

# **Kalamazoo County Fair 4-H Photography Guidelines**

## **GOALS:**

- \* Gain an appreciation of photography as an art, a science and a communications tool.
- \* Learn photography skills for hobby, artistic, and vocational interests.
- \* Gain experience in recording events, ideas and situations in visual form for study, display, or reference.
- \* Develop a better awareness and understanding of our surroundings and appreciate the beauty.
- \* Understand how a camera works.

## **GUIDELINES:**

- \* Member must have taken all photos since the beginning of the previous year's Kalamazoo County Fair. (Except for notebooks and photo albums)
- \* Entries will be judged on artistic merit, originality, creativity, and technical aspects.
- \* First year members are required to do the workbook - Kodak Self-Teaching Guide to Picture-Taking (which can be picked up at the 4-H office – Cost \$2.00 each). Can do additional categories if able.
- \* Photographs should reflect member's age, years in the project and experience. (Therefore members with more than 3 years in the project should be doing more challenging shots, for example more complex subjects, challenging lighting like low light, unique angles of regular subjects, still life set up with own lighting, posing of people, etc.)  
--- Special awards and ribbons will be reflective of this information.
- \* No captions are permitted on the front of the mat with the exception of class 6858. Themed Story, 6859 Educational Exhibit, and 6861 Photo Album.
- \* Mount uncropped photos with edges showing!!!! Affix to mount board, mat board, foam core board, with no corner mounts. Do not put behind an open, cut mat. **DO NOT FRAME IF EDGES DO NOT SHOW!** Edges of photo are to show. Frames are not necessary but OK only if edges show. Each class may be entered once per year and a photo may be entered in only one class.
- \* Include on the back of the mat board your:
  1. name,
  2. age,
  3. years in the project, and
  4. class number.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY – CLASS DESCRIPTIONS – From fair book**

## **Explanations:**

**Beginner:** 1st. year workbook (Use the AC-2, Kodak Self-Teaching Guide to Picture-Taking. Available at 4H Office)

### **Color**

Favorite photo - color (5x7 or larger, even poster size) (out of many shots you have taken choose your best, artistically and technically)

3 photos - color (8x10 or 5x7) (Or 4x6 inch also: Choose 3 photos showing some variety in their composition. Examples: portrait, landscape, action, textures, still life) Can all be horizontal, all vertical or mixed. Mount all 3 on one board.

### **Black and White (B&W)**

Favorite photo - (B&W) (5x7 or larger, even poster size) (out of many shots you have taken choose your best, artistically and technically)

3 photos - (B&W) (8x10 or 5x7) (Or 4x6 inch also: Choose 3 photos showing some variety in their composition. Examples: portrait, landscape, action, textures, still life) Can all be horizontal, all vertical or mixed. Mount all 3 on one board.

### **Digital - color or B&W (See guidelines)**

1 – 3, digitally shot photos, printed on home printer. Photos can be 4"x6" up to 8"x10". Explore this media for this fair category. Learn about what resolution is. Make sure your printout is the best quality it can be. If you use special paper know what makes it better than regular paper.

**Digitally corrected photo:** digitally shot or traditionally shot and scanned and then a problem fixed; like red eye, dust on the print, something unwanted in the shot. Know the software you used to do the correction Photos can be 4"x6" up to 8 1/2"x11". Show before and after prints, mounted on the same board.

**Digitally modified photo:** 2-3 photos combined digitally as 1 photo, or many 'artistic alterations' in fewer photos for a pleasing result. Know the software you used. Photos can be 4"x6" up to 8 1/2"x11". Show before and after prints mounted on the same board)

### **General**

Themed story; book, poster, or short video. (6-12 related photos that visually tell a story along with captions, color or B&W. Example: CATS, BRIDGES, A DAY AT THE BEACH or MY TRIP TO CEDAR POINT. If a poster, prints must be mounted on mounting board, foam board etc. no larger than 22 x 28 inches. The poster should include your topic or title. Slides can be used and should be filed in a pocket page. If a book using photos you have taken to enhance an original story or poem you have written. If a video, design and tape a 3-5 minute video on a topic. Use good photographic techniques. Have on DVD or flash drive and contact Superintendent prior to fair to make arrangements to display digital media.

### **Educational exhibit; notebook, poster or video:**

This is to be about photography or the camera itself. Think of creative ways to explain and show what you have learned. Use notes, photographs, photo copies, diagrams, before and after photos, photo collages, etc. If a video, design and tape a 3-5 minute video on a photography topic. Use good photographic techniques. Have on DVD or flash drive and contact Superintendent prior to fair to make arrangements to display digital media.

### **Fair photo**

8x10 or 5x7 or 4x6 also, of a Fair, or a 4H member working on a 4H project, Kalamazoo County Fair. The more it visually says '4H' the better

### **Photo album**

- Depict good labeling and captioning, older photos – OK
- This category is to encourage good labeling and informative captions. Not decorated pages like a scrapbook.
- Your photos or family's photos.
- Label who is in photo, when and where with photo safe pen on back of photo, let dry 10 minutes before putting one photo on top another. Do not use regular felt tip markers - they don't dry properly on photographic paper and will come off on the next photo you stack it upon.
- Label so the next generation know who is in the photo. Example: write 'Grandma Mabel Smith', not just 'Grandma' Put the date on photo, if your family can't pinpoint it, write 'circa 1980' Meaning 'about 1980'.

### **Alternative Photo Processes**

1 to 3 images mounted. Any variety of techniques done in the darkroom, photograms or motion under the enlarger; objects on the copy machine or scanner; printing multiple layers on a sheet with your computer printer, or sunlight exposures, etc. Try exploration to develop something interesting and pleasing.

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