On Your Own

Session 4: Taking Better Photos: Documenting a 4-H Projects

Overview
When you begin to document a 4-H event, there are certain things that you may want to pay special attention to. Depending on the event, you will place more emphasis on particular subjects. Examine these guidelines for a better understanding on how your photos will be better while documenting.

Preparation
1. **Be Ready:** You must show up to the event prepared the best that you can. If available, read about what is to take place at the event. Evaluate how important each element is for your needs. This will prepare you to get all the shots you need without wasting time or memory space.
2. **Visualize your shots:** You may not know exactly what will happen at an event. But if you visualize what types of shots you would like to have, you are more effective in your shooting.
3. **Collecting Information:** During the event, you should carry a notepad in which to take notes. Either information regarding what subject you are shooting, or describing the shots that you take.
4. **Power and Memory:** Make sure that your battery and memory supply is adequate for the time of the event. There is nothing worse than running out of either in the middle of an event.

Process
1. **Placing the action:**
   While shooting a 4-H event, make sure that you are properly describing the situation through the lens. Things like bad framing and too little information do not indicate what exactly is happening at an event. The viewer only sees what is in the photo, so it must be descriptive.
2. **Review Guidelines:**
   Take time to review all the things that are taught in previous lessons. Things such as Rule of Thirds, Dynamic Framing, Room to Run and Leading Lines. All these elements will make better photos. But remember that they are only guidelines and as a photographer, you make the decision.

3. **Take the best possible photo:**
   Although technology allows you to change, manipulate and edit your photos, it is a good idea to try and take the best possible image on the camera. Things like lighting, color, framing and brightness can prove difficult to deal with after the photo is taken. Taking many photos of the same subject may be tiresome, but it is better to have enough material to work with.

4. **Be Creative:**
   Taking photos doesn’t have to be complete documentary work. Get creative with the camera to make the image more interesting to look at. The more you use the camera, the more likely you will capture photos that are interesting to you and others.