Angles and Tricks!

4-H Photography Adventure

Overview

This activity is designed to help youth learn how photographs are affected by the angle and distance the photographer is from the subject. Youth will explore photography by taking photographs from different angles. They will also learn how to take "trick" pictures.

Life skills

Visual communication, creative thinking, problem solving, self-expression, working with others

Materials needed

- Camera
- Film (if using a film camera)
- Photo card (if using a digital camera)
- Subjects (things to photograph, 2 people)
- Notebook or 3 ring binder
- Pencil or pen

Activity instructions

Make copies of “It's All About Angles! and Tricky Shots guides” (pages 4-7 of this document).
Lead the youth through the following:

It's all about angles!

Members can get different pictures of the same subject by changing where they stand in relation to the subject.

- Have them practice looking at their subject in their camera's viewfinder. You can decide if you want them to actually take a photograph. Have them pick a subject and pretend they are going to take a picture or actually take the photo.
- Ask them to try different positions with their camera—some positions make their subject more interesting.
- With their camera
    - Have them stand in front of the subject
    - Now have them stand to the side of the subject.

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- Next, have them stand on a higher spot or stand on something to get higher than the subject. (They should try to get 2 to 3 feet higher.)
- Finally, have them find a spot lower than the subject, maybe sit down or lay on the ground.
- They can also see how distance affects these different positions, when they stand closer and farther away from their subject.
- If you have more time and other subjects, or when they go home they can try these spots with a different subject. If they took a picture of a person, they can try an animal (like their pet) or a bench or something in their yard, or a plant. Encourage them to be creative!

Tricky shots!

Members can use these tricks to fool their friends and family. (It is easier to take these photos in an area where there is a slight hill or have the person who is further away stand on something.)

- Have a person stand close (3-4 feet) facing the camera, with their arm outstretched and their palm up. Have another person stand farther back from them. Line them up so it looks as if the second person is standing on the closer person's hand.
- Take a picture so it looks like a person who is closer is holding a "miniature" person by the head and is getting ready to drop them into a jar. Take this picture vertically (the photo should be longer up and down). Have a person stand closer to the camera holding a jar in one hand and have them position their fingers so it looks like they are holding the other person (who is further back) on each side of their head. Member should look through the viewfinder to make sure the picture looks the way they want it to be. They may need to try this more than once, or change where they are standing.

Apply

Have members:

- Take photographs and keep notes as they take each photo.
- Develop or print 3-4 photos.
- Mount the photos on a page and write next to them what they did to take each photo.
- Share with your group and discuss what they did and what they learned.

You could also have participants look through books and magazines to get more ideas and examples of angles. Have them bring the examples to share with the group or you can have them do this as an activity at your meeting.

Relax and reflect

Discussion with photographers:

- What would you tell someone about how taking photos from different angels can affect your picture?
- How will you apply what you learned about camera angles when you take photos in the future?
- What did you learn about trick photography?
- Did you have to make adjustments to where you stood or where the subjects were placed to make you trick photo work? Explain.

- Can you think of any other "trick" photography?
- When could trick photography be used?

Apply

Encourage participants to share with their family, friends and/or 4-H club:

- What they learned about taking photographs from different angles.
- What they learned about taking a "trick" photograph.

Encourage members to keep a notebook of their photographs, and keep notes of how they took each photograph.

Next time

- Take pictures of a subject from different angles and bring 3-4 photographs to the next meeting. Be prepared to explain how you took the photographs and how you used different angles in your photography.
- Take trick photographs and bring 3-4 photos to the next meeting. Be prepared to explain how you set up the trick and how you took the photograph.
- Bring books or magazines that show interesting use of angles and explain why you thought they were good examples.

Resource

4-H Focus on Photography, Level 1, Bird's (or Bug's Eye View), pages 46-47 and Hat Tricks and Magic, pages 50-53.

Adapted by Carol L. Skelly, Community Program Associate, Anoka County, University of Minnesota Extension.

It's All About Angles!

You will be learning about how camera angles influence your photographs!

- Pick something as your subject.
- Look at your subject in their camera's viewfinder. Your leader will tell you if you will actually be taking the photo or if you should be just looking at the subject.
- Try different positions with your camera-some positions make your subject more interesting.
- With your camera, stand in front of your subject. Next, stand to the side of your subject. Now stand on a higher spot or stand on something to get higher than your subject. (You should try to get 2 to 3 feet higher.) Finally, find a spot lower than the subject, maybe sit down or lay on the ground. You can also see how distance affects these different positions, when you stand closer and farther away from their subject.
- If you have more time or when you go home you can try these spots with a different subject. If you took a picture of a person, you can try an animal (like your pet), or a bench or something in your yard, or a plant. Be creative!





Notice how different the same pumpkin looks from photographing above and from the side.

Same Chair...different Angles!

Notice how different the chair appears?











Tricky Shots!

You can use these tricks to fool your friends and family!

1. Have a person stand close (3-4 feet) facing the camera, with their arm outstretched and their palm up. Have another person stand farther back from them. Line them up so it looks as if the second person is standing on the closer person's hand.
2. Take a picture so it looks like a person who is closer is holding a "miniature' person by the head and is getting ready to drop them into a jar. Take this picture vertically (the photo should be longer up and down). Have a person stand closer to the camera holding a jar in one hand and have them position their fingers so it looks like they are holding the other person (who is further back) on each side of their head. Member should look through the viewfinder to make sure the picture looks the way they want it to be. They may need to try this more than once, or change where they are standing.







Nice job getting the two people lined up!



Make sure the foot looks like it is on the hand!



"I think I will just drop him in this jar!"



"HANG ON!!!!!"

Models: Katie, Ben & Andy, Anoka County 4-H