Date: January 30, 2013
To: All District 1 County Extension agents
Subject: District 1 Photography Contest
From: Brandon Dukes Kay Rogers
        Extension Specialist Dallam & Hartley CEA – FCS
        4-H & Youth Development Photography Committee Chair

TTL: Through-the-Lens (A phrase commonly used when referring to metering through the lens opposed to using a separate meter. TTL is effective for fill-flash and other tricky lighting situations).

Yes, people it’s time to start planning on attending Photography Camp and competing in District 1 4-H Photography Contest. Once again senior 4-H members will be allowed to compete at the district level. Furthermore, you may remember our seniors paved the way for electronic submission of their photographs. It was deemed to be such a huge success that our junior and intermediate youth will submit their photographs electronically also. PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE CORRECT AGE GROUP, CATEGORY, SIZE AND FORMAT TO AVOID DISQUALIFICATION. DISQUALIFICATION IS AT JUDGES DISCRETION AND THEIR WORD IS FINAL.

There are some additional changes, too. One such is the title. It is no longer a contest with a public display; it is now a contest in which winning photographs will be viewed electronically on the district web-site. A slide show can be created to highlight the youth’s photographs during commissioners/judges training. West Texas A&M University Agriculture Communication instructor, Tanner Robertson, and his students will judge photographs electronically during the month of August. There will be no waiting for photograph hard copies to be returned to youth so they may enter them in the Tri-State Fair. Moreover, it cuts down the printing cost to families. Three is the magic number this year! A youth may not enter more than three photographs. The entry fee for the first picture is $10.00, the second picture is $5.00 and the third picture is $5.00 for a total of 20.00 for three pictures. Please carefully review the attached contest rules and guidelines for the District 1 4-H Photography Contest 2012-2013.

Important Dates:
   District 1 Photography Camp—Thursday, June 6, 2013 at West Texas A&M University
   4-H Connect Entry Dates—Monday, July 15 through Monday, July 29, 2013
   4-H Connect Certified at the county level—12:00 Noon on Wednesday, July 31, 2013
   Photography Committee Workday—Tentatively Friday, August 2, 2013
   Judging Dates—Monday, August 5, 2013 through Friday, August 30, 2013, Conducted by West Texas A&M University Ag Communications
   Photography Committee Workday—Tentatively Tuesday, September 3, 2013
   Contest Results Posted—Friday, September 6, 2013

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.
2013 District 1

4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

PURPOSE  The Texas 4-H Photography Contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment and process of photographs.

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 photography project showcase opportunity for senior 4-H members.
• To continue to share the message of 4-H.
• To utilize photographs which can promote and strengthen the 4-H program.

2013 DISTRICT 1 CONTEST RULES

1. Participation Age: The District 1 4-H and Youth Development Photography contest is open to all 4-H members.

   Age Divisions

   Juniors – 8 years old and in the 3rd grade to 10 years as of August 31, 2012

   Intermediates – 11, 12, 13 as of August 31, 2012

   Seniors - 14-18 as of August 31, 2012

2. 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 to the District 1 4-H Photography Contest. A single photo cannot be entered in multiple divisions or classes (i.e.: the same original cannot be entered in multiple divisions).

3. Number of Entries: Exhibitor may have one entry per division/class for a total of three (3) entries per exhibitor.

4. Entry Fee: A fee of $10.00 for the first picture and $5.00 per photograph must be paid for the second (2) and third (3) entry. (Enter one photo = $10.00, enter two photos = $15.00, enter three photos = $20.00)

5. Entry Deadline: By midnight on July 29, 2013; all registrations must be submitted on 4-H CONNECT.
6. **Copyright and Content:** Photos that are deemed obscene, vulgar, sexually-oriented, hateful, threatening, or otherwise violate any laws are strictly prohibited. The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program respects the rights related to copyright laws and intellectual property. All photos should be based on a 4-H member’s original photograph taken by the 4-H member. Use of a photo from other sources/people without permission is not allowed and will lead to disqualification of the photo and a possibility all entries by the 4-H member. The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.

7. **Disqualification of an Entry:** An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Disqualifications forfeit all entry fees. Reasons for disqualification:

- Photo does not meet category criteria or entered in incorrect category.
- Photograph incorrectly sized and file not labeled correctly to ensure identification.
- Same photo entered into multiple categories.
- Inappropriate or unsuitable photograph.
- Photo was NOT entered into the 4-H CONNECT system with payment.

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

9. **Awards:** All pictures are judged on an individual basis of quality. The Danish system of ribbon awards is a quality award and not a placing award. Blue, Red, and White quality awards will be given to entries based on the score card criteria.

10. **Judges:** Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final. Score sheets can be downloaded from [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/files/2012/01/photography_sections_projects_photography_guidelines.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/files/2012/01/photography_sections_projects_photography_guidelines.pdf)

11. **Announcement of Results:** Results will be posted to the District 1 website by September 1, 2013. Results will also be sent via email to county Extension offices by September 1, 2013.

**RESOURCES FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST:**

- Adventures With Your Camera – B (Grades 6 to 9) (Available from National 4-H Council Supply)
- 4-H Guide to Digital Photography by Daniel Johnson. (Available from Amazon.com)
- Texas 4-H and Youth Development Photography Project Resource Page located on the 4-H website under the youth section. ([http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/)) Any reference to a product or company is not to endorse or support them and their causes. Links to companies are provided for their educational resources only.
2013 DESCRIPTIONS OF CATEGORIES

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, Duck, Hamsters, etc.

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

Is a 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: flowers, 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 borders, photos stitched into a panoramic.

DOMINANT COLOR

Are 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.
ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Image 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 not for graphic illustrations made in commercial programs (i.e. Adobe Illustrator®) nor for extreme digital creations. Examples include: Perspective, Line, Pattern and etc.s

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: Thanksgiving dinner, 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 scenes, nature images, sunsets, urban landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and farms. Images focus on the beauty of the outdoors. Examples include: Landscapes, Scenes, Outdoors

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

These are photos taken outdoors between dusk and dawn. Generally these photos are achieved by using artificial light or using a long exposure. This category can include any subject as the focus should be 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. See Rule #8. Examples include: Kids & Family, Models/Fashion, Sports

PLANT/FLORA

Photos of interesting, unique and beautiful flowers and or 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 that contains three photos and minimal text that tells a story. The story should be easily understood by the viewer. Example 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. Example include: Christmas tree decorated with rustic stars, and Texas theme decorations, etc. Certain description terminology used from betterphoto.com photo contest category page. http://www.betterphoto.com/contest/categories.asp

PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS

All entries and photos for the 2013 District 1 4-H Photography Contest will be completed using the 4-H CONNECT system by midnight July 29, 2013. Please read these submission rules very carefully to prevent disqualification of entries!

ENTRY STEPS:

1. Formatting your Photograph: Each photograph must be formatted in a jpg file to where it can be printed at 300 dots per inch (dpi) at a 3 inch X 5 inch size. File must not be over 1.5 MB in size to upload.

2. Labeling/Naming your Photograph: Each photograph will need to be clearly labeled with the category (see category names below), county, age division, last name, and first name. File name should include a “_” between each of the items, category_county_age division_last_first.jpg.

Example: John Smith from Dallas County entering the Details & Macro category would upload a file labeled: “Details_Dallas_Senior_Smith_John.jpg”

Please use the following labels for the categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>FILE LABEL NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANIMALS-DOMESTIC</td>
<td>Domestic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANIMALS – WILDLIFE</td>
<td>Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATCH ALL</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETAILS &amp; MACROS</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JUDGING CRITERIA AND POINT VALUE

The principles 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. The twelve elements for judging the photographs will be:

**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.