CALIFORNIA 4-H PROJECT SHEET SERIES

4-H Photography Project

Blacksnake

As the old adage goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words," and a 4-H Photography Project is a great place to discover the truth behind it. Photography provides people with an opportunity to explore, experiment, express, and communicate in seemingly endless ways. Plus, with today's digital cameras, photography is more accessible than ever before.

Participation in this project goes far beyond building the technical skills needed to operate a camera and other photographic equipment. In this project, members will learn

- how to take engaging photos
- the history, science, and artistic elements found in photography
- how to view the world through a different lens

STARTING OUT, BEGINNER

- Research the history and evolution of the camera.
- Familiarize yourself with your camera, its parts, and its basic functions.
- Learn about the "rule of thirds" and basic photographic composition.
- Explore light and how it affects the quality and mood of your images. Try shooting in natural, low, and artificial light.
- Practice taking photos of a subject that interests you, then photograph a variety of subjects and angles.

LEARNING MORE, INTERMEDIATE

- Learn about ISO, shutter speed, and aperture. Try adjusting these settings and observe the impact on your images.
- Keep a photography journal to record camera settings, lighting conditions, and ideas.
- Explore image sizes. Learn how to find the size of an image, adjust size settings before shooting, resize a photo later, and decide what size is best.

EXPLORING DEPTH, ADVANCED

- Learn how software can be used to correct an underexposed or overexposed image; experiment with cropping, retouching, and color correction.
- Try using different lenses (prime, macro, telephoto, fish-eye, and wide-angle).
- Explore specialized genres like aerial, underwater, or astro photography.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

Light your spark | Flex your brain | Reach your goals

Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

- Learn how a camera obscura works by building a pinhole camera.
- Explore differences and similarities between film and digital cameras. Take photos using both.
- Discover the process of geotagging photographic images and how these images are used.

Healthy Living

- Learn how people use photography to boost their mental wellness.
- Take a photo walk or hike with your project. Bring plenty of water and healthy snacks.
- Create a photo collage or other photo-based art piece that promotes healthy living.

Civic Engagement

- Learn how photography is used in participatory art-making programs to increase civic engagement. Work with members of your project and community to host your own program.
- Discover if the local UC Extension office has historical photos. Help catalog and preserve them.

Leadership

- Serve as a junior or teen leader in your 4-H Photography Project.
- Organize a photo contest for your county 4-H program or community.
- Serve as the photographer, historian, or reporter for your 4-H Community Club.

College and Career Readiness

- Create a photography portfolio and use it to apply to a school, job, or internship.
- Explore careers in photography and learn what education or training is required.
- Discover scholarship opportunities available to young photographers.

CONNECTIONS AND EVENTS

Presentation Days — Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.

Field Days — Participate in a contest related to your project area. Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities such as a county resource fair.

State 4-H Photography Competition — Showcase your best photographs at this competition, http://4h.ucanr.edu/4-H_Events/SFD/Photo/.

CURRICULUM

- Photography (Three Levels: Basics, Next Level, and Mastering) https://shop4-h.org/products/2019-photography-set-of-3
- Discover 4-H Photography Clubs https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/CP/File.php?F=F_eWHUt4btVq95sZT
- Explore Texas 4-H Photography Project https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/explore_photography/

4-H RECORD BOOK

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning, and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

RESOURCES

- California Streaming Digital Photography Contest, http://media.lacoe.edu/cspc.aspx
- The 4-H Digital Photography Project, https://aces.nmsu.edu/4h/photography/
- 4-H Photography Project, https://4h.tennessee.edu/photography/
- California 4-H Officer's Manual, http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/167443.pdf
- National Geographic Kids Guide to Photography, https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/books/my-shot-photo-guide-book/
- Create a Photo Journal in Google Docs, https://applieddigitalskills.withgoogle.com/c/middle-and-high-school/en/create-a-photo-journal-in-google-docs/overview.html

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4-H Thriving Model

4-H programs done well help youth thrive. No matter what project or activities are offered, the project leader should help ensure youth engagement with a focus on these three contexts:

FACILITATE YOUTH SPARKS

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Youth use their spark to make the world a better place.

Sparks create action, provide fuel for growth in knowledge and skills. Sparks grow a young person's networks.

Help youth find how this project may bring them joy, purpose, and direction.

To learn more: https://tinyurl.com/y2lwct7u

PROGRAM QUALITY MATTERS

Research shows that youth programs must be done well if they are to make a positive difference in the lives of youth.

Quality programs ensure:

- Physical and psychological safety.
- Appropriate structure.
- Supportive relationships.
- Opportunities to belong.
- Positive social norms.
- Support for mattering.
- Opportunities for skill building.
- Integration of family, school, and community.

To learn more: https://tinyurl.com/yxg27m3j

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Caring, supportive adults are clearly connected to positive youth development.

Across the childhood years, youth need different things from adults as they learn, grow, and self-regulate. What should remain constant from all adult volunteers and staff:

- Expressing care through listening, warmth, and dependability.
- Challenging growth by expecting youth to do their best.
- Providing support.
- Sharing power.
- Expanding possibilities.

To learn more: https://tinyurl.com/y6434ntw

For Further Information

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