

Supporting School-Age Accreditation and Quality Programming

Photography can be webbed into many School-Age project activities and can become a long-term project within itself. School-agers can take pictures and write the text for a program newsletter. They can take pictures of their friends participating in different projects and create a scrapbook showing the many activities the program does throughout the year. Endorsers and the inspection team can use these books to see what happens outside of the short period of time they are in the center. The photography project itself can teach youth how to take pictures for enjoyment or for work and learn about the technology involved in photography.

Opportunities for Youth Leadership and Development and Cross-age Teaching

Photography is a great way for youth to take charge! As they become proficient in a skill they can share it with other youth. Older children and youth can set up photography scavenger hunts for younger children or less experienced photographers. The scavenger hunt can have a theme (nature, all one color, or lines, for example) or be general. The participants learn about photography, while the youth setting up the hunt learn communication, demonstration, and critical thinking skills.

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas!

Brainstorming with children, youth and parents is a great way to generate a list of ideas for field trips, speakers, and websites.



Here are some examples:

- Professional portrait photographer
- Photographer from local newspaper or a marketing department
- Police who document crime scenes/traffic accidents
- Teacher who has the lead for the yearbook
- Visit a zoo to take pictures of the animals
- Look through travel books for ideas of what makes the pictures so interesting. Take pictures of the community that reflect what has been learned.

Summary

With *4-H Photo Kids* its not necessary to be an expert photographer. All that's needed is an interest in the subject! Try out the activities in the materials. It will help increase personal skills in photography and make suggestions on how to get children and youth involved in the activities. By talking about what they have learned, 4-H members will extend their photography skills and develop abilities to think critically about their experiences.

Providing Quality Middle School and Teen Programming

Many Middle School and Teen members will choose the photography project if they can apply what they learn to activities they enjoy. Almost everyone likes taking pictures of their friends engaged in fun activities. Before going on a field trip, youth can learn to take quality photos and then do storyboards about their trip. Members can document Middle School and Teen activities with photography. If they like sports, they can photograph a local sporting event. The Tech labs provide a whole new approach to photography, MST youth have a whole new world of photo technology opened up to them!

Essential Elements of 4-H Youth Development

Through 4-H, youth know they are cared about and feel a sense of BELONGING; they exercise INDEPENDENCE by using decision-making and action to influence people and events; they develop a sense of MASTERY by learning skills needed in making positive career and life choices; and they experience GENEROSITY by helping others through community service. These elements support the Army Youth Development Components of Belonging, Success, Service and Independence.



THE Army 4-H EXPRESS GUIDE TO Photo Kids



Some things in this world are too good to miss. A dog catching a ball in mid-air, a sleeping baby sucking its thumb, a friend screaming on a roller coaster. The only way to capture and keep these moments --with a camera. *4-H Photo Kids* gives help in taking great photos.



Project Goals

4-H Photo Kids has information to help children and youth of all skill levels take great photos. Each **Guide** provides information of the three Project Books and Photo Journals provides information on a topic and then gives ideas for photos to take to practice that skill.

Four Fun Activities

1 Direct eye contact can be as appealing in a picture as it is in real life. For photos that engage the viewer, take the picture at the subject's eye level. For creative fun, change the angle of view. Get up high to make the subject smaller or down low to make the subject bigger. Even moving the camera a little to the left or right can change the photo's composition! **Bird's (or Bug's) Eye View, Focus on Photography, Level 1, pages 46-47,** gives many great ideas on creative composition.

2 Taking photos of people outside in the sun can be challenging. When the sun is in their eyes, people squint. **Flash for More Light, Focus on Photography, Level 1, pages 30-31,** provides tips on taking better outdoor photos by positioning the subject out of bright sunlight and using flash.

3 Fireworks make great pictures. So do beautiful sunset. However low-light situations such as these present challenges, **Low Light Challenges, Controlling the Image Project, Level 2, pages 18-19,** explains how to take awesome city skylines at night, photos in heavy rain or fog, or streaking headlights and taillights with a long exposure of traffic on a highway.

4 One of the amazing things a camera can do is stop the motion. The camera can stop a whale just under the surface of the water, or catch a canon just as it fires. These things happen so quickly that our eyes only sees the action in progress. **Freeze the Moment, Controlling the Image, Level 2, Project Area 4, pages 54-55,** provides information on how to capture the motion in some interesting ways.

Experiential Learning

Experiential Learning engages children and youth while they learn, share, and grow through their 4-H experiences. The focus is on them as learners with an adult as the coach. First comes the "doing" or exploring. Next, youth share what they did and discuss the experience with their peers. After they've identified the skills and knowledge gained, help then determine how to apply these to other situations in their lives. Questions to ask include:



What was the most difficult thing to learn about photography?

What was the most fun to learn?

Is there anything you need to know to take better pictures?

What do you like best about taking photos?

What is your favorite subject to take a picture of?

Can you use your camera to tell stories about your life?

What stories will it tell?

Project Activity Guides and Target Age Groups

Focus on Photography – Level 1, is designed for youth with no formal experience in photography. It includes information on understanding the camera, learning how light affects the photo, positioning pictures, taking great pictures and exhibiting photographs.

Controlling the Image - Level 2, is designed for youth with prior formal experience in photography. Content includes depth of field, lighting challenges, using flash effectively, building photos, and panoramas.

Mastering Photography – Level 3, is for youth who have extensive experience in photography. They will learn about selecting lenses, special effects, creating moods with light, mastering composition, and understanding the importance of details.



Life Skills

"Skills that help an individual to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life" are identified as life skills (Hendricks, 1996). The skills that can be developed in this project include decision-making, communication, leading self and others, planning and organizing. Only one life skill is targeted for each activity, but youth have the opportunity to practice several.

Related 4-H Projects

Just about any 4-H project could be related to *4-H Photo Kids*. Some examples include: taking pictures of background ideas for the Theater Arts project; pictures of friends and their 4-H projects – pets, clothing, fishing, foods, or exploring the environment; or document the club community service activities – there is so much to choose from!

Integrating Technology

Today's technology can turn anyone into a photographer – cell phones, digital cameras, MP3 players, miniature cameras, digital web cams and the Internet offer limitless opportunities to share photos.

- Kodak provides a free online photo gallery at www.kodak.com.
- Digital editing photography software such as Adobe Photoshop allows the user to create something new instead of just documenting something that's already there
- Check with the Technology Specialists

Related Websites

www.Kodak.com

www.4-Hphotography.org

Character Connection

Encourage youth to practice the Pillar of Caring by:

- Teaching someone else how to take quality photographs
- Sharing memories with others through photography

Additional character resources can be found at www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org

Linking to the Army's Four Service Areas and Baseline Programming

Sports, Fitness and Health Options

Children and youth can photograph many things related to Sports, Fitness, and Health. They can take pictures of themselves or their peers who are beginning a health project and document the changes made toward a healthier lifestyle. **Photos Can Tell the Story, Focus on Photography, page 58,** diagrams how 4-H members create a storyboard – members can go on a nature trail and take pictures as they go. Display photos at a nature center or other location in the community.

Arts, Recreation and Leisure Activities

Learning to take pictures that tell a story, displaying photographs, creating photo stories, manipulating the photo to give it a different color or clarity all support the Arts, Recreation, and Leisure Service Area. Using different lights can change how photos look. **The Light Makes a Difference, Focus on Photography, page 18,** looks at light from a new angle.

Life Skills, Citizenship, and Leadership Opportunities

Communication, leading, learning, critical thinking, planning, keeping records, and building self-esteem are all valuable life skills that are taught using *4-H Photo Kids*. Learning to arrange the people or things being photographed, analyzing pictures shot at different angles, choosing subjects, trying new things or sharing the story behind a photo all help develop life skills. **Photography with Your Feet, Focus on Photography, page 38,** helps analyze how cameras take the best photos.

Academic Support, Mentoring, and Intervention Services

Use photographs to enhance school work. Create a family tree by taking family members pictures and put them on the tree. **Say Cheese, Mastering Photography, page 46,** gives ideas for photographing people and their personalities.

Community Service Service Learning Opportunities

There are many ways photographers can give back to their community. Some examples include:

- Find a place in the community to display members best photos. A bank lobby, store window, or fast food restaurant are all good ideas.
- Have each person in the group mount or frame a favorite photograph. Visit residents in a nursing home/retirement community and give these as gifts.
- Interview a person about a photo that has great meaning to them. Why does it mean so much? Write the story about the photo for the person.
- Work with the garrison's Family Child Care (FCC) program, to take photographs of child care homes and facilities for FCC.com.