



THE WORLD I SEE



ALABAMA 4-H
Alabama Cooperative
Extension System

2026–2027 Theme: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

What You Will Do

- 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

- Basics of good photography.
- How to recognize good photographic composition and techniques.
- Personal preferences and choices.
- Skills that will be useful in a variety of careers.

Rules

1. This is an individual event. Teams are not appropriate.
2. Photos may be color, sepia, or black-and-white.
3. Finished prints must be 5" × 7" or larger. They may be no larger than 18" × 18".
4. Do not submit photos in frames or with cutout mat boards.
5. Photos should be simply mounted flat on plain white or black poster board or foam board. Maximum mount board size is 20" × 20".
6. Do not include titles or other information on the front of the mount board.
7. One photo is allowed per entrant.
8. Photos must have been taken by the youth submitting the entry.
9. Photos must have been taken during the current Alabama 4-H year.

For more information, visit "[Competitive Events General Policy](#)" and "[Alabama 4-H Eligibility](#)," both on the [Alabama Extension website](#) (aces.edu).

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Junior Level I:

9 to 11 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year (compete only at local and regional levels).

Intermediate:

12 to 13 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year (compete only at local and regional levels).

Senior Level I:

14 to 15 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year.

Senior Level II:

16 to 18 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year.

10. Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging. No easels or props may be used.
11. You must accompany your photograph to the competition. Be ready to talk about your work.
12. The World I See and The World I Imagine are separate events. Rules regarding entering only one event apply.

Disqualification of Entry

- Photos are in frames and/or matted.
- Photos are not within the specified dimensions.
- Senior Level 4-H member not submitting a community service report.

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 many exciting and rewarding careers. These include photojournalism, 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.

Community Service

Telling a great story, showcasing projects at a community library, speaking at a local nursing home, or organizing a community cooking or building blocks workshop are great opportunities to serve others. Serving others helps you build academic skills, learn civic responsibility, and develop leadership. It may also give you a good opportunity to meet new people, publicize 4-H, and practice your communication skills. Alabama 4-H is now requiring all Senior Level 4-H members to add a community service component to all 4-H Competitive Events. Each Senior Level 4-H member will have to complete the 4-H Community Service Report as a part of his or her project. 4-H members will be disqualified if the community service report is not included.

You must decide what service you can provide and not have a parent or 4-H leader make this decision for you. Groups of young people are encouraged to work together to discover how they can serve their community.

Identification of Entry

Name, county, and level of participation should be displayed with each entry. An introduction at the beginning of your time would be appropriate.





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Score Sheet

Participant Name: _____ County: _____

Level: ___ Junior (Age 9–11) ___ Intermediate (Age 12–13) ___ Senior I (Age 14–15) ___ Senior II (Age 16–18)

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

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

Photo (75 Points)

Composition and Arrangement Are the objects in the photo arranged in a meaningful, pleasing manner? Did the photographer use the best angle or perspective?	(Possible 25 Points) _____
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?	(Possible 10 Points) _____
Lighting Did the photographer use proper lighting? Do any extremes of darkness or brightness lend to or detract from the image?	(Possible 10 Points) _____
Creativity Does the photographer show creative thought or an original idea?	(Possible 30 Points) _____
Informal Interview (25 Points)	
Does the photographer indicate knowledge of photographic technique?	(Possible 25 Points) _____

Judges' Comments:

Total Points: _____

Disqualifications: Check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Photos are in frames and/or matted.
- ☐ Photos are not within the specified dimensions. Prints must be 5" x 7" or larger. They should be no larger than 18" x 18".