

Purpose of Contest:

The Massachusetts Photography Contest encourages self-expression and creativity. Through participation youth demonstrate skills learned, including the use of photographic equipment, photo composition, photography resolution, and additional photography skills.

Objectives:

- To develop photography skills in composition, light, posing and awareness
- To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives and as a possible career choice
- To provide a photography project showcase opportunity for member participants

Resources:

- National 4-H Photography Curriculum; Levels 1, 2, or 3. Available at National 4-H Supply - www.shop4h.org.
- 4-H Photo Kids Curriculum; Level 1: Focus on Photography, Level 2: Controlling the Image, Level 3: Mastering Photography. Available at National 4-H Supply www.shop4h.org.
- Any additional school, library or website photography resources

2023 Competition Rules:

Please read the rules, awards and photograph category sections carefully. If you have any questions, contact Meg McDermott at memcdermott@umass.edu

1. Those participating must be fully registered Massachusetts 4-H members for the 2022-2023 4-H Year.
2. Participant is responsible for entering photo(s) in the correct age group, Division, and Category. Massachusetts 4-H members between the ages of 5-18 years of age as of January 1, 2023 may enter.
3. Photograph entries must be taken by the 4-H Member. Photos taken between September 1, 2022 and the Due Date of the contest may be entered.
4. Photos may be taken with digital cameras, film cameras, or with any smartphone.
5. Up to 5 photos may be entered in the contest per member. All photos must be printed and mailed to address below. No digital or emailed photos will be accepted.
6. Photos entered must follow these rules:
 - a. May be entered in either the Color or Black and White Division or in both
 - b. May be entered in any of the 13 categories described below
 - c. An exhibitor may enter up to 5 photos.
 - d. Only one photo may be entered in each category.

For example, in the color division, one photo is entered in animals, one in people, one in waterscape. In the black and white division, one photo is entered in night photography, and one is entered in still life, for a total of 5 photos. No photo was entered in the same category in both divisions. No photo was entered in the same category as black and white and as color.
7. Photos may be landscape or portrait orientation. Preferred size is 8" x 10" (5:4 ratio). Photos printed as 4" x 6" (3:2 ratio) are also accepted.
8. Photographs may be altered for red-eye removal; sharpening, cropping to enhance composition; dodging and burning to enhance exposure in any of the categories may be used. Photos using any other digital manipulation must be entered in the Digital Darkroom category.
9. Photographs edited from a video, with the photo isolated or selected, may not be entered.
10. The following information must be included with each photo submission.
 - Name of the 4-H participant
 - Participant's age as of 1.1.2023
 - Participant's full address, including house number, street, town and zip code (or P.O.Box number)
 - Participant or Family's Phone Number
 - Name of participant's primary 4-H club and primary county
 - Clearly marked age category: Cloverbud (ages 5-7) Junior (ages 8-13), or Senior (ages 14-18)
 - Number of years' experience entering the MA State 4-H Photography Contest
 - The Division in which photo is entered
 - The Category in which photo is entered
 - Equipment used to take photo: Digital Camera or Smartphone
 - Title of photo



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11. All entries must be received by July 26, 2023. Mail printed photographs to:
UMass Extension State 4-H Photography Contest
Attn: Meg McDermott
7 Midstate Dr.
Auburn, MA 01501
12. Photographs will be disqualified if all required information is not submitted, if the same photograph is entered in multiple divisions or categories, if more than one photo is entered in any one class or category, if an inappropriate or unsuitable photograph is entered, or if any item is received after July 26, 2023.
13. Release of Liability: The Massachusetts 4-H Program may use any photo submitted for publicity purposes. By entering, the 4-H member accepts this release.

Awards:

1. All entries will be judged and receive a ribbon award based on the Danish system.
2. Cloverbuds will receive participation ribbons only and will not receive placings. The Cloverbud, Junior and Senior divisions will be judged separately.
3. Blue ribbon awardees in each Division for Juniors and Seniors will be judged against all other blue ribbon winners for overall Best of Division 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement.
4. Up to thirteen (13) photographs will be chosen from all of the accepted Junior and Senior entries to be awarded Big E Quality Photo designation. Photographs chosen for this award may be selected from both the junior and senior divisions. These photographs will be on display at the New England Center Building.

Judging Criteria: All photos will be judged using the standards and definitions listed below:

Impact Impact is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder, or other intense emotion.

Creativity Creativity is the use of imagination or original ideas in new and innovative ways. In photography, creativity is displayed as transforming traditional photography into creative areas. The purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage new ideas. In the final photo, the photographer’s creative vision will include the original image in some way.

Technical Excellence Technical Excellence is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Exposure, printing, use of color and digital darkroom manipulation such as retouching are some items that relate to this criteria.

Composition Composition is the pleasant arrangement of elements within a frame, providing a powerful ability to attract the eye and keep someone exploring within the frame for as long as possible. Elements in the photo are balanced and pleasing to view.

Lighting The use and control of light refers to how dimension, shape, and roundness are defined in an image. It considers whether light used in the image is manmade or natural and how the light enhances the image.

Focal Point Focal point is the place within the image where the photographer wants the viewer to stop as they look at the image. There can be primary and secondary points of interest in a single photograph.

2023 Divisions and Category Descriptions:

Entries may be Black and White or Color and entered in any of the categories listed below following the previously listed rules. Any camera, including those on cell phones may be used. All photos must be printed and received by July 26, 2023.

Age Categories:

- Cloverbud (ages 5-7)
- Junior (ages 8-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)



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Divisions:

- A. Black and White
- B. Color

Categories:

- 1. Action:** Any person, animal or object in the process of action/sense of movement; either stop action or motion blur. Viewer should get a sense that there is movement in process. Some examples include: horse jumping, swing of a baseball bat, waterfalls, wheels in motion.
- 2. People:** Must be primary focus and can have one or more persons in the photo.
- 3. Domestic Animals:** Farm animals, dogs, cats; animals kept in your home as pets.
- 4. Nature:** Includes wild animals, forests, gardens, marine life, or objects of nature in their natural habitat.
- 5. Landscape or Cityscape:** Images focus on the large scope of the city for cityscape or land mass for landscape. Examples include: mountains, city skyline, western plains, farm acreage, etc.
- 6. Waterscape:** Primary focus must be water but photo may include boats, birds, people, etc. as smaller images within the water. Examples include: lakes, rivers, ocean.
- 7. In The News:** Photograph should be from an actual newsworthy event that you have witnessed. Example include: local public ceremony, fire, accident, town event, etc.
- 8. Formal Portrait:** Planned, posed photograph of one or more people indoors or outdoors.
- 9. Still Life:** Photography where objects are pre-arranged and set up by the photographer for the purpose of taking photograph. This does not include people or animals. Examples include: violin with sheet music and a rose, a bowl of strawberries, cut flowers arranged in front of a window.
- 10. Night Photography:** Photos taken outdoors between dusk and dawn. These may involve use of artificial light or using a long exposure. This category may include any subject as the focus. Emphasis should be on the skill and technique used to acquire the photo. Examples include: fireworks, night street scene, carnival, scene by moonlight.
- 11. Digital Darkroom:** Photos that are manipulated or drastically altered by software such as Adobe Photoshop or other software. This category showcases digital art and may be of any appropriate subject matter. This does not include any photos adjusted for red-eye reduction, enlargement, cropping, dodging, burning or color changes. This category must include the original photo and the altered photo. A written description of how the photo was altered must also be submitted with the photos. No additional items may be added to the photo that are not the entrant's original work. Examples include: Images altered with a variety of filters, changed facial features (not including snap chat or other apps), removing unwanted items in photo, adding textures, etc.
- 12. Favorite Photograph:** This photo may be of any appropriate subject matter but may not duplicate any photograph entered in another category or class.
- 13. 2023 Special Category: Event** - This category features occurrences and people at any special event or occasion. This would include, but is not limited to, events such as: competitive events, social causes, traditions or cultural events, weddings, concerts, or other special event or occasion.



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