

ELKHART COUNTY CAMERA CORPS 2026 HANDBOOK



Facebook Open Site: www.facebook.com/4HCameraCorps
Facebook Closed Site: www.facebook.com/groups/1482366451779659/
Email: elkhartcountycameracorps@gmail.com

WELCOME!!!!!!

Parents and Members:

Welcome to the Elkhart County 4-H Camera Corps! There is a lot to learn about photography and we want to help you be successful. The Camera Corps is for the ENTIRE FAMILY! Please feel free to join your children at all meetings and activities. Please take time to read this handbook and remember to check the Camera Corps Calendar every month for upcoming events. The Elkhart County 4-H Camera Corps has several activities throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions that might arise. We are here to help you.

Objectives of the 4-H Camera Corps

1. Develop valuable life skills such as maturity, leadership, self-reliance, sportsmanship, organization, cooperation, communication, and responsibility.
2. Experience the pride of capturing memorable moments in a visual and artistic manner.
3. Learn about photography as an art, a science and a communication tool.
4. Observe, enjoy, and capture your surroundings in a photographic world.
5. Explore photography as a hobby or profession.
6. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working in groups and by supporting community and fair activities.
7. Develop an awareness of photography related careers such as graphic design, storyboarding, and the use of photo software for photo manipulation and editing.

MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

Meetings are generally on the 4th Thursday of each month. Additional meetings will be added as needed.

January 22, 2026 at 7:00pm Fair Board Room

February 26, 2026 at 7:00pm Fair Board Room

March 26, 2026 at 7:00pm Fair Board Room

April 23, 2026 at 7:00pm Fair Board Room

May 28, 2026 at 7:00pm Fair Board Room

June 18, 2026 at 7:00pm Maple Hall – This is a week early. Regina is celebrating her 40th wedding anniversary in Gatlinburg.

Completion Celebration August 18, 2026 at 6:00pm in the ECCC.

Fair Week ECCC Building Supervision: Friday, July 24 at 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Sign-up closer to Fair Week. We have ten 1-hour slots to fill this year.

LEADERSHIP

<u>Project Leaders:</u>	Amber Dunithan	849-8197
	Samantha Dunithan	849-6869
	Elise Goodman	536-1527
	Mary Kay Longacre	536-2406
	Jodi Hershberger	238-6521
	Cheryl Black	606-7545
	Jonathan Wesco	259-3474
	Michael Wesco	220-0386

Club Officers: President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Recreation

CLUB FEES

The Elkhart County Camera Corps fees will be \$20 for each member. The fees will be due by the March meeting. Club dues are used for office supplies, copies, lanyards, name tags, guest speakers, etc. The fees cover the costs to run the club. This is in addition to the fees required by Purdue University that are paid at online enrollment.

CLUB SHIRTS

Club shirts will be ordered online the first 2 weeks in April. There will be one design with 3 color choices. The shirts will be ordered online and paid for by each member at the time of ordering. The website will be posted on the Camera Corps website. Members are required to have at least one shirt. The shirt will need to be worn during their fair week assignment(s) and at selected community service activities. Family members are welcome to order shirts also.

NAME BADGES

Club dues are used to purchase a name badge for each member. The name badge should be worn to club meetings, community service activities and any fair week assignment(s). Club awards will be added to the name badges. Members will be responsible for replacing any lost badges and awards.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

There will be Community Service opportunities throughout the year. They will be added to the Camera Corps website and sign up will occur at club meetings. Club members are required to participate in at least one activity for completion.

FUNDRAISERS

Members will have an opportunity to participate in club fundraisers. We will participate in geranium sales and have several fish fries scattered throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION

Leaders will communicate with members and families via the Website, Facebook Pages (open page and closed group), and text club. The purpose of the Facebook pages is to communicate with members, their families and the community. It is intended to be a positive social environment. Negativity will be deleted. Text Club is a way for us to send messages about events/updates to your cell phone.

Camera Corps

- Facebook Open site: www.facebook.com/4HCameraCorps
- Facebook Closed site: www.facebook.com/groups/1482366451779659/
- Website: <http://Elkhartcountycameracorps.weebly.com>
- Text Club: https://groupme.com/join_group/108685286/YP4vZhmD



Scan the QR code to join the group

ELKHART COUNTY 4-H CAMERA CORPS PARENT GUIDE

4-H Parent Job Description:

Purpose: Provide support to your child in 4-H.

Responsibilities:

- Help your child enroll in the 4-H club and meet the 4-H requirements.
- Make sure your child attends the 4-H club meetings.
- Provide or arrange for transportation.
- Help your child to complete any 4-H responsibilities for which he/she has volunteered or been selected.
- Help with at least one 4-H club activity during the 4-H year.
- Volunteer, don't wait to be asked.
Support your child's 4-H project work.
- Make sure your child attends any project workshops.
- Help your child gather any materials needed.
- Help your child complete one or more articles for exhibit and make sure he/she can exhibit them at the County 4-H Fair.
- Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records.
- Help fill ECCC building supervision shifts &/or other fair week activities/needs.

Assistance Available:

1. 4-H Club Organizational Leader
2. 4-H Project Leader
3. Experienced 4-H Parents
4. 4-H Project Manuals
5. Purdue University Extension Office – Elkhart County Phone: 574-533-0554

Time Commitment:

One 4-H year includes about 1 - 2 hours per month for club meetings and whatever time you choose each week for 4-H project work. You will have a better experience if you put more time into your project.

Benefits: Help your child learn and grow, share experiences with your child, improve relationships with your child, make a contribution to youth in your community, and develop a sense of accomplishment.

Qualifications:

- Interest in child's activities.
- Commitment of time and energy to 4-H members.
- Ability to assist but still allow the member to do his/her own work

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for completion in the Elkhart County 4-H Camera Corps are as follows:

1. Must exhibit at least one entry in the Elkhart County 4-H Fair.
2. Complete at least 5 Fair Week Photography Assignments.
3. Accumulate at least 100 points on the point list.
4. Complete the 4-H Photography Record Sheet. (on the website)
5. Complete 2 Camera Corps Activities/Lessons.
6. Complete at least 1 Community Service Project. We have activities that we photograph for various 4-H activities. We will have a sign-up sheet for you. Please sign up for 1 event.

The point sheet will be handed in the last day of fair, or when all activities have been completed.

Awards

New Members receive their name badge.

Completing members will receive:

- 4-H Lanyard their first year.
- Achievement Pin (Bronze, Silver, or Gold)
- Photography Challenge completion pin

Officers will receive their officer pin.

Seniors will receive a parting gift.

The Completion Celebration will be organized by the Celebration Committee. The committee will be formed at the April meeting and will meet after the club meeting in June.

Elkhart County Camera Corps By-Laws

Camera Corps is a 4-H project that you can grow in! It allows you to think about careers, what type of education is needed for the various careers, as well as letting you expand your knowledge and skills in photography. As you advance, so should your “image” of the project. Giving back to the community, and to other 4-H clubs, is a required component of Camera Corps. There will be community service opportunities and required fair week responsibilities. Completion is more than entering an exhibit during fair week.....it is so much more fun!!! Due to the specialization of Camera Corps, only 50 members will be able to participate.

Goals:

1. Members will have an understanding of the mechanics of the camera and accessories.
2. Working knowledge of how to make a good picture opportunity great.
3. Participate in Community Service opportunities that require photography. ie: club pictures, Valentines, Holiday pictures, etc.
4. Work with Media Club to capture fair week moments.
5. Learn about different aspects of photography from professionals in the field.
6. Offer Field Trip opportunities to practice specific skills.
7. Inspire members to have a passion for photography.

Member Objectives:

1. Develop valuable life skills such as maturity, leadership, self-reliance, sportsmanship, organization, cooperation, communication, and responsibility.
2. Experience the pride of capturing memorable moments in a visual and artistic manner.
3. Learn about photography as an art, a science and a communication tool.
4. Observe, enjoy, and capture your surroundings in a photographic world.
5. Explore photography as a hobby or profession.
6. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working in groups and by supporting community and fair activities.
7. Develop an awareness of photography related careers such as graphic design, storyboarding, and the use of photo software for photo manipulation and editing.

Organizational Leaders

1. The Organizational Leader(s), with the help and assistance of all adult leaders (project leaders, parents/guardians, photography professionals), should help club members learn leadership, life skills, photography skills, and record keeping.
2. The Organizational Leader(s), with the help and assistance of project leaders, should introduce the project and expectations to all members and parents/guardians.
3. Leadership:
 - a. Up to two Adult Organizational Leaders
 - i. Determine enrollment
 - ii. Select Project Leaders on a yearly basis
 - iii. Coordinate officer election and trainings; oversee/support them throughout the year.
 - iv. Prepare/update the Club handbook
 - v. Reserve the dates and rooms for Club meetings.
 - vi. Pick up the key before each Club meeting
 - vii. Work with officers to prepare the monthly business meetings.
 - viii. Organize and track completion requirements
 - ix. Complete all paperwork required in accordance to deadlines

- x. Organize and oversee all club meetings and activities
- xi. Work with the Elkhart County Youth Educator to insure completion of all club requirements.

b. Project Leaders

- i. Comply with the Adult Behavioral Expectations (4-H 785)
- ii. Project Leaders will be selected each year by the Organizational Leaders. Interest should be expressed in writing via elkhartcountycameracorps@gmail.com by the end of fair of each year.
- iii. Upon selection, all paperwork must be completed by the date set by Elkhart County Extension Office.
- iv. Attend the yearly Leadership meeting in January.
- v. Attend monthly club meetings.
- vi. Assist members during Skills Practice sessions during the monthly club meetings.
- vii. Be present during the Skills Practice session.
- viii. Be available fair week to assist members in completing their responsibilities and assignments.
- ix. Be a positive role model for members.
- x. Attend field trips when possible.

Membership

- 1. Membership in the Elkhart County Camera Corps is open to any young person meeting the enrollment criteria set forth by the Purdue University Extension Office.
- 2. Membership is limited to 50 members per year.
- 3. Completing members will have priority for membership the following year.

Camera Corps Youth Organization

- 1. Club Officers
 - a. The election of Club officers shall take place at the January meeting of each year.
 - b. The officers are elected by the members.
 - c. Officers to be elected are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recreation.
 - d. Officer Requirements will be distributed after the elections in January.
 - e. Attend 4-H Officer training if provided.

Meetings

- 1. The Elkhart County Camera Corps meetings are held once a month from January to June with additional meetings scheduled at the Organizational Leader's discretion.
- 2. The meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of each month pending fairground availability.
- 3. There will be an Exhibit Workshop before project check-in.
- 4. The meetings will be held at the fairgrounds. Locations depend upon fairgrounds availability.
- 5. A calendar of official dates and locations will be provided in the handbook on the website.