



# Photography: Get To Know Your Camera



As the technology develops so does photography. Looking back in history, you can see how photography has developed into an impressive art medium. At first, to own a camera was a status symbol, and now we have them daily in the palms of our hands.

Developing the skills and knowledge of cameras can help build a fun, creative hobby. Photography skills can also drive a career focus. We take photos daily now for record keeping and recreation. Let's take time to learn more and hone those basic skills.

## Inspire Kids to Do

### Skill Building

Beginning photography can be tricky. Don't be too quick to jump into being an expert.

- Take the first step in learning all your camera can do. Take a few test shots.
- Learn to hold your camera steady.
- Move into using zoom actions and placing your subject in the frame effectively.

### Goals

- Learn basic physical parts to your camera.
- Learn to use zoom to get a great photo.

### Project Ideas

- Start simple. Pick an inanimate object (a toy, flower, chair, etc.) and practice taking pictures.
- As you get used to the camera, start playing around with zoom features. See how your picture changes when you move and when using your zoom lens.

### Self-Evaluation Before

Using the rating scale below, answer the following:

- 1 = not at all
- 2 = a little
- 3 = a lot

#### I know how to...

- Use landscape and portrait settings ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Label all parts of my camera ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Understand zoom and when to use it ..... 1 - 2 - 3

### Starting Out

#### Know Your Camera

- Review your camera user's guide (many can be downloaded by searching the web).
- Read the guide to learn about all the parts of your camera, their purpose, and how to use each feature.
- Practice using your viewfinder for different settings and angles in taking photos.
- Evaluate and share your photos.

### Learning More

#### Zooming IN!

- Once you get a feel for the camera in hand, and taking a steady shot, start using the zoom.
- Zoom in and out to get the right direction.
- Was the result distorted?
- Move physically closer to the object and then try zooming again.

### Expanding Horizons

#### What's the Focus?

- Direct your focal point. Find your subject, then use the proper landscape or portrait view to define picture.
- Use zoom to show details or show more of the background.
- Make sure the viewer knows what you are focusing in on.

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Challenge Instructions	Helpful Tips	Leadership	Curriculum and Resources
<p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find and identify all the basic working parts to your camera. Take a few practice shots using the different zoom options. Alternate between landscape and portrait mode to see what better frames your photo.</li> <li>• Take photo shots using different angles and basic features.</li> </ul> <p><b>When finished, please visit:</b>  <a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge">www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge</a> to tell us what you learned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold camera steady or try using a tripod for stability.</li> <li>• Find which viewfinder helps you get the right shot in the frame.</li> <li>• Flash can help brighten up a photo, but it can also shine too bright.</li> <li>• Transfer your photos to your computer. This allows you to review your pictures on a larger scale. You may notice highlights or things you may want to adjust.</li> </ul>	<p><i>(Suggested for Intermediate and Advanced Levels.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach 4-H members how to identify camera parts.</li> <li>• Assist younger photography members.</li> <li>• Other _____            _____            _____</li> </ul>	<p>National 4-H Curriculum            Photography Book 1:  <a href="#">Photography Basics</a></p>

## Life Skills Learned (check all that apply)

- Positive Self-Concept
- Inquiring Mind
- Concern for Community
- Sound Decision-Making
- Healthy Interpersonal Relationships

## Share

- Print a picture you took and share it with a neighbor/friend.
- Print one of your photos on cardstock and use for a thank you.
- Present a project talk or demonstration at a club meeting telling what you learned about your camera settings.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Evaluate Your Experiences!

What differences did you see between your first photo and others after that?

\_\_\_\_\_

How could learning the techniques and features of your camera help you learn quality in other project areas? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name two parts of your camera you didn't know how to use prior to the challenge?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the hardest part of the activity? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**To complete the Challenge,** take a selfie while doing the activity. Upload the photo and take the survey about your Challenge experience.

[www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge](http://www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge)

## Local Contact Information

## Self-Evaluation After

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- Label all parts of my camera ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Understand zoom and when to use it ..... 1 - 2 - 3

## Kansas Clover Classroom

Adapted from NW 4-H Advisory Challenge created by Kristy Packard, 4-H Program Manager, Golden Prairie Extension District

