

Tips for Youth Photo Exhibitors

When you enter a photo exhibit at the county fair, you'll be showing the public, and the judge, what you've learned in the project. Make your exhibit the best it can be. Here are top 10 tips:

1. Don't worry about the type of camera you use. You can take interesting, well-composed photographs with any camera.
2. Hold your camera steady.
3. Get close to your subject. Fill the viewfinder.
4. Watch the background behind your subject. Keep it simple.
5. Place your subject off center, which is more interesting and dynamic than in the middle of your photo. This is called the "Rule of Thirds."
6. Use leading lines to lead your eye to the subject.
7. Include something in the foreground that "frames" your subject within the photo.
8. Follow county fair mounting requirements: correct photo size, board, matting, and adhesive.
9. Follow photo exhibit layout rules: no distracting artwork, photos mounted straight, title and captions clear and simple.
10. Provide technical information: type of camera, type of film, type of lighting, and exposure details.

If you enter a video exhibit at the county fair, keep these top 10 tips in mind:

1. Your video should have an interesting story, with a clear beginning, middle and ending.
2. Keep your video to 2-3 minutes.
3. Show a variety of short scenes. A scene should only be as long as it takes to make a point and capture the action – about 10 seconds.
4. Pacing (fast, medium and slow-paged scenes) should be varied and appropriate.
5. Use a variety of wide shots, medium shots and close-ups.
6. Your video should be in focus, with proper lighting and exposure. Hold the camera steady.
7. Hold panning, tilting and zooming to a minimum and only use to follow the action.
8. Sound should be natural. Transitions from scene to scene should be smooth.
9. Level of sound (loudness) should be appropriate and adequate for the audience to hear clearly. Background noise, when used, should be appropriate and not distracting.
10. Titles should stay on the screen about twice as long as it takes to read the words.