



The World I See

A 4-H Photography Event

Alabama is the home of many great photographers. People like William Christenberry find beauty, humor and drama in the world around us.

The World I See lets you:

- Show off your creativity.
- Share your ability in selecting and arranging subjects.
- Find what is interesting or unusual in your community, your school, or your home.

What You Will Learn

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

Who Can Participate

Any Alabama young person may participate in **The World I See** or 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).

If you and your friends are interested, you might wish to start a 4-H Project Club that focuses on Photography, The Visual Arts, Communications, 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/).

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 in color, black-and-white or sepia.
- Prints must be 5"x7" or larger. They should be no larger than 18" x 18".
- You may use a film or digital camera.
- If you need to lighten your photo or fix the color, you may make small changes using your computer or in the darkroom.
- Do not submit photos in frames or with cut-out boards. Photos should be simply mounted flat on plain white or black poster board or foam board.
- Mount board size may be no larger than 20" x 20".
- Your name, date of birth, county and address must on the back of the photo.
- Do not include titles or other information on the front of the mount board.
- One photo per entrant.
- Photos must have been taken by the youth submitting the entry.
- Photos must have been taken during the current calendar year.
- Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging. Use no easels or props.
- You must accompany your photograph to the competition. Be ready to talk about your work.
- **The World I See** and **The World I Imagine** are separate events. Rules regarding entering only one event apply.
- 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 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 See** competition. It may be part of a County Round-Up or Regional Congress. Some places may have the event as part of an arts festival or community fair. Some may have workshops that will help you build your artistic 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. They 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 work.

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 proper lighting?
- Creativity – Are you showing creativity?

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.

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 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 Sr. Level I and one Sr. 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**.

A hint: Photos that made it to State 4-H Competition have been made with all types of cameras. If you do not have access to a fancy camera, don't let that stop you from competing. Great photos can be taken with disposable cameras – and even toy cameras!

A hint: Don't print your entries on your home computer. Digital photos generally look best when printed professionally though a camera store or discount store photography department.

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 Photography, Portrait Photography, Wedding and Event Photography, 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 photographic skills, there is also an element of entrepreneurship.

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 higher level. It can help you both grow as a person and have an impact on the lives of others:

- Work with your friends to take photos for “A Day in My Home Town.”
- Organize a community show of 4-H photographs and other art projects.
- Take lots of photos of your family and friends.
- Use your photos in a scrap book.
- 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.
- Take portraits of your community leaders.
- Talk with a photographer about his or her training.
- Teach younger kids to take photos.
- Develop your skill as an animal photographer or child photographer.
- 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.

Scoring: The World I See Photography Optional Judging Guidelines

Few photography events use a "score sheet" to determine what makes a good photo. An experienced photographer 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 attached scoring sheets may be used or adapted to a local group's specific needs.

Composition and Arrangement - Are the objects in the photo arranged in a meaningful, pleasing manner? Did the photographer use the best angle or perspective?

Focus and 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 an artistic way?

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

Creativity - Does the photographer show creative thought or an original idea?

Photo (75 Points)

Composition/Arrangement	(Possible 25 Points)	_____
Focus and Sharpness	(Possible 10 Points)	_____
Lighting	(Possible 10 Points)	_____
Creativity	(Possible 30 Points)	_____

Informal Interview (25 Points)

Does the photographer indicate knowledge of photographic technique? (Possible 25 Points) _____

Total: _____

Judges' Comments: