



2026-2027

Photography Program Opportunities & Dates:

** Always check current status prior to traveling to events!*

TX 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY AMBASSADOR STATE/NATIONAL LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY CORPS OPPORTUNITIES:

(Coordinate with event POC to ensure they know you will be assisting with photography. CHECK IN with them at event prior to shooting to receive instructions. POCs are listed on Texas 4-H website)

TX “State Games” Shooting Sports Rifle/pistol/muzzleloading/hunting skills: July 5-10, 2026 in Baird
Shotgun/archery: July 12-18, 2026 at National Shooting Complex, San Antonio, POC: Larry Perez
Larry.perez@ag.tamu.edu 979-321-5295

TX 4-H Round Up Photo Booth 2026: June 1-4, 2026 Texas A&M University, College Station

TX 4-H Scholarship Banquet/San Antonio Scholarship Banquet 2026: June 3, 2026 Texas A&M University, College Station

TX 4-H Foundation Gala: June 4, 2026 Hilton Conference Center, College Station

TX 4-H Brownwood Camps (Photographers): July – August 2026, POC: Makayla Waiser@ag.tamu.edu, 325-784-5482

*Mini Camp: July 1-3, 2026

*Horizons: July 6-10, 2026

*County Camp I: July 12-16, 2026

*Outdoor Adventure: July 19-24, 2026

*County Camp II: July 26-30, 2026

*County Camp III: August 2-6, 2026

TX 4-H Aperture Academy: July 5-10, 2026 (Youth Leaders), Brownwood

TX 4-H Dog Show: July 7-9, 2026, Hill Country Youth Event Ctr, Kerrville, POC: Michelle.mihalek@ag.tamu.edu, 936-539-7823

TX 4-H Horse Show: July 19-25 2026 Brazos Co Expo, Bryan, POC: Jennifer.zoller@ag.tamu.edu

TX 4-H Rabbit Show: September XXX 2026, Bell County Expo, Belton, POC: Shelley Franklin

TX 4-H Holiday Classic, November 7-8, 2026 at Bell County Expo, Belton, Sponsored by D8: Megan Parr, megan.parr@ag.tamu.edu, 254-968-4144 x 212

TX 4-H Southern Classic: December 12-13, 2026 at Brazos County Expo, 5827 Leonard Rd, Bryan, Sponsored by D9, POC: Ashleigh Sugg, ashleigh.sugg@ag.tamu.edu, 979-823-0129

TX 4-H Shooting Sport Extravaganza: April 2027 (exact date TBD) at 4-H Center in Brownwood, POC: Larry Perez Larry.perez@ag.tamu.edu 979-321-5295

2026

MARCH 2026

PRACTICE Opportunity – Fort Worth Trip: March 13-15, 2026

Who: Open to all 4-H ages and skill levels!

What: Street shoots at the Stockyards, architectural shots downtown, golden hour sessions, nature and wildlife practice, macro work at the Botanic Garden, night photography, and portfolio building.

Cost: Entrance fees for may apply for some locations at your own expense

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/4HFortWorth>

AMBASSADOR LEADER: Elizabeth Hall - TX 4-H Photography Ambassador

ADULT LEADER: TBD

PRACTICE Opportunity – Spring Break in Big Bend: Mar 20-22, 2026

Who All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old and their families

What: Explore the “Grand Canyon of Texas” and the Terlingua Ghost Town.

Where: Big Bend National Park

Cost: No 4-H Costs.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/BigBend4-H>

AMBASSADOR LEADER: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Tracy Coursey, 254-291-6059, tracy.coursey@gmail.com

APRIL 2026

DUE DATE - JMP Applications: April 1, 2026 Open **ONLY** to JMP candidates that have attended both JMP 1 and JMP 2 workshops. Link will be provided at JMP 2 workshop.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & PRACTICE Opportunity- Cotton Gin Festival: Saturday, April 18, 2026 10 am- 4 pm

Who All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old. Clovers welcome with parent or guardian.

What: Have fun and get some great shots at this family-friendly event! Concentration in people and food photography. All photos will be donated to the festival/museum.

Where: Main Street area, Burton, TX

Cost: Free

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/CottonGin4-H>

AMBASSADOR LEADER: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Victoria Schmidt, 979-218-8564, Victoria.schmidt76@yahoo.com

DUE DATE - Texas 4-H Photography NEW Ambassador Applications: April 30, 2026. Open **ONLY** to certified JMP 4-Hers. Link will be provided after JMP application period.

MAY 2026

DUE DATE - Texas 4-H Photography RETURNING Ambassador Applications: May 15, 2026. Open **ONLY** to current Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors desiring to apply for an additional year. Link will be provided after JMP application period.

WORKSHOP – Doggie Day! JMP and Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors Only – PET Photography: May 16, 2026 9:00 a.m. - noon

What: Bring your four-legged friend with you to this fun doggie photo shoot. All pets must be fully vaccinated (rabies and distemper mandatory, Bordetella (kennel cough) strongly encouraged) and **MUST** be friendly with other animals and people. We will practice photographing dogs and owners with dogs!

Where: Bull Creek District Park, 6701 Lakewood Dr, Austin.

Other Info: This lovely park is bisected by Bull Creek, one of two spring-fed water supply creeks in Austin, Texas. It is our only leash free dog park in NW Austin, where many dogs and their owners gather and play. It is also the trailhead for the Inga Van Nynatten Memorial Trail along the creek and greenbelt.

Cost: Free

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/DoggieDay4-H>

Contact: Tracy Coursey, 254-291-6059, tracy.coursey@gmail.com or Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com, 254-718-1332

JUNE 2026

PRACTICE Opportunity & Education Booth: TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP June 2-4, 2026

Who Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors and Certified JMPs

What: Take photos of roundup events and at selfie photo booth. Man the Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador/JMP photo booth

Where: Texas A&M University

Why: This is a state level opportunity to practice as well as earn hours manning the photography booth, telling other 4-Hers about the program

Wear: Your JMP tshirt (JMPs) or Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador polo, name tag, pins, khaki pants (Ambassadors)

Cost: Free

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/RoundUp2026>

AMBASSADOR LEADER: TBD

POC: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu

Ambassador 2026-2027 Installation Ceremony and Training: June 5-6, 2026

Who All Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors accepted for 2026-2027 year

What: Installation ceremony and Ambassador training/workshop (**MANDATORY EVENT**)

Where: College Station

Why: This event will provide all Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors the training needed for successful completion of requirements and to further develop them as photography leaders

Wear: Ambassador Formal Uniform for photos. Remainder: JMP Shirt

RSVP: Texas 4-H Online

POC: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu

YELLOWSTONE TRIP PRACTICE Opportunity- Yellowstone National Park/Grand Teton National Park

Trip: June 22-26, 2026

Who: All 4-H ages (including clovers) and their families. All skill levels.

What: Explore one of the most beautiful locations in the United States! We will visit the Grand Prismatic Spring, Old Faithful, Upper Geyser Basin, Grand Teton National Park and more.

Cost: No 4-H costs. Families are responsible for their own entrance fees, food, lodging and transportation costs.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/Yellowstone4-H>

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Liz Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

JULY 2026

APERTURE ACADEMY Multi-Day PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP!!!: July 6-10, 2026 Location: Texas 4-H Center, Brownwood, TX

Who: All intermediate age 4-Hers

Cost: \$300-350 (exact cost has not been established yet)

What: This is 4 days full of hands-on camera fun at the beginner to intermediate proficiency level. All camera equipment will be provided! Campers will learn basic/intermediate level camera skills starting from the beginner level and will also enjoy camping experiences such as zip line, swimming, bonfires, dances and other activities. Max participation is only 25, so campers will have personalized instruction in a small group setting.

RSVP: Through Texas 4-H Camp site

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: Chosen through an application process

ADULT LEADER: Derrick Bruton derrick.bruton@ag.tamu.edu; Liz Schlak liz.schlak@gmail.com

SAN ANTONIO TRIP PRACTICE Opportunity- San Antonio Field Trip: July 25-26, 2026

Who: All 4-H ages (including clovers) and all skill levels.

What: Tour the missions, Botanical Gardens, La Villita, and other sites. Night photography on Riverwalk. Private photoshoot with traditional Mexican dancers and live performance. This is a trip NOT to miss!

Cost: No 4-H costs. Families are responsible for their own entrance fees, food, lodging and transportation costs.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/SanAntonio2026>

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Liz Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

AUGUST 2026

WORKSHOP: Posing Clinic & LinkedIn Headshots/Ambassador Swim Party – Aug 8 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Who: Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors and their Families only.

What: Learn posing tips from professional photographer, Brandy Gray, in preparation for Senior Ambassador Photoshoot the following day. Seniors, bring a BLANK media card (SD, compact flash, XQD, etc...)

Where: Bell County Extension Office, 1605 N Main St #102, Belton 9:00 a.m. – noon; Liz's house-1920 River Rock Trail, Harker Heights 1-4 p.m. Late lunch of pizza will be provided.

Cost: No 4-H costs.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/PosingClinic2026>

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

ADULT LEADERS: Brandy Gray, 979-557-3751, fireflyphotographynbt@gmail.com, Liz Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

SENIOR PHOTO SHOOT: TX 4-H Photo Ambassadors will photograph the Class of 2027 Photography Ambassador seniors – Aug 9 9:00 a.m.

Who: Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors and their Families only.

What: Non-senior Ambassadors will pair up with senior ambassadors (those graduating in 2027) and provide a multi-location, multi-outfit photo shoot. Great practice for non-senior ambassadors coordinating and performing the shoot and the senior ambassadors get senior photos for their use! Seniors, bring a BLANK media card (SD, compact flash, XQD, etc...) **Group lunch** afterwards at Miller's BBQ (same area)

Where: Downtown Belton, 101 E. Central Ave, Belton

Cost: Bring \$ for Lunch

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/SeniorShoot2026>

ADULT LEADER: Liz Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2026

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT: Pink Fishing "Reeling in the Cure": Saturday, September 6, 2026, 1– 4 p.m.

Who: All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old

What: Bass Fishing Tournament benefitting the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Organizers are requesting photography coverage of event and winners. www.pinkfishing.com

Where: Cedar Ridge Park, Sunset Pavillion, Belton Lake, Temple

Why: Support efforts to fight cancer.

RSVP: TBD

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Liz Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

PRACTICE Opportunity – Austin Field Trip September 12, 2026 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Who: Open to all 4-H ages and skill levels!

What: Photograph the capital, Frost Building, explore Zilker Botanical Gardens, See the bat flight on a riverboat cruise and night photography of city skyline

Where: Meet at the Zilker Botanical Gardens @ 9 a.m.

Cost: Riverboat cruise is \$14.50 per ticket. Limited supply. See signup genius to reserve spot.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/Austin4-H2026>

Ambassador Leader: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com, 254-718-1332

WORKSHOP - JMP 1 (Class of 2027), CLASS OF 2025 Pinning Ceremony, Texas 4-H Photography

Ambassador Installation: Saturday, September 26, 2026 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: District IV 4-H Center (@ Water Building), 17360 Coit Rd, Dallas

Who: 4-Hers 6th grade and up. Must bring a DSLR or mirrorless camera

What: Focus of Workshop: Camera Basics & Lighting. To be a certified “Junior Master Photographer”, candidates must attend BOTH workshop I and workshop II, complete a competency test with a minimum score of 80%, submit four photos taken by applicant demonstrating understanding of instruction, participate in at least one practice event, complete a photography community service, and take part in at least two organized project experiences. All activities attended during the application year may count towards JMP requirements.

Why: Although there is no yearly performance requirement, Junior Master Photographers are expected to return to counties and districts to help expand their photography programs. They receive the Junior Master Photographer pin. Certified JMPs in 9th grade are eligible to apply to the State 4-H Photography Ambassador Program.

Cost: \$50.00 to recoup mandatory 4-H Online Registration costs and materials

RSVP: Registration is open September 1, 2026 on 4-H Online. Space is limited to 50 participants.

BRING: DSLR or mirrorless camera and batteries

Contact: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu, Victoria Schmidt, Victoria.Schmidt76@yahoo.com, or Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2026

COMMUNITY SERVICE & CHRISTMAS PRESENT CREATION: Oct 24, 2026 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Who: All ages of 4-Hers (clovers please have a parent or guardian with you)

What: Creating photo transfers (they will look like watercolor paintings when done) and photo note cards for Christmas presents. Donation of note cards as community service.

Where: Bell County Extension Office, 1605 N. Main St, Belton 76513

Cost: No 4-H costs.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/Christmas4-H2026>

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Liz Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2026

PILOT JMP TRAINING WORKSHOP - COMBINED JMP 1&2 (Class of 2027), Saturday, Nov 7-8, 2026

Where: Kerrville

Who: 4-Hers 6th grade and up. Must bring a DSLR or mirrorless camera

What: Focus of Workshop: Camera Basics, Lighting, Color & Composition. To be a certified “Junior Master Photographer”, candidates must attend BOTH workshop I and workshop II (Saturday AND Sunday), complete a competency test with a minimum score of 80%, submit four photos taken by applicant demonstrating understanding of instruction, participate in at least one practice event, complete a photography community service, and take part in at least two organized project experiences. All activities attended during the application year may count towards JMP requirements.

Why: Although there is no yearly performance requirement, Junior Master Photographers are expected to return to counties and districts to help expand their photography programs. They receive the Junior Master Photographer pin. Certified JMPs in 9th grade are eligible to apply to the State 4-H Photography Ambassador Program.

Cost: \$TBD to recoup mandatory 4-H Online Registration costs and materials

RSVP: Registration will be on 4-H Online. Space is limited.

BRING: DSLR or mirrorless camera and batteries

Contact: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu, Victoria Schmidt, Victoria.Schmidt76@yahoo.com, Tracy Coursey, tracy.coursey@gmail.com or Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com

PRACTICE Opportunity- Field Trip: Homestead Heritage “Living off the Land Festival” Saturday (after Thanksgiving) November 28, 2026 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: 608 Dry Creek Rd, Waco, TX 76705, <http://www.homesteadheritage.com>, 254-754-9600

Who: All 4-H ages (including clovers) and all skill levels.

What: Lots to do and see with a craft barn for younger 4-Hers (small charge for craft supplies).

Cost: \$12 per person, Children 16 and under free. Free to park.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/Waco4-H2026>

AMBASSADOR LEADER: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Elizabeth Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com, 254-718-1332

DECEMBER 2026

WORKSHOP - JMP 2 (Class of 2027): Saturday, December 5, 2026 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: District IV 4-H Center (@Healthy Living Building), 17360 Coit Rd, Dallas

Who: 4-Hers 6th grade & up. ****MUST HAVE ATTENDED WORKSHOP I.**

What: Workshop Focus: Color & Composition. To be a certified “Junior Master Photographer”, candidates must attend BOTH workshop I and workshop II, complete a competency test with a minimum score of 80%, submit four photos taken by applicant demonstrating understanding of instruction, participate in at least one practice event, complete a photography community service, and take part in at least two organized project experiences.

Why: Although there is no yearly performance requirement, Junior Master Photographers are expected to return to counties and districts to help expand their photography programs. They receive the Junior Master Photographer pin and certificate. Certified JMPs in 9th grade are eligible to apply to the State 4-H Photography Ambassador Program.

Cost: \$30 fee to recoup mandatory 4-H Connect Registration costs and materials

RSVP: Will be through 4-H Online <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/4honline/>

Contact: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu, Victoria Schmidt, Victoria.Schmidt76@yahoo.com, or Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com

2027

FEBRUARY 2027

WORKSHOP - Food Photography: February 27, 2027, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Who: All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old

What: Learn food styling tricks - How to create magazine-worthy food photos and experiment with styling aids. This is a HANDS on workshop - bring your camera!

Where: Reservations are being arranged, but we hope to have this workshop at the Bell County Extension Office, 1605 N Main St #102, Belton

Cost: No 4-H fees.

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

RSVP: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Elizabeth Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

MARCH 2027

PRACTICE Opportunity –Bluebonnets: March 20, 2027 **IF bluebonnets are not yet in peak, there is a possibility we may push this event to April 3, 2027

Who: All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old and families

What: Travel to Muleshoe Recreation Area to practice landscape/flower portraiture.

Where: Route/destination depends on status of bluebonnet fields.

Cost: No 4-H fees.

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

RSVP: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Elizabeth Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

APRIL 2027

DUE DATE - JMP Applications: April 1, 2027 Open **ONLY** to JMP candidates that have attended both JMP 1 and JMP 2 workshops. Link will be provided at JMP 2 workshop.

PRACTICE Opportunity –Bluebonnets: Alternate Date if the flowers haven't peaked for previously scheduled trip in March.

Who: All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old and families

What: Travel to Muleshoe Recreation Area to practice landscape/flower portraiture.

Where: Route/destination depends on status of bluebonnet fields.

Cost: No 4-H fees.

AMBASSADOR LEADERS: TBD

RSVP: TBD

ADULT LEADER: Elizabeth Schlak, 254-718-1332, liz.schlak@gmail.com

MAY 2027

DUE DATE - Texas 4-H Photography RETURNING Ambassador Applications: May 15, 2027. Open **ONLY** to current Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors desiring to apply for an additional year. Link will be provided after JMP application period.

JUNE 2027

PRACTICE Opportunity & Education Booth: TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP June 1-3, 2027

Who Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors and Certified JMPs

What: Take photos of roundup events and at selfie photo booth. Man the Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador/JMP photo booth

Where: Texas A&M University

Why: This is a state level opportunity to practice as well as earn hours manning the photography booth, telling other 4-Hers about the program

Wear: Your JMP tshirt (JMPs) or Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador polo, name tag, pins, khaki pants (Ambassadors)

Cost: Free

RSVP: TBD

AMBASSADOR LEADER: TBD

POC: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu

Ambassador 2026-2027 Installation Ceremony and Training: June 4-5, 2027

Who All Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors accepted for 2027-2028 year

What: Installation ceremony and Ambassador training/workshop (**MANDATORY EVENT**)

Where: College Station

Why: This event will provide all Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors the training needed for successful completion of requirements and to further develop them as photography leaders

Wear: Ambassador Formal Uniform for photos. Remainder: JMP Shirt

RSVP: Texas 4-H Online

POC: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu

JULY 2027

INTERNATIONAL Photography Trip: Southern Italy & Greece, July 19-29, 2027

Who Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors and Certified JMPs (past and present)

What: Take photos of Rome, Sorrento, Capri, Pompeii & Athens

Why: This is an amazing opportunity to explore different countries on a photography adventure of a lifetime!

Cost: \$6329 (Discount available for early sign up)

Sign Up Information: Invitations will be sent to qualified 4-Hers

POC: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu, Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com