

FUN PHOTO ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH KIDS

Photography Scavenger Hunt

Purpose: To teach kids the basic rules of composition and provide a fun, hands-on activity to reinforce what they learn. As an added benefit, they will be encouraged to take a variety of photos.

Location and Time Needed: Any location – park, county courthouse grounds, zoo, farm – will work well. Ideally, you will have use of a meeting room or picnic shelter as your classroom. The hands-on activities should take place outdoors. Allow at least a half hour to explain the rules of composition (get close, simple backgrounds, framing, leading lines, rule of thirds). Give them an hour to shoot photos and allow another hour to critique the photos.

Equipment Needed: Each participant needs a camera (digital works best). The best way to view their photos is to download them to a laptop computer (you may need a card reader to accommodate various types of memory cards).

How To: Prior to having the kids shoot photos, they are given a scavenger hunt list with the assignment to shoot photos of subjects on the list or examples of composition rules on the list. The idea is to encourage them to look at objects from various points of view – to get creative. Make sure they know when they should be back at the meeting place and limit the area (e.g., “the park,” “a block in either direction”).

Once they return from the photo shoot, download their photos and have each participant critique their own photos first and then have others give their opinions. Have each participant choose their best photo and explain their choice. Sharing their photos gives them an opportunity to get feedback from other members and also gives them ideas for improving their photos.

Following are two samples of scavenger hunt lists.

4-H Photo Scavenger Hunt – Elver Park, Madison

5 things to remember when taking pictures

- Get close
- Simple/clean background
- Rule of thirds
- Use framing
- Use leading lines

1. Person doing something (get close)
2. Part of a building (door, window, stone)
3. Person drinking at a water fountain
4. Reflection on water
5. On path using grass and path as a leading line
6. Flowers/plants (get close or an interesting angle)
7. Landscape with clouds (rule of thirds)
8. Leaves on tree with sun reflecting off leaves
9. Something on the path (get close)
10. Bridge (framing, leading lines)
11. Self-portrait (could be your shadow)
12. Nature with water (rule of thirds, no man-made objects)
13. Foot prints in the dirt
14. Use of framing
15. Sign or plaque (think interesting angle)
16. People doing something (basketball or softball or play ground – ask permission)
17. Ducks on a pond (get close, be patient, let them come to you)
18. Three pictures of your choice

4-H Photo Scavenger Hunt – State Capitol, Madison

Take pictures of the following:		
	Statue or part of statue (watch background)	Building or part of building (think light, color, shapes/angles, texture)
	Person (ask permission)	Animal or pet
	Close-up of same person (2 steps closer)	People doing something (ask permission)
	Capitol Rotunda from outside	Scenery (State Street, Lake Monona)
	Capitol Rotunda from different angle	Unusual object
	Capitol Rotunda from inside	Subject from unusual angle
	Flower bed from view of a rabbit	Self-portrait
	Use of leading lines (e.g., steps, railing, sidewalk)	Something on Monona Terrace
	Use of rule of thirds (tic-tac-toe grid)	Lake Monona from Monona Terrace
	Use of framing (e.g., trees, doorway, window, railing)	Something with unusual shape (colorful helps)
	Simple background (no clutter)	Something that you set up or create (e.g., still life)
	Something from Farmers Market (e.g., display of veggies, flowers, people)	Reflection in a window
	Sit in one spot for 5 minutes, observe what's going on, look for photo opportunities, then photograph one thing.	

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Photography Challenge

One way to get better at photography is to take lots of pictures. This activity presents a challenge to take a variety of photos over the course of two months. It could be presented at a club meeting with a checklist of photos – use your county fair book for ideas for your checklist. The kids then bring their photos to the next project meeting and discuss them. This encourages kids to take photos year around and not just prior to the fair. Here's an example of the challenge and checklist:

Assignment: For the next two months, try to take at least one photo every day. When we meet at the end of this assignment, bring at least 10 photos that represent your work. Be prepared to share what worked well and what didn't work so well.

Some ideas for your photos:

1. Friends
2. One or more family members (at least one candid and one posed)
3. Pets or zoo animals
4. Something in your yard (e.g., flowers, trees, playhouse or swing set, snow on trees)
5. Something from your school
6. Items arranged into a still life (e.g., favorite stuffed animals, hobby, sports items)
7. Something that tells a story about your neighborhood (e.g., street scene, mailboxes, park)
8. Something that you or your family does at home (e.g., cooking, laundry, yard work)
9. Activities (e.g., sports, skiing, gymnastics, clubs)
10. Next 4-H meeting
11. Outings with your family (e.g., trip to grocery store, day at water park, trip to mall)
12. Building (e.g., your house, school, barn)
13. Something from nature (e.g., leaf, trees, lake)