

4-H Training Topics - Photography

Background:

This project covers the skills to help youth take better photos. There are three project guides, **Focus on Photography, Level 1; Controlling the Image, Level 2; Mastering Photography, Level 3.**

Resource:

Details!, Details!, Mastering Photography, pages 58-59
The Rule of Thirds, Controlling the Image, pages 34-35
What Do You See? Focus on Photography, pages 34-35
Photography With Your Feet, Focus on Photography, pages 38-39
Taking Great Photographs, Focus on Photography, pages 54-55
The Space Tells a Story, Controlling the Image, pages 46-47

Materials Needed:

Photos
 Easel paper or white board
 4-H *Photo Kids* Manuals

Preparation Time:

Have available four times as many photos as staff members attending the training. Download pictures off the Internet (do not download photos with copywrite protection), use personal photos, or use photos that children or youth have taken in the past. If possible print on photo paper for clearer photos.

Prior to the meeting, write the following on easel paper or on a white board:

Photo **DOCS**:

Details - Details are important. Show them.

Off-center - Photographed subject shouldn't always be right in the middle of the photo. Pictures often will look more interesting if the subject is off to the side.

Clutter - Clutter is stuff that keeps the eye busy. Don't take pictures with lots of clutter.

Simple - Keep the subject simple.



1

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|---|--|---------|
| Have many photos available for staff to look at. Ask them to share with others what they like and don't like about the photos. Explain the directions to the first person who enters the room and have them tell the others the directions. | There are photos scattered around the room. Find one picture that you really like and one picture that you don't like. Share your thoughts with someone else in the room. Be sure to introduce yourself. | 5 |

2

Curriculum

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|--|--|---------|
| Introduce the <i>Photo Kids</i> Project books. Explain that there are many activities in the curriculum. | <p>Thank you for coming. Today we are going to focus on the 4-H photography project. This project is for children and youth grades 1-12. Each book has many activities to help them learn about photography. As the project leader it's not necessary to be a great photographer - just have an interest in the subject!</p> <p>Everyone likes to look at photos, but some are more interesting than others. Think about the pictures that are here today. What made some interesting and some less interesting? (Get some responses) How could the less interesting ones be made better?</p> <p>Today we are going to focus on composition. Does anyone know what composition is? (Wait for responses) Composition is how parts of a picture are arranged. A good photo tells a story, shows an idea, or creates a feeling.</p> <p>This activity can be done during one club session, or it can be done multiple times after a new idea or technique is introduced.</p> | 5 |

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3 Staff Introductions

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|---|--|---------|
| Adjust this activity according to the number of people in the group and the amount of time available. | As you introduce yourself, show one of the pictures in the room and tell what you liked best or least about the picture and why? Others might share what is unique about a picture or what could be changed to make it better? | 3 |

4 Doing an Activity

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| Display the Photo DOCS poster. | <p>Remember what composition is? It is the way things being photographed are arranged. It is all the parts that make up a picture. There is a simple way to assure photos have good composition. Remember photo DOCS; this acronym can help any photographer take better photos.</p> <p>It stands for: Details - Details are important. Be sure to show them. Off-center –The subject shouldn't always be right in the middle of the photo. Pictures often look more interesting when the subject is off to the side. Clutter – Clutter is stuff that keeps the eye busy. Don't take pictures with lots of clutter. Simple – Keep the subject simple.</p> <p>Look at the photos scattered around the room once again. How many of the DOCS are present in the good photos---in the "needs improvement" photos?</p> <p>Using the Photo DOCS strategy photos will be better composed to help tell a story, show an idea, or create a feeling.</p> | 15 |

5 Sharing Ideas

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|--|---|---------|
| If the group is small – ten or less – ask each person to report to the group. If the group is larger divide into smaller groups. | Now let's practice the DOCS strategies. Everyone should select a photo from the "needs improvement" group. Using one DOCS strategy tell how to improve the selected photograph. | 10 |

6 Applying the Experience

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|--|--|---------|
| Apply this experience to other activities. | In this training a lesson was taken from all three books so all the materials could be reviewed. Each book is made up of many lessons. It's possible to use one at a time with the children or youth, or combine some depending on their skills. What can be used from this training that can be applied to something already planned for this week? How would it need to be changed to make it work with the children/youth? What other resources are needed? | 7 |

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7 Making a Plan

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|---|---|---------|
| Make a plan for starting the <i>Photo Kids</i> project. | Now it's time to work as a group and set some dates for the photography project. When should the project meetings start? What ideas from this meeting can be used? Who is the adult project leader? When should another meeting be held for more planning and reflection? | 5 |

8 Closing

| What to Do | What to Say | Minutes |
|----------------------|---|---------|
| Summarize and close. | <p>This one short activity is something that can be used in program planning. It may take more time when working with children, especially if the group is larger. Be sure to utilize the Tech Lab and the Lab Lead. Get ideas from the children or youth and plan about 10 activities for the project. The 4-H project materials all have lots of activities that can be turned into lesson plans and are fun for adults and children.</p> <p>Are there questions? Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm.</p> | 2 |

