2013 District 11 4-H Photography Contest
Rules and Guidelines
(For Juniors & Intermediates ONLY)

DISTRICT 11 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST OBJECTIVES:
- To develop life skills in composition, light, story line, posing and awareness.
- To encourage 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful communication tool in their lives.
- To provide a photography project showcase opportunity for 4-H members.
- To continue to share the message of 4-H.
- To utilize photographs which can promote and strengthen the 4-H program.

THIS YEAR:
- There are 15 categories for the photography contest
- The District 11 Photography Contest will follow the Texas 4-H Photography Contest (state contest) guidelines. All photos will be submitted and judged electronically.

RULES AND GUIDELINES:
Participation Age:
The District 11 4-H Photography Contest is open to all Junior and Intermediate 4-H members. Intermediate participants must be 11-13 years of age as of August 31, 2012. Junior participants must be 8 and in the 3rd grade to age 10, as of August 31, 2012. Senior 4-H members participating in the Texas 4-H Photography Display at Texas 4-H Roundup should refer to the 2013 Texas 4-H Photography Contest Rules and Guidelines found on the Texas 4-H website.

Photography contest judging will take place between **March 31, 2013 and April 6, 2013**. All placing photography entries will be displayed at District 11 4-H Roundup on Saturday, April 13, as well as at District 11 4-H Fashion Show on Saturday, April 27.

Eligibility of Photos:
All photographs must have been taken by 4-H members between the dates of **January 1, 2012**, and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time and in only one category.

Number of Entries:
A county may have only one entry per category per age group for a total of thirty (30) entries per county. All entries must be submitted electronically by March 12, 2013.

Entry Fee:
A fee of $10.00 per participant must be paid by March 12, 2013 for official entry. Participants must pay via 4-H CONNECT by e-check or credit card. All entries paid by paper check must come from a COUNTY/CLUB account and MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 12, 2013.

Contestant Participation:
Photography display participants are not to be present for judging. Participants do not need to attend District 11 4-H Roundup or District Fashion Show unless they are competing in another contest; however, if a 4-H member/adult chooses to attend to view the display, he/she is welcome.

Entry Deadline:
ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED AND PAYMENT (E-CHECK OR CREDIT CARD) MADE <u>ON 4-H CONNECT BY MARCH 12, 2013.</u> Late registration will be allowed from March 13 – 22 for a fee of $35.00.

Refusal Rights:
The District 11 4-H Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.

Judges:
Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final.

Awards:
1st – 3rd in each category will receive awards. One award will be presented in each age category for the photography that best demonstrates the Spirit of 4-H and a Best of Show. This award can be awarded to any category.

Disqualification of Entries:
Entries that do not follow the rules, division and class guidelines or any general guidelines will automatically be disqualified. County entries received past the deadline will be automatically disqualified and will be returned to the county.

Announcement of Results:
Results will be announced to all counties via e-mail and posted on the District 11 4-H website.

Contest Categories and Descriptions:

Animals – Domestic
Photos focusing on the various animals that have been tamed and made fit for a human environment. To be considered domesticated, the animal must have their behavior, life cycle, or physiology systemically altered as a result of being under human control for many generations.
Examples include: Dog, Sheep, Pig, Goat, Cow, Cat, Chicken, Horse, Camel, Goose, Ducks (domestic use), Hamsters.

Animals – Wildlife
Category focuses on animals not tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wild throughout the country and world. Photos can be of wildlife in nature, zoos, and/or petting zoos.
Examples include: Deer, snakes, insects, rodents, elephants, etc.

Catch-all
Category for photos that do not fit into one of the other categories. This includes such photos as still-life, motion-blur, Polaroid transfers, SX-70 images, hand colored photos.
Examples include: Polaroid image & emulsion transfers, still-life, long exposure zoomed images, and painting with light.

Details & Macro
Getting in close is the name of the game for this category. We welcome pictures of small details that suggest a larger story. This is also the place for macro photographs (although a macro image of a flower might equally go into the Flowers category).
Examples include: detail of a knot, a lock, or an abstract close-up – anything as long as it is a tight composition of a detail. Macro examples include parts of a flower bloom, insects, stamps, ice crystals, etc.

Digital Darkroom
Photos are for digital art – images created or drastically altered in software like Adobe Photoshop®. Although digitally manipulated images are also allowed in the other categories, this is a category exclusively showcasing such art. If the digital darkroom work is the main attraction of the photo, or plays a big part, enter it here.
Examples include: Photoshop® composites and creations, images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters, photos with artistic boarders, photos stitched into a panoramic.

Dominant Color
Photos with a dominant color. The dominant element in the image must be a specific color, such as red, yellow, blue, white, black, white, green, etc. Black & White photos, duotones, are excluded from this category.
Examples include: bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sun lighting on it.

Elements of Design
Images use of graphic elements of design. Photos that showcase line, shape, pattern, form, texture, perspective, etc. Photo can consist of any subject matter. Category is neither for graphic illustrations made in commercial programs (i.e. Adobe Illustrator®) nor for extreme digital creations.
Examples include: Perspective, Line, Pattern.

Food
Category is a still life specialization of photography, aimed at producing attractive photographs of food for use in such items of advertisements, packaging, menus and/or cookbooks. NO PHOTOS OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED!
Examples include: Thanksgiving dimmer, cakes/pies, fruits and place settings, Easter eggs, sandwiches, ingredients, etc.

Marine/Aquatic
Photos of any living organism in bodies of either fresh or ocean (salt) water.
Examples include: Fish, stingrays, whales, starfish, etc.

Nature & Landscape
The focus of this category includes landscapes, outdoor scenic, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors.
Examples include: Landscapes, Scenic, Outdoors.

Night Photography
Photos taken outdoors between dusk and dawn (**this category does not include sunsets and sunrises – those photos are to be entered into nature & landscape)**. Generally these photos are achieved by using artificial light or using a long exposure. This category can include any subject as long as the focus is on the skill and technique used to acquire the photograph.
Examples include: buildings/structures, animals, plant/flora, people, etc.

People
Photos focus from all walks of life, parenting and family, children, babies, models/fashion, sports, and couples.
Examples include: Kids & Family, Models/Fashion, Sports.

Plant/Flora
Photos of interesting, unique, and beautiful flowers and flora. Photography can occur outdoors or indoors. Photo subject should be that of a single flower, plant, bush, tree, etc. Large collections of plant/flora should be considered for entry into the Nature & Landscape category.
Examples include: A rose, an upward shot of a tree, a flower bouquet, etc.

Storyboard
A storyboard is one digital entry (one photo) that contains three smaller images and minimal text that tells a story. The story should be easily understood by the viewer. This entry is one single file.
Examples include: Three images depicting the blooming of a rose bud at different stages, with the title of "Beginning of Beauty".

Theme
Theme photo focuses on a subject announced and outlined in the contest rules and guidelines. For 2012-13 the theme is "Holiday Season in Texas." This theme allows 4-H members to take photos of any holiday from January 1, 2012 to time of entry. The Holiday Season in Texas theme should have photographs that depict a Texas theme/flare or western heritage. Photographs can include nature, landscape, people, animals (domestic and/or wildlife) as long as the subject of the photograph is related to a holiday with a Texas/western basis.
Examples include: Christmas tree decorated with rustic stars, and Texas theme decorations, etc.

Release of Liability:
The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, damaged, or non-displayed photographs. By entry the 4-H member accepts this release.

Display and Future Use Rights:
By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member grants permission to the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas 4-H Foundation, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, the use, and rights associated to the use of the photographic likeness, in promotional publications, and other media, without compensation. Certain photos will be retained for future use. By entry, the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.

Judging Criteria:
The principals of "12 Elements of a Merit Image" will be used as the base for the judging criteria. As outlined by Bob Hawkins, these twelve elements have been defined as necessary for the success of an art piece or image. Any image, art piece or photograph will reveal some measure of all twelve elements, while a visually superior example will reveal consideration of each one.

IMPACT (Max Points: 8)	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. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.
CREATIVITY (Max Points: 10)	Creativity is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.
TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE (Max Points: 6)	Technical excellence is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.
COMPOSITION (Max Points: 8)	Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.
LIGHTING (Max Points: 8)	Lighting – the use and control of light – refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.
STYLE (Max Points: 8)	Style is defined in a number of ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.
PRESENTATION (Max Points: 6)	Presentation affects an image by giving it a finished look. If mats and/or borders are used do they support and enhance the image, not distract from it. Any filters or finishes applied to photos should be enhancing to the photos presentation.
CENTER OF INTEREST (Max Points: 6)	Center of Interest is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest, when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.
SUBJECT MATTER (Max Points: 12)	Subject Matter should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image.
COLOR BALANCE (Max Points: 10)	Color Balance supplies harmony to an image. An image in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.
TECHNIQUE (Max Points: 10)	Technique is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.
STORY TELLING (Max Points: 8)	Story Telling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.

Proper Entry/Submission of Photos:
Steps for submitting your digital photos

1. Set up a Shutterfly account if you don't already have one. It's simple & FREE!
    a. Go to www.shutterfly.com
    b. Click on 'sign up' and follow the steps.
2. Once your account is set up, begin uploading your photos to an album.
    a. Title the album with your name.
    b. Upload all photos to one album.
        i. Once your pictures are in one album…
            1. Click on your first picture; on the toolbar above the picture click 'Edit', then 'Edit picture caption'.
        ii. In the NAME box of each photo, include:
            1. Category
            2. Age division (Jr or Int)
            3. County
            4. Last Name
            5. First Name
            Put an 'underscore' between each of the above items.

            EXAMPLE: Night_Int_Nueces_Smith_John

            "Repeat steps i and ii for each photo.
3. Once your photos are uploaded to one album, you are ready to 'share' your photos.
    a. Be sure all photos in the album are selected (click 'select all' on right of screen).
    b. Click 'share' at the top, right of your screen.
        i. Select 'email selected pictures', and then click 'next'
        ii. In the "To" box, enter District114H@gmail.com and click send.

Please use the following labels for the categories:

CATEGORY	FILE LABEL NAME
ANIMALS – DOMESTIC	Domestic
ANIMALS – WILDLIFE	Wildlife
CATCH-ALL	All
DETAILS & MACROS	Details
DIGITAL DARKROOM	Darkroom
DOMINANT COLOR	Dominant
ELEMENTS OF DESIGN	Elements
FOOD	Food
MARINE/AQUATICS	Marine
NATURE/LANDSCAPE	Nature
NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY	Night
PEOPLE	People
PLANT/FLORA	Plant
STORY BOARD	Story
THEME	Theme