4-H Photography Project

WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?
The 4-H photography project provides youth the opportunity to learn about photography equipment and become technically competent as they acquire knowledge, practice skills, explore self-expression and creativity, and learn about careers in photography and related fields.
» Discover how to take amazing photographs.
» Learn about photography as an art, a science and a communication tool.
» Explore photography as a hobby or profession.

THE BIG PICTURE
Starting out:
» Know a camera and its parts.
» Learn the basics of camera care.
» Understand how to organize and store photographs.
» Learn about composition.
» Learn to brace your camera for a sharp photograph.
» Explore basic lighting techniques.
» Take photos of places, people and pets.
» Critique photographs.
» Exhibit photographs for fun or for competition.

Learning more:
» Learn to better control lighting.
» Use flash techniques.
» Adjust the depth of field.
» Gain more knowledge about photography terms, such as aperture and the rule of thirds.
» Understand focal point, background, foreground and framing.
» Critique photographs on a more advanced level.
» Learn the history of the camera.
» Use photos to tell a story.

Expanding horizons:
» Master composition using symmetry, shape, pattern and texture to capture creative photos.
» Understand the impact of color.
» Use wide-angle and telephoto lenses.
» Experiment with lens filters.
» Practice with light sources and use light meter readings.
» Use specialized photography equipment and advanced techniques, such as underwater photography.
» Learn to mount and mat.
» Apply technical and artistic skills in both film-based and digital photography.

CURRICULA & RESOURCES
Michigan 4-H Curricula
» 4-H Arts Project Evaluation Guidelines for Youth Aged 9 to 19
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/resources/artsevalguidelines

National 4-H Curricula
» 4-H Filmmaking Studio and Workshop: http://www.4-h.org/curriculum/filmmaking/
» National 4-H Photography: http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-photography/
  • Focus on Photography, Level 1 (4H 640A)
  • Controlling the Image, Level 2 (4H 640B)
  • Mastering Photography, Level 3 (4H 640C)

Other Resources
» Books
  • 4-H Guide to Digital Photography by Daniel Johnson
  • Kodak Pocket Guide To Digital Photography

» Websites
  • BetterPhoto.com: http://www.betterphoto.com/home.asp
  • Focus on Travel Photography: www.fodors.com/focus
  • Kodak: www.kodak.com
  • New York Institute of Photography: http://www.nyip.com/
FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

Science
- Explore how lenses work and how to use them in photography.
- Understand light and its use in photography.
- Learn about past, current and future technology.

Communication
- Present a demonstration on how to properly present your photos.
- Make a poster presentation on the different types of cameras.
- Interview a professional photographer.

Citizenship & Leadership
- Volunteer to take photos for a community event.
- Help archive historical photos.
- Arrange for a guest photographer to present to your club.

Life Skills
- Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management and everyday life.
- Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Check out books at the library or search the Internet to learn more about technique and composition.
- Attend 4-H Exploration Days at MSU and enroll in a photography session.
- Study professional portfolios and then create a portfolio of your own best photographs.
- Enter a photography contest or exhibit.
- Enter a National 4-H photo contest.
- Take an exhibit to be judged at the fair to show what you have learned throughout the year.
- Learn about copyright and privacy laws.
- Attend Michigan State University (MSU) Extension 4-H Science Teen and Adult Volunteer Leader Workshop and learn about science concepts and projects you can take back to your club.
- Contact your local MSU Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- If you are interested in a college education in communications or photography, visit MSU’s website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.


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Curricula — Other States

4-H Photography Project (University of Tennessee Extension): http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/photography.htm
- Beginning (W043)
- Intermediate (W121)
- Advanced (W122)

Photography (Iowa State University Extension): www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/photography


Photography (Wisconsin 4-H): http://4h.uwex.edu/olinpro/photography.cfm
- Creating Your Own Darkroom (IS370)
- You Be the Photo Judge! (ACTpa003)