

# 2014 Photography Rules and Criteria

In an effort to reduce costs to photo contest participants; we have eliminated the requirement that entries be submitted in print format. Instead, we encourage all participants to submit digital entries to [teresa\\_byrd@ncsu.edu](mailto:teresa_byrd@ncsu.edu)

- This contest is open to **all Johnston County 4-H members ages 5-19**.
- All entry photos must have been taken by the 4-H'er submitting the entry since last year's contest.
- Entrants must submit their photos within the division that applies (Junior/ages 9-12 OR Senior/ages 13-19). This follows the age divisions for the State Contest. (Cloverbud/ages 5-8 may enter the county contest for recognition but are non competitive).
- Each entrant may submit only one photo in each of the three categories ("4-H in Action", "Nature's Beauty", "Silhouettes"). This means that each individual 4-Her may have as many as three entries so long as you identify each photo and category. **ONE PHOTO PER CATEGORY**
- The same image may be entered in more than one category (if it applies to each category).
- Please fill out the entry form, save it in your name and email it back to me with your photo/s.
- Photos may be in color OR black-and-white.
- Please, please send your entries at the highest image resolution possible giving judges high quality images to judge and so we have the option to print the winners if needed for displays.

Please email all entries to [teresa\\_byrd@ncsu.edu](mailto:teresa_byrd@ncsu.edu), using **"4-H Photo Contest 2014"** in the subject line. You may attach up to three photos per person to one email.

Each email containing photos must also have the entry form attached.

We will continue to accept entries submitted as prints, so long as all entries are in the 4-H Office by **May 6, 2014**, include the Entry Form and photos are professionally printed. (Ex: WalMart, CVS, Shutterfly, etc.)

## *Categories for the 2014 Johnston County and NC State 4-H Photo:*

**4-H in Action:** We're looking for pictures that show us what happens at 4-H events throughout the year. The key to winning this category is the action. We want to SEE what's happening. If it's a judging contest, we want to feel like we're right in the middle of the action. If it's meeting with legislators, then we want to feel like we're so close we could shake that person's hand. In other words, we want the photographer to get in close and show us what really happens when 4-H'ers get together for an event or activity.

**Nature's Beauty:** Nature's Beauty is always our biggest category. Winners in this category are ultimately chosen because they exhibit superior technical skill, move in close to the subject and capture something really different. Some show beautiful things such as sunsets and flowers. Others create beauty from something unexpected (mushrooms, a turtle having a snack, a dragonfly with torn wings.) All contain strong composition, nice light, and sharp focus on the subject.

**Silhouettes:** Interpret this category any way you like. We'll be looking for creativity and originality in the content of the photos, as well as good technique. We want to see visual, graphic images in this category.

Below is a listing of the criteria the judges will use when choosing the winners of this contest.

**Relevancy to Category Topic** - Is the photo an obvious illustration of the category in which it is entered? If the picture doesn't tell us, does the information on the entry form make it clear how the subject fits the category?

**Composition / Arrangement** - Are the objects in the photo arranged in a meaningful, pleasing manner or are they haphazard? Did the photographer use the best angle or otherwise interesting perspective?

**Focus / Sharpness** - Is the object of the photo in focus? If not in sharp focus, does it appear to be an intentional effect to enhance the image in some artistic way?

**Lighting** - Did the photographer use proper lighting of the subject matter? Do any extremes of darkness or brightness lend to or detract from the image content?

**Creativity** - Does the photographer show some creative thought or original idea in the making of this image? Is the subject something unusual or is the content of the photo presented in a way we haven't seen before?

Please remember all entries are due NO LATER THAN May 6, 2014.

We're looking forward to another great group of photographs to judge for the 2014 Contest!

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**COUNTY ENTRIES:** must be received digitally or prints NO LATER THAN by May 6<sup>th</sup>, to [teresa\\_byrd@ncsu.edu](mailto:teresa_byrd@ncsu.edu) DIGITAL PREFERRED! You are **not** required to enter or win at the county level to submit entries in the state contest.

**STATE ENTRIES:** must be submitted digitally or postmarked NO LATER THAN May 14, 2014. **NEW THIS YEAR:** In an effort to reduce costs to photo contest participants, we are eliminating the requirement that entries be submitted in print format. Instead, we encourage all participants to submit digital entries to [rebecca\\_kirkland@ncsu.edu](mailto:rebecca_kirkland@ncsu.edu).