



## The World I Imagine A 4-H Photography Event

Altered photography can take you to amazing places. You can turn the sun into a sunflower! Your little sister can catch a bass the size of an SUV!

**The World I Imagine** lets you:

- Show off your creativity.
- Share your skill with photography and computers.
- Find what is interesting or unusual in your community, your school, or your home.

**What You Will Learn**

- **The World I Imagine** will help you learn the basics of good photography and image software.
- **The World I Imagine** will help you learn to recognize good photographic composition and techniques.
- **The World I Imagine** will help you learn to explore personal preferences and make choices.
- **The World I Imagine** will help you develop skills that will be useful in a variety of careers.

**Who Can Participate**

Any Alabama young person may participate in any 4-H competitive event. However, you must be a member of an Alabama 4-H Club. It's easy and quick to join – just call or e-mail your county Alabama Cooperative Extension System Office for information (for contact information, go to [www.aces.edu/counties](http://www.aces.edu/counties)).

If you and your friends are interested, you might wish to start a 4-H Project Club that focuses on Photography, Tek-Arts or some other aspect of art, photography, and communications. For more information, see **Starting a 4-H Club** ([www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/V/VOL-0004/](http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/V/VOL-0004/)).

**The World I Imagine** is a Junior ages 9-13 and Senior 4-H Event. Your local Extension Office has information on local and regional **The World I Imagine** events, as well as other 4-H activities.

**Levels of Competition**

For details on eligibility, see the General Event Policy.

- **Juniors:** 9 – 13 Years Old. Must be 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 years old on January 1 of the current calendar year. (Compete only at local and regional level).
- **Senior – Level I:** 14 – 15 Years Old. Must be 14 or 15 years old on January 1 of the current calendar year.
- **Senior – Level II:** 16 – 19 Years Old. Must be 16, 17, 18 or 19 years old on January 1 of the current calendar year.

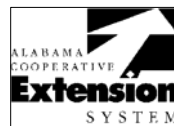
One youth from each Senior level will represent the twelve 4-H Regions at Alabama State 4-H Congress. Selection processes will be determined by each 4-H Region.

**The Rules!**

- Photos may be color, sepia or black-and-white.
- Prints must be 5"x7" or larger. They may be no larger than 18"x18".
- Do not submit photos in frames or cut-out mat boards. Photos should be simply mounted flat on plain white or black poster board or foam board. Maximum mount board size is 20" x 20".
- Your name, date of birth, county and address must be listed on the back of the photograph. No names or titles on the front of the mount board.
- The project must be based on an original photo that you took. It can't be based on a scanned image from another source.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a copy of the original, unaltered photo or photos used in the process.
- Photos must have been taken during the current calendar year.
- Photos must have been taken by the 4-Her submitting the entry.
- One entry per participant.
- Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging. No easels or props may be used.
- **The World I See** and **The World I Imagine** are separate events. Rules regarding entering only one event apply.
- You must accompany your photograph to the competition. Be ready to talk about your work.
- Senior winners at regional events must use the same winning photograph at State Congress. Only photo and mount board size may change.

**Parents' and Volunteers' Guide**

Like all 4-H projects, this activity is just for young people. It is expected that the young person create an original presentation. The role of adult helper is to support and encourage youth in their efforts, to ask and answer questions about the project, and to help youth learn specific techniques (such as computer techniques) that they might use in their project.



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### **The Day of the Big Event**

Each county or region will schedule its own **The World I Imagine** event. It may be part of a County Round-Up or Regional Congress. Some places may have it as part of a 4-H arts festival or a community fair. Some may have workshops that help young people build their photographic skills and meet other artists and photographers.

Judging should be lots of fun for kids and judges – not anything high stress! Be ready to **informally** talk to the judges about what you did. The judges might have questions like:

- How did you select your subject?
- What sort of camera did you use?
- What time of day did you take the picture?
- What do you like about your photograph?

*Hint: Judges really like it when they feel that you put lots of thought into your photograph.*

### **What Judges Will Look At**

- How the photo is put together - Is the photo well arranged? Did the photographer use the best angle or point of view?
- Focus and Sharpness - Is the photo in focus? If it's not in sharp focus, did you mean it for an artistic effect?
- Lighting - Did you use lighting to create a mood or effect?
- Creativity – Is your altered photo unique and original?
- Did you make good choices in altering your photo?

*Hint: Digital photos printed on a commercial printer (such as a Walgreens, CVS, Wal-Mart or your local camera shop) generally look better than photos printed on most home computer printers.*

### **Career Connections**

Photography is a great hobby that you can use all of your life. Skills that are developed through this project have direct connections to a number of exciting and rewarding careers. These include: Photo Journalism, Corporate Communications, News Photographer, Portrait Photography, Wedding and Event Photographer, Web-Based Design, Fine Art, Photo and Art Therapy, Advertising, Fashion Photography, Graphic Design, Illustration, Teaching, and Industrial Photography.

Further career-related skills are developed in the Above and Beyond section. These include planning, leadership, and organization. If you sell your photography skills, there is also an element of entrepreneurship.

### **Judging Guidelines**

The selection of the judges is important to the success of the event. The ideal judge knows about photography and can easily chat with young people. The selection of professional photographers, magazine or newspaper editors, and art or photography teachers provides a perfect judging panel.

On the day of the event, each individual enters the judging area in a designated order. The facilitator will introduce the participant to the judges. The judges will talk informally with the participants about their photographs. Judges are encouraged to positively offer their comments on the originality of the photograph, what was most effective in the choices, and suggestions for improvement.

### **Advancing Through Competition**

Congratulations! If you make it to Regional or State Congress, you are among the best in Alabama! The judges recognize that you have come up with a really good photo and made great choices. Your hard work and your skill created something wonderful.

At the regional level, you will not compete against other 4-H'ers. You will compete against a standard of excellence. *Blue, red, or white* will be given.

Ribbons will be given on the following basis:

**Blue:** For excellent photographs. They demonstrate a great degree of originality and photographic technique.

**Red:** For good quality photos. They are well done, but are not outstanding.

**White:** Acceptable photographs.

[Score equivalents for those using Score Sheets in local or regional events:

Blue: 90 – 100

Red: 80 – 89

White: 79 and below]

**Best of Show:** The judges will determine one Senior Level I and one Senior Level II photograph to advance from the regional level to state competition.

#### **State Competition**

At State Competition, the judges will select one photograph from the regional winners. This photo will be designated **Alabama State 4-H Best in Show**.

#### **Above and Beyond**

All 4-H projects can be taken “above and beyond” just being a short-term activity. Awards and recognition throughout Alabama 4-H are not based on how well you do in competitive events; they are based on your all-round community service, leadership, and project work.

Here are some ideas for taking your interest in Photography to a level where you can both grow as a person and have an impact on the lives of others:

- Work with your friends to put together a photo show about your school.
- Organize a community show of 4-H art and photography projects.
- Alter photos to turn your family and friends into rock stars or space aliens.
- Put together a photo mural about your school, community, or church.
- Trail a wedding photographer or newspaper photographer.
- Talk with your newspaper editor about submitting your photos.
- Sell your photos on-line or at a community arts festival.
- Create a web site for your photos.
- Talk with a photographer or graphic designer about his or her training.
- Teach younger 4-Hers to take photos and use photo software.
- Use your photos for a Power Point presentation.
- Invite a photographer to provide a workshop.
- Use your photos to tell a story about your life, your community, or your family.

### **The World I Imagine Judging Guidelines**

Judging should be based on creativity and indication of technical skill. This category is designed to give the participant significant opportunity for artistic experimentation in composition, lighting and focus.

#### Suggested points of evaluation

The photograph:

- Is the photograph a good work of art?
- Does the photograph indicate application of good photographic technique?
- Is the manipulation (through PhotoShop, etc.) creative and effective?
- Can the photographer clearly explain his or her techniques?
- Does the photographer indicate knowledge of photography and processes?

Judges should informally discuss the photograph with the photographer:

Is the photographer able to communicate a basic understanding of technique and image selection?

Scoring: **The World I Imagine**  
Optional for Local and Regional Use

The attached information may be useful in determining judging guidelines at the county and regional level.

Few photography events use a "score sheet" to determine what makes a good photo. An experienced photographer or artist will be able to recognize superior work.

It is suggested that the county or regional photography facilitator talk with the judges to determine their preferences in judging.

Please remember that the sole purpose of these events is to provide young people with an opportunity for self-expression and to learn more about photography. Competition and judging should emphasize creativity and the development of knowledge and skill.

The following scoring sheet may be used or adapted to a local group's specific needs.

Suggested points of evaluation

The photograph:

Is the photograph a good work of art?

Does the photograph indicate application of good photographic technique?

Is the manipulation (through PhotoShop, etc.) creative and effective?

**0 - 70 Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

Judges will informally discuss the photograph with the photographer:

Is the photographer able to communicate a basic understanding of technique and image selection?

Is the photographer able to communicate his or her choices?

**0 – 30 Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Points** \_\_\_\_\_