

Purpose of Contest:

The Massachusetts Photography Contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment and the process of photography.

Objectives:

- To develop photographic 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 junior and senior 4-H members

Resources:

- 2019 Photography – Levels 1, 2, or 3. Available at National 4-H Supply - www.4-hmall.org.
- 4-H Photo Kids – Level 1: Focus on Photography, Level 2: Controlling the Image, Level 3: Mastering Photography. Available at National 4-H Supply www.4-hmall.org.
- School, library or website photography resources

2020 Competition Rules:

Please read the rules, awards and photograph category sections carefully. If you have any questions contact Linda Horn at lrhorn@umext.umass.edu or by calling 413-577-0332.

1. The Massachusetts State 4-H Photography Contest is limited to currently enrolled MA 4-H members who are 8-18 years of age as of 1/1/2020.
2. Photograph entries are limited to those taken by the member after July 2, 2019.
3. Up to 5 photos may be entered in the contest.
4. Only one photo may be entered per category/class. For example, In the color category, one photo entered in Animals, one in people, one in waterscape. In the Black and white category, one photo entered in waterscape, for a total of four photos.
5. All photos must be sent unmounted. Photos must be no smaller than 5"x7" and no larger than 8"x10". Panoramic photos do not fall within these limits due to their unique size.
6. Photographs should be developed or printed on quality photographic paper without a date or other imprints on the front and with no border. It is recommended that a professional print shop be considered for printing, as home printers may not produce the best quality. However, this is up to the entrant's decision.
7. Photographs may be altered for red-eye removal, sharpening, cropping to enhance composition and may use dodging and burning to enhance exposure. For any other digital manipulation, the photo must be entered in the Digital Darkroom category.
8. Photographs may not have been a part of a video with the photo edited out.
9. Each entry is to be submitted in a clear plastic sleeve (sheet protector). Place a label or sticky note on the back of the photo indicating the top of the picture.
10. The following information must be completed and placed in the sleeve – do not stick or glue this to the photo, but instead insert it into the sleeve at the back of the photo.
 - Name of the entrant
 - Address
 - Phone Number
 - Name of your primary 4-H club and primary County
 - Age as of 1/1/2020
 - Division: Junior (ages 8-13) or Senior (ages 14-18)
 - Number of years entering the MA State 4-H Photography Contest
 - Class photo is being entered in
 - Category photo is being entered in
 - Title of photo
11. All entries are to be postmarked by Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Send entries to:
State 4-H Office, 101 University Drive, Suite A-4, Amherst MA 01002
12. Photographs will be disqualified for incorrect size, same photograph entered in multiple categories or classes, more than one photo in any one class category, inappropriate or unsuitable photograph, or postmarked after July 1, 2020. Point reductions will be taken for time stamp on photo, borders, incorrect subject matter for category, mounted photos, and not including Digital Darkroom required photos and/or description of method used.



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13. Release of Liability: The Massachusetts 4-H Program will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, or damaged photographs. Big E Award winner's photographs will require a digital entry to be submitted and may be used for publicity purposes by the 4-H Program. By entering, the 4-H member accepts this release.

Awards:

1. All entries will be judged and receive a ribbon based on the Danish system.
2. Blue ribbon awardees in each class and category will be judged against all other blue ribbon winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement.
3. The junior and senior divisions will be judged separately.
4. Up to twelve (12) photographs will be chosen from all of the accepted entries to be shown in the non-competitive 4-H Photography display at the Eastern States Exhibition New England Center building during the Big E show days in September/October of 2020. Photographs to be shown at the Big E may be chosen from both the junior and senior divisions. Winners for this award will be notified.
5. Big E winners photographs will be digitally copied, mounted, and laminated for exhibit according to the Big E New England Center guidelines. Photographs for this award may not be returned.

All photographs not chosen for the Eastern States Exposition will be available for pick-up from local 4-H offices after September 25, 2020.

Judging Criteria:

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

2020 Categories and Class Descriptions:

Entries may be made from the following Categories in either black & white or color

Color: Photos taken with either emulsion film or digital cameras
Black & White: Photos taken with any camera, however they must be in gray-scale only. This class does not include antiquing, sepia-tone, and/or tinting. These must be placed in Digital Darkroom.

Categories:

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.

People: Must be primary focus and can have one or more persons in the photo.

Domestic Animals: Farm animals, dogs, cats, those kept in your home as pets.

Nature: Includes wild animals, forests, gardens, marine life, or objects of nature in their natural habitat.

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.

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.

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.

Formal Portrait: Planned, posed photograph of one or more people inside or outdoors.

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.

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.

Digital Darkroom: Photos that are manipulated or drastically altered by software such as Adobe Photoshop. 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 description of how the photo was altered is also required. 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.

Favorite Photograph: This photo may be of any appropriate subject matter but may not duplicate any photograph entered in another category or class.

2020 Special Category: Architecture – This category includes items that are constructed or built in the environment such as buildings, bridges, or tunnels. Structures that are both aesthetically pleasing and are accurate representations of their subjects would be included in this category.