



Co-Directors: Avery Blackman & Sara Croghan

Our mission as the Sioux Falls Photography Collaborative is to create a platform that gives all those aspiring in the photography field an opportunity to be exposed to a network of professionals and mentors, to display their work in a professional setting, and to exercise creative freedom.

Overview:

The basis of our idea is to become a launching pad for aspiring photographers, primarily focused on those in highschool, but open to anyone with interest and initiative. We want to give these students a real chance and experience in the art world, a chance that we have discovered ourselves is hard to come by. Gallery showings for young artists in Sioux Falls and even South Dakota are few, and creating and maintaining the right connections to get one's work in a showing is a difficult and daunting task. That is where we come in. Our goal is to host periodic gallery showings primarily featuring high school students who want to get their work out there. In addition to having opportunities to display their work, we want to give students the tools and skill sets they need to grow. The second part of our platform is the connections and mentorships with professionals that students will be able to obtain through us. We have worked with and talked to professional photographers who have expressed plenty of interest about taking on a mentorship role with students and help them expand their skill set and guide them into the professional photography world. We have reached out to a few local photographers who have been extremely helpful and have expressed great interest in sharing their time, knowledge, and resources with all those interested. One big emphasis we want to focus on is creative freedom, giving students not only the freedom, but also the challenge to express themselves. On our side we hope to support this with an emphasis on alternative gallery space, creating a climate that supports creative freedom with the dynamic of the pieces interacting with the showing space. Whether the showing be in an alleyway, a coffee shop, a church, or anywhere else, we want to make having their work displayed an exciting and interactive experience that pushes students to further engage in the photography field and with our organization.