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Hotshots wanted to photograph Scotland's heritage

A national photography competition, run by the Scottish Civic Trust, is putting children's views of their local heritage on show for the world to see. The **PhotoArch competition** aims to get young people interested in Scottish heritage and architecture through the medium of photography.

The idea has captured the imagination of school teachers throughout Scotland as entries from as far apart as Orkney and Dumfries come flooding in. Schools, after-school clubs and youth groups still have the chance to take part with the deadline for entries 23rd November.

In 2006, over 400 pupils from 44 schools in 22 local authority areas submitted entries to the competition. Two winners were chosen: Amy McLay (10) from Midlothian who photographed Rosslyn Chapel and Steven Grant (8) from Caithness who photographed Reay Church. These entries were then put forward as Scotland's contribution to the International Heritage Photographic Experience (IHPE), which seems similar competitions and projects run throughout the world.

More than 160,000 young people from 47 countries in four continents have taken almost 1,200,000 photographs in the course of the eleven years IHPE has been running. Each participating country puts on an exhibition of all the photographs submitted by other countries to IHPE, allowing young people's thoughts and impressions of local heritage to be shared globally.

In Scotland, all entries appear in an on-line gallery at www.photoarch.org.uk and an exhibition run in September as part of Doors Open Days, which the Trust also coordinates.

Terry Levinthal, Director of the Scottish Civic Trust said; "Photography is an excellent teaching tool for schools and a great way of getting young people excited by heritage and architecture".

Editors notes

- PhotoArch is an annual competition coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust and is open to all primary school aged children (in primary schools or homeschooled). It encourages young people to take an interest in buildings, heritage and archaeology. It is supported by Historic Scotland and coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust.
- Final deadline for entries is 23rd November 2007.
- The Scottish Civic Trust works to promote and improve Scotland's built environment. We support, through a network of civic societies across Scotland, local interest in architecture, planning, heritage and other environmental issues.
- Historic Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Executive charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment. The agency is fully accountable to Scottish Ministers and through them to the Scottish Parliament.
- Competition rules, photography tips and some of the entries for this year's competition are available at www.photoarch.org.uk
- Information about the International Heritage Photographic Experience can be found at <http://ihpe.mhcat.cat>

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