2015 GUIDELINES FOR 
STATE FAIR 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITS

Exhibits must meet the guidelines below in order to be eligible to be displayed at State Fair. Exhibits not meeting these guidelines will be regretfully disqualified.

REQUIREMENTS

1) Photos must be mounted on an 8” x 10” solid mat board.
2) The mat board can be in a color of the photographer’s choice.
3) Photographs must be 8” x 10” or smaller, with no more than four photos per mat board.

PLEASE NOTE:

✓ “Solid” requires means no cutouts or other holes in the mat board, either around or behind the photo.
✓ Mount photos on the smoothest side of the mat board.
✓ “Mat board” is a specific material, intended to keep the photo from getting bent or destroyed. It is not cardboard, foam core, poster board, etc.
✓ Photo exhibits should arrive in an exhibit bag that fits the photo, to protect it from dust, humidity, and handling. The bag should not be oversized and folded, as this makes it difficult to display in the rack.
✓ Mat board (8” x 10”) and photo bags may be ordered at MU Extension Publications website at http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/. Select 4-H → Project Literature → Photography.
✓ If you’re uncertain whether it’s mat board, do the “wave it and squeeze it” test: Mat board is not squishy or flimsy. If it isn’t light, thin, stiff, and solid, the material is not mat board. Mounting material meeting this test will be given the benefit of the doubt.
✓ Single window mats (“frames” made of mat board and sized 8” x 10”) are acceptable but not required.

DIGITAL CONSIDERATIONS AT THE STATE FAIR 4-H BUILDING

Techniques that can be performed in-camera, in a photo-editing software program, or in a film darkroom are permissible. At State Fair, the line is drawn between “enhancing” and “altering” a photo:

1) Altering (editing to change the contents of a photo) is not permitted for State Fair exhibits.
   a. Examples include adding a sunset or object, removing someone from the shot, airbrushing to cover a bad complexion, etc.
2) Enhancing (editing to enhance the existing qualities of a photo) is permitted.
   a. Examples include cropping, dodging, burning, brightness/contrast adjustments and red eye reduction.

State Fair 4-H Building photography exhibit guidelines are available at http://4h.missouri.edu → Events → State Fair