

PhotoArch 2009: a heritage and photography competition for primary schools

Would your school like to take part in a photography project based on Scotland's heritage?

PhotoArch is a Scotland-wide heritage photographic project for primary schools. It encourages children to look at their heritage in the places they live, and through the medium of photography, develop an understanding of the things around them. It forms part of the International Heritage Photographic Experience, supported by the Council of Europe as part of Our Common Heritage initiative. All entries into PhotoArch are considered by a panel of judges, who select two images to be passed to the IHPE organisers for publication.

Why not use PhotoArch to inspire an interesting project? Pupils could investigate a local landmark, research historical events, use buildings to inspire written work or uncover the hidden maths behind architecture...

PhotoArch provides Scotland's entry to the International Heritage Photographic Experience, a world-wide celebration of heritage and culture through photography. Entries are exhibited in each country, which means that 2 Scottish children will have their work seen in places as diverse as Albania and Namibia!

PhotoArch 2008

Last year, over 470 young people from 37 schools were inspired to take a look at the world around them and record their findings on camera. Schools throughout Scotland took part, with entries coming from small island communities to buzzing urban centres.

Our Common Heritage

PhotoArch feeds into the wider 'International Heritage Photographic Competition' and is linked with European Heritage Days under the banner of 'Our Common Heritage'.

In 1992, the Generalitat de Catalunya started what was called the Heritage Photographic Experience. Its aim was clear: to bring youngsters closer to their heritage, so that they would learn to discover it, value it and love it. The ethos was also clear: that participation should be a personal experience, not a competition, academic exercise disguised as field work.

Now called the International Heritage Photographic Experience, over 50 countries take part in celebrating 'Our Common Heritage'. Since 1992 more than 160,000 young people have become involved in countries as diverse as Namibia and Albania. Each participating county puts on an exhibition of all the international entries in September.

PhotoArch provides Scotland's entries to these exhibitions, which run every September to tie in with European Heritage Days. European Heritage Days take place in 49 countries and gives free access to cultural, heritage and architectural sites, many not normally open to the public. In Scotland, Doors Open Days run every weekend in September, linking communities of many backgrounds, faiths and interests.

The Competition

PhotoArch is very much about the process of taking part. However, a judging panel selects entries to be part of the International Heritage Photographic Experience

The winners will be invited to attend a prize-giving ceremony (travel and some other expenses will be paid for by Historic Scotland) and will receive a digital camera for themselves and their school or club.

All entries will appear in our online picture gallery and every child will receive a certificate.

Galleries

All entries to PhotoArch are put online so they can be shared with people throughout the World. When the new website goes 'live', you will be able to see a particular photograph by selecting the year of entry, local authority area and the name of the school.

The Rules

Full details can be found on the PhotoArch website.

- One entry per child
- Only primary-school aged children can enter
- Photos must be submitted as a digital file (no paper copies are needed)
- An entry form should be submitted either using the online at: www.photoarch.org.uk/photoarch/teachers.aspx or we can supply a paper copy.
- Photos must be the original work of the child – if the image has been digitally manipulated, cropped etc - that process must also have been done by the child.
- Photographs should show some element of Scottish buildings (of any age), archaeology or history.

Latest News

The deadline for submitting entries is Friday 30th October 2009.

It would be useful if you could let us know your school is interested by the end of September.

For more information, explore the website www.photoach.org.uk, especially the 'Resources' area or contact Abigail Daly, Outreach Project Coordinator on 0141 221 1466 (email photoarch@scottishcivictrust.org.uk).