.**

Type of Evaluation:

- Participants will have a personal interview evaluation with a judge – approximately 15 minutes in length.
- Judge will evaluate participant on the following basis (also see sample score sheet):
    - Photographic knowledge
    - Story telling ability of the picture
    - Captions (optional)
    - Photographic ability
    - The way the pictures are mounted

Participants are to bring:

- Completed project book.
- All mounted prints identified with **class #, sub-class letter, and member's name.**

Awards:

- Exhibits will remain in place in the judging area until the awards have been presented, which will follow the completion of each sub-class.
- Projects receiving Outstanding of the Day and Honorable Mention Awards will be held until the completion of judging day, when State Fair Qualifiers and other Special Awards will be chosen.

Classes:

Class 33 | Book 584 FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

Each participant is required to bring one of the following three items for exhibit:

- A single print of any size mounted at the discretion of the participant; or
- A collection of prints illustrating a "Photo Story", consisting of at least five and not more than ten photographs mounted at the discretion of the exhibitor; or
- A collection of prints illustrating one of the "activities" the participant completed for the project, consisting of at least five and not more than ten photographs, mounted at the discretion of the participant.

Participants may also bring any other materials they feel might demonstrate their learning experiences from the current project year (although participants are not required to do so). Photochemical developing and printing may be done by the participant, but is not required.

Class 34 | Book 585 CONTROLLING THE IMAGE

Each participant is required to bring one of the following four items for exhibit:

- A single print of any size mounted at the discretion of the participant; or
- A single print illustrating an "enlargement," which shall consist of an enlargement print, mounted at the discretion of the participant, and accompanied by the original size print; or

- A collection of prints illustrating one of the “activities” the participant completed for the project, consisting of at least five and not more than 10 photographs mounted at the discretion of the exhibitor; or
- A single original print illustrating a “News Story”, which shall be an original photo mounted at the discretion of the exhibitor and accompanied by the published article.

Participants may also bring any extra materials they feel might demonstrate their learning experiences of the current project year but participants are not required to do so. Photochemical developing and printing may be done by the participant, but is not required.

Class 35 | Book 586 MASTERING PHOTOGRAPHY

Each participant is required to bring one of the following four items for exhibit:

- One print of any size mounted at the discretion of the participant; or
- A single print illustrating an “enlargement,” which shall consist of an enlargement print, mounted at the discretion of the participant, and accompanied by the original size print; or
- A collection of prints illustrating one of the “activities” the exhibit or completed for the project, consisting of at least five and not more than 10 pictures mounted at the discretion of the exhibitor; or
- A single original print illustrating a “News Story”, which shall be an original photo mounted at the discretion of the participant and be accompanied by the published article.

Participants may also bring any extra materials they feel might demonstrate their learning experiences of the current project year, but participants are not required to do so. Photochemical developing and printing may be done by the participant, but is not required.

Class 36 | Book 589M PHOTOGRAPHY MASTER

All participants will be expected to bring at least (1) one print for display, mounted at their discretion, illustrating what they consider “the best” of the photographs demonstrating the area of interest they have chosen to “master” in this year’s project. Here are just a few examples of types of photographic explorations that might be included in this class:

- Select a type of photography (i.e. portrait, wedding, baby, landscape, sports, fashion, etc.) and explore the skills and equipment needed to be successful. Create a portfolio that showcases the type of photography you choose.
- Create a collection of images illustrating a “picture story” or a “documentary” with print or digital images.
- Experiment with a variety of lighting intensities and angles, and apply your new knowledge to your photography.
- Learn to see in “Black and White” and explore how removing color changes the mood, focus of attention, or even attractiveness.
- Use a specialized technique, such as selective focusing or enlarging, to change an image’s focal point, feel, meaning, etc.
- Learn how to use the manual settings on your camera to your advantage (i.e. nighttime photography).

Each participant may bring any extra materials the feel will demonstrate the learning experiences of the current project year, but are not required to do so. Equipment to view digital images and or portfolios must be provided by the exhibitor. Be aware that Internet/Wi-Fi service will not be available at the judging site! Images should be contained on your display devices. Participants in this class are to bring their 589M Photography Master project books showing involvement in activities and progress made toward completing their 589M Photography Master project. It is not necessary for the exhibitor to have competed in classes #33, #34 or #35 prior to entering this class. Photo editing, photochemical developing, and printing may be done by the exhibitor, and is encouraged.