



# 2025-2026 DISTRICT 5 4-H GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Encouraging self-expression and allowing participants to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography including the use of photographic equipment and processing of photographs.

## Entry Requirements

- Open to enrolled District 5 Clover Kids, 4-H members, and adults.
- Register to participate through 4HOnline at <https://texas.4honline.com>
- 4-H member and adult Contest Fee – Flat fee of \$15 per contestant (no per photo fee). **NO LATE ENTRIES** accepted.
- Clover Kids – no fee to participate.
- All photographs will be uploaded through Submittable.

## Clover Kid Participation

- District 5 Clover Kids that have a 4-H profile in 4HOnline can show off their photography skills.
- Same entrance requirements and categories as 4-H youth.
- The Clover Kid photography exhibit will be shown via a PowerPoint at Come Alive in D5 on May 2, 2026.
- All registered participants will receive a participation ribbon.

## Adult Contest Participation

- District 5 adults (parents, volunteers, and agents) that have a 4-H profile in 4HOnline can show off their photography skills.
- Same entrance requirements and categories as 4-H youth.
- Show off your photography skills for District 5 “bragging rights!”

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## District Deadlines

- Register to participate on 4HOnline between October 2, 2025 and February 13, 2026. NO late registration.
- Upload photographs in Submittable with the specified format between February 1-20, 2026. NO late uploads.
- A Submittable link to upload photographs will be emailed to registered participants beginning on January 30, 2026 and thereafter to youth registering until February 13th. Once photographs are uploaded, you will receive a confirmation email from Submittable.

## Awards and Exhibit

- The 2025-2026 Photography Show will be broadcast via PowerPoint during Come Alive in D5 on Saturday, May 2, 2026.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each age division and each category will be presented a ribbon by their County Extension Agent after the show.
  - Ribbons will be awarded based upon numerical score (blue 81-100, red 51-80, white 31-50, green 30 and below).
  - A Best of Age Division award will be selected from photographs in each age division (one per Junior, Intermediate, and Senior).
  - Best of Age Division photographs will be on display during Come Alive in D5.
  - Clover Kids will receive participation ribbons.
- Entry via 4HOnline gives permission to the District office to use the participant's name and photograph for marketing and promotion purposes.

## Come Alive in D5 Location

- Panola College, 1109 W. Panola Street, Carthage, TX 75633

## Special Accommodations

- Any competitor who requires auxiliary aids or special accommodations must contact the District office at least 2 weeks before the competition or note such needs when registering on 4HOnline.

## General Information

- Open to enrolled Clover Kids, 4-H members, and adults in District 5.
- Individual event
- Contest based upon categories listed on page 4

## Results and Placings

- Photographs are judged as submitted after February 20, 2026. Results will be provided at Come Alive in D5 on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

## Submission of Photographs

- Photos are to be uploaded as a .jpeg, .jpg, or .gif file into Submittable via link emailed to you after registration on 4HOnline. If you do not have a Submittable account, you will need to set up a profile, at no charge, using this link: <https://texas4-youthdevelopment.submittable.com/signup>
- Upload photographs in Submittable with the specified format listed below on or before February 20, 2026. NO late uploads.
- A Submittable link to upload photographs will be emailed to registered participants. Once photographs are uploaded, you will receive a confirmation email from Submittable.

### 1. Photograph Timeline

- Photographs must have been taken by the 4-H members between January 1, 2025 and time of entry.
- Photographs may be submitted only one-time to the District 5 4-H Photography contest.
- A single photograph may not be entered in multiple categories of this contest, but CAN be entered into other photography contests.

### 2. Number of entries

- Each 4-H member may submit one entry in each category for a total of 18 entries.

### 3. Formatting Photographs

- Photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible.
- Photo must be in a .jpeg or .jpg or .gif format
- Photo must be a minimum of 1 MB (1,000 KB) and a maximum of 20 MB.

### 4. Labeling Photographs for Uploading into Submittable

- **Each photograph will need to be clearly labeled with the age division, category, county, last name, and first name.**
- File name should include an “\_” between each of the files
- Example: age\_category\_county\_last\_first.jpg
- Example: John Smith is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade from Clover County entering the Food category. He would upload a file labeled: Intermediate\_Food\_Clover\_Smith\_John.jpg
- Photographs not labelled correctly may be disqualified.



### 5. Permission

- By submitting an entry to this contest, the 4-H member grants permission to D5 4-H Youth Development Program, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Program, the use and rights associated to the use of the photographic likeness in promotional publications and other media without compensation.



## 6. Categories (see full description on pages 4-6)

CATEGORY	FILE LABEL NAME	CATEGORY	FILE LABEL NAME
Animals – Domestic	Domestic	Leading Line	Leading
Animals – Wildlife	Wildlife	Long Exposure	Long
Catch-All	All	Motion/Action	Motion
Details & Macros	Details	People	People
Dominant Color	Color	Plant/Flora	Plant
Elements of Design	Elements	Reflections	Reflection
Enhanced	Enhanced	Shadow/Silhouette	Shadow
Food	Food	Transportation	Transportation
Landscape & Nature	Nature	Theme: Volunteers in Action	Theme

- Black and white pictures and color pictures will be judged together.

## 7. Disqualification

- Failure to register in the General Photography event in 4HOnline.
- Entries that do not follow the rules, category guidelines, and/or class description will be disqualified.
- The judges' decisions are final.

## 8. State Photography Roundup

- Senior age division contestants (grades 9-12) may submit photographs to be judged at Texas State Roundup. Participation at the District level is NOT a qualification for state participation.
- The Texas 4-H Photography contestant paperwork is available online at: [https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/photography\\_state\\_contest\\_2025.pdf](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/photography_state_contest_2025.pdf)

## Category 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: Chickens, cows, dogs, cats, geese/ducks (domestic use), hamsters, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, etc. All waterfowl (ducks and geese) such be entered in Animals – Wildlife.*

**ANIMALS – WILDLIFE** - Category focuses on animals not tamed or domesticated and commonly found in the wilderness or the bodies of water throughout the country and world. Photos can be of wildlife in nature, zoos, and/or petting zoos.

- *Examples: Birds, deer, elephants, snakes, whales, etc.*

**CATCH-ALL** - Photos that do not fit into one of the other categories.

- *Examples: Long exposure zoomed images, painting with light, polaroid image & emulsion transfers, still-life, etc.*
- Not allowed: County's use of this category to eliminate duplicate photos from multiple 4-H members.

**DETAILS & MACRO** - Getting in close is the name of the game for this category. The goal is to zoom in close on an object to see its finer details or to make small objects appear life-sized or larger than we do not normally get to see with the naked eye.

- *Examples: Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a water droplet, etc.*

**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.

- *Examples: Bowl of lemons, in a yellow bowl, on top of a yellow table covering, with a bright yellow tone sun lighting on it.*
- Not allowed: Black and white photos and duotones.

**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.

- *Examples: Line, pattern, perspective, shape, etc.*
- Not allowed: Digital creations or graphic designs made in software such as Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator.

**ENHANCED** - A single photo that has been technically manipulated to be an abstract, panoramic, stitched, or composite image. Other variations are allowed as well.

- *Examples: Software edited composites and creations, images greatly manipulated with a variety of filters, photos with artistic borders, photos stitched into a panoramic, etc.*

**FOOD** - 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.

- *Examples: Cakes/pies, Easter eggs, fruits and place settings, ingredients, sandwiches, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.*
- Not allowed: A photo of alcoholic beverages.

**LANDSCAPE & NATURE (NON-ANIMAL)** - The focus of this category includes landscapes, outdoor scenes, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors.

- *Examples: Gardens/landscapes, outdoors, scenes, etc.*
- Not allowed: Primary subject is a person or wildlife.

**LEADING LINE** - This image composition technique features lines that draw the viewer's eye from point A to point B, which is the primary subject.

- *Example: A river that begins in the foreground and draws your attention to a photogenic bridge in the background.*

**LONG EXPOSURE** - Also known as time-exposure or slow-shutter, this technique involves using a long-duration shutter speed. It can be used to sharply capture stationary elements of an image while blurring, smearing, or obscuring the moving elements. It is also used in low-light conditions.

- *Examples: fireworks, moving water, light trails, Milky Way, light painting, night or low-light conditions, etc.*

**MOTION/ACTION** - The capture of movement within a single photo. The subject appears stopped or “frozen.”

- *Examples: Ferris wheel spinning, sporting events, horse running across field, etc.*

**PEOPLE** - Photos focus from all walks of life, parenting and family, children, babies, models/fashion, sports, and couples. All individuals in the photos must have provided consent and permission as a subject. If requested, a release will be needed from the photographer and subject.

- *Examples: Babies, families, kids, portraits, models/fashion, etc.*

**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 Landscape & Nature category.

- *Examples: A rose, an upward shot of a tree, etc.*

**REFLECTIONS** – Focus on capturing reflections in various environments, such as water, mirrors, glass, or metallic surfaces. Highlight the symmetry and intriguing visual effects that reflections create, from serene landscapes mirrored in a lake to bustling cityscapes in puddles or building facades.

**SHADOW/SILHOUETTE** - A silhouette is an outline that appears dark (typically a single color) with little or no details/features against a brighter background. Recording patterns of light and shade for a desired effect or emphasis is the definition of a shadow. The silhouette or shadow must be the primary subject and focus of the image.

- *Examples: shadows/silhouettes of people, plants, animals, structures, architectures, or natural structures.*

**TRANSPORTATION** – Capture the essence of travel. From bustling city streets with cars and buses to serene rural scenes featuring bicycles and boats, this category celebrates the diversity of transportation methods that connect and move us through life.

- *Examples: Bustling urban streets, serene bicycle paths, busy waterways, trains, single vehicles, and even rockets.*



**THEME** - The 2025-2026 theme is “Volunteers in Action.” Showcase images that reflect volunteerism in 4-H. Capture your adult leaders or Extension agents engaging with youth or in a project or club setting, making a difference in the lives of young people.