4-H on Parade 2026
Photography Competition Rules & Guidelines

The 4-H on Parade Photography competition is open to all 4-H members who are registered to attend 4-H on Parade.

RULES:

- All submissions must be the original work of the member and be recently taken.
- Photos can only have minor manipulation or touch-ups performed for all categories **with the exception of creative (new this year).** The only acceptable manipulation includes correction of red eye, cropping, and straightening of photos.
- Submit photos as 5”×7” or 8”×10” prints, mounted in a matte frame only.
- The matte may be any color the photographer feels would enhance the photo.
- Photos may be submitted as color, black and white, or sepia tone.
- Each entry must be labeled with member name, club, and age category on the back.

AGE BASED CATEGORIES:

- **CLEAVERS: PETS** – These entries celebrate our furry, feathered, scaly, or hooved friends! From playful puppies to curious kittens, chirpy birds to unique reptiles, this category invites members to capture the charm and personality of the pets and animals they love.

- **JUNIORS: LANDSCAPE** – Show us the beauty of the world around you! From sweeping vistas and quiet forests to busy city scenes and glowing sunsets, this category highlights outdoor scenery in all its forms. If it makes you stop and admire the view, we can’t wait to see it.

- **INTERMEDIATES: ROAD SIGNS** – Hit the road and let the signs spark your imagination! Whether funny, quirky, bold, or surprising, this category is all about capturing road signs or messages that catch your eye along the way. If you spotted it and thought, *“Well, that’s interesting,”* snap it and share it.

- **SENIORS: NIGHT TIME** - Step into the dark and let the night come alive! This category features photos taken outdoors between after dusk and before dawn, using artificial light, long exposure, or creative techniques to reveal what the eye can’t always see. Any subject is welcome—just keep in mind: no sunrise or sunset images.

- ~ Be sure to review the judging criteria on the next 2 pages ~

4-H *on Parade* 2026 – Photography Competition Judging Criteria

Each photograph will be judged against the following set of judging criteria, and not against photographs of your peers.

Based on total points awarded for each photograph, the photograph with the highest total points will be awarded a Grand Champion ribbon and the photograph with the second highest total points will be awarded a Reserve Champion ribbon. This applies for each of the age categories.

Upon completion of the judging, the top two entries (by total points) will earn the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion banners. Should a tie or ties occur the judging team will be asked to break the tie for award purposes. No one member may win both awards.

The elements for judging the photographs will be:

IMPACT (Max Points 15)	Impact is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion.
CREATIVITY (Max Points 15)	Creativity is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.
TECHNICAL (Max Points 25)	Technical is the quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing, which includes the following aspects: - Allowable amounts of retouching and adjustments (removal of red eye, cropping, minor straightening) - Sharpness and correct color balance - Lighting, which includes the use and control of light. The use of lighting whether natural or man-made and its proper use to enhance the image. - Posting and capturing of the image.
COMPOSITION (Max Point 20)	Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.
SUBJECT MATTER (Max Points 15)	Subject matter should always be appropriate to the story being told (i.e. category the photo is entered into) in an image. Subject matter also includes the center of interest for the photograph or where the maker wants the viewer to stop and view the image.
STORY TELLING (Max Points 10)	Story telling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.

Calgary Region
CANADA
4-H Alberta

4-H on Parade 2026 – Photography Competition Score Sheet

Category: _____

Entry Number:_____

Category	Minimum Points	Maximum Points	Points Awarded
Impact	0	15	
Creativity	0	15	
Technical	0	25	
Compposition	0	20	
Subject Matter	0	15	
Story Telling	0	10	
		TOTAL POINTS AWARDED	

Judge's Comments: