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, photography ratios and photo resolution.

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 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

1. The Massachusetts State 4-H Photography Contest is limited to currently enrolled 4-H members in a Massachusetts 4-H club 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. Photos may be taken with digital cameras or with a smartphone
4. Up to 5 photos may be entered in the contest
5. There are two divisions: Color and Black and White
6. There are 13 categories; please see below
7. Only one photo may be entered per category. Here is an 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 In The News, for a total of 5 photos. No photo was entered in both divisions. No photo was entered in the same category as black and white and as color.
8. **For 2020, all photos must be submitted digitally. Photos must be a minimum of 300dpi quality resolution.** Photos can be landscape or portrait. Digital photograph size should be at least 4" x 6" (3:2 ratio); recommended size is 8" x 10" (5:4 ratio).
9. If you need assistance in resizing photos, you can use: http://webresizer.com/, or a program of your choice.
10. 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.
11. Photographs may not have been a part of a video with the photo edited out.
12. The following information must be sent in at the same time as the digital photo. Put this information in the body of the email when sending:
    - Name of the entrant
    - Age as if 1.1.2020
    - Address
    - Phone Number
    - Name of your primary 4-H club and primary County
    - Age: Specify either Junior (ages 8-13) or Senior (ages 14-18)
    - Number of years' experience entering the MA State 4-H Photography Contest
    - The Division photo is being entered in
    - The Category photo is being entered in
    - Whether photo was taken with a digital camera or a Smartphone
    - Title of photo
13. All entries must be **entered by SATURDAY, JULY 25.** Email entries to ma4hset@gmail.com
14. Photographs will be disqualified if all information is not submitted, the same photograph is entered in multiple divisions or categories, more than one photo is entered in any one class or category, inappropriate or unsuitable photograph is entered, or item is submitted after July 25, 2020.

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15. 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 digital ribbon based on the Danish system.
2. Blue ribbon awardees in each Division will be judged against all other blue ribbon winners for overall Best of Division 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement.
3. The junior and senior divisions will be judged separately.
4. In 2020, there will be no 4-H Photography display at the New England Center in the Big E. However, up to twelve (12) photographs will be chosen from all of the accepted entries to be awarded Big E Quality Photo designation. Photographs chosen for this award may be selected from both the junior and senior divisions. Winners for this award will be notified.

Judging Criteria: All digital 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 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 are. 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 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. The 4-H member makes the determination as to whether the photo is of a quality to be submitted.

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, those kept in your home as pets.

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

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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 inside 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. 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.

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. **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.

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