

Competition Rules and Etiquette

COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

Judging requires great concentration and should be unbiased. Thus, the audience is requested to remain **quiet** during the judging and to **remain seated** until all awards have been distributed. The use of cell phones and any other similar electronic devices without the written consent of the presiding officer are prohibited.

PURPOSE OF COMPETITIONS

The purpose of competitions is to foster excellence and education in photography.

COMPETITION RULES AND SECTIONS

Competitions are divided into SECTIONS. Entries for each section are defined below and generally adhere to the exhibition standards of the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

1. **The Color section has no special restrictions as to subject or treatment.**
2. **The Nature section has specific requirements.** Images are restricted to natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify to its honest presentation. Descriptive titles are recommended for nature images. Titles should accurately describe the plant, animal or scenes so as to assist the viewer in understanding the nature story being told. The *story-telling value* of the photograph should be given primary weight in evaluating the image. Human elements should not be present. *On the rare occasion where human elements enhance the nature story, they must be unobtrusive.* The judge's decision on human elements shall be final. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or domestic animals, mounted specimens, obviously set arrangements, derivations, or any form of photographic manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement are ineligible and must not be submitted. **See also page 13**

EXCEPTIONS: detailed micro or macro photographs and scientific banding visible on wild animals.

3. **The Photo Travel section** requires that an image capture the feeling of a time and place, and portrays a land, a people, or a culture in its natural state. Travel images have no geographical limitations. Ultra close-ups which lose their identity, studio-type model pictures, or obviously manipulated images are ineligible and should not be submitted. The image title shall be read when the image is first projected for judging. No title or caption may be added to the image. **See below**
4. **The Photojournalism section** requires a single story-telling image such as seen in news media, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be weighed more than the pictorial quality. In the interest of actual representation, artificially produced situations or photographic manipulations which alter the truth are ineligible and should not be submitted. The image title shall be read when the image is first projected for judging. **See below**
5. Print competitions are divided into two sections:
 - a. Monochrome Prints must contain a single hue, neutral in color or modified by overall toning with a single hue. Split-toning, quad-toning, etc are not permitted. Selective use of spot color is not permitted.
 - b. **Color Prints** must include at least one color **in addition to any overall toning.** Monochrome images are not eligible in Color Print competitions.

For Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism competitions, the following additional rules apply:

1. Adding elements to your images, removing pictorial elements from your images (other than by cropping), combining separate **captures (HDR)** or rearranging and/or cloning and/or copying elements in your image are not acceptable and will lead to disqualification of your image. **Multiple processing of a single RAW image for exposure control is permitted in Nature and Photo Travel.**
 - a) **Multiple processing of RAW images is prohibited in Photojournalism.**

2. Sharpening (including selective sharpening) of the image is allowed.
3. The use of the clone stamp tool in Photoshop™ or similar tools in other imaging applications shall be limited to removing dust spots or scratches only.
4. Digital adjustments are limited to those that optimize the image. These adjustments should be limited to color adjustments, saturation, and contrast work. The faithful representation of the natural form, behavior or phenomenon must be maintained. Any manipulation that alters the truth of the photograph will be judged ineligible. **Artificial blurring of the background is not allowed.**

Other Competitions: the Executive Board may approve other kinds of competition, under such terms and conditions as are published in advance in the St. Louis Camera Club Yearbook.

Web Posting: Images submitted for the St. Louis Camera Club competitions will be publicly displayed for judging at a meeting of the Club. Images receiving awards may be publically displayed at other times in connection with Club activities. Such images may be posted on the Club's website, in a manner identifying the maker. The images may not otherwise be published, nor will they be used for commercial purposes, without express permission of the maker. If the maker does not wish any image to be displayed and/or published in this manner, the image may not be entered into competition. By entering an image into competition, the maker represents to the club that the maker has the legal rights to display and publish the image in this fashion, including any necessary model releases.

These images may be reduced file sizes.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

ALL SECTIONS

1. All entrants must be a member of the club.
2. **All images for projected competitions, except the long and short sequences, must be in digital format. Film slides will not be eligible for regular club competitions.** The club will no longer maintain projection equipment for film slides so if an entry in one of the Photo Essay competitions requires such equipment, it must be provided by the contestant. The contestant must notify the Committee Chairman in advance that they will be submitting a film slide program.
3. All images must be the work of the entrant [including all digital post processing], except for film processing and printing. The projected image or print represents the artistry of the entrant; therefore the original image must be recorded by the competitor with a traditional film or digital camera or scanner. It is not permissible to use all or part of an image that comes from the internet, a publication or other source that is the work of another person.
4. Images that have won points in any Section are ineligible for entry in any other section. Individual images that have been part of a winning Short Essay or Photo Essay/Documentary/Travelogue are eligible for entry in regular Sections.
5. There are no time limits on when photographs are taken for theme competitions and for all regular competitions. Each member may enter one image per competition.
6. Entrants must place their projected images and prints in the appropriate class category, either by using the proper **submission procedures** in the case of digital projected images or by labeling and placing prints in the indicated place. Those placed in the wrong class will be declared ineligible.
7. No entries are permitted after competitions begin.

COLOR, NATURE, PHOTO TRAVEL AND PHOTOJOURNALISM SECTIONS

1. Members may submit one digital image for each such competition.
2. Digital images must be submitted using the form and in accordance with the rules published on the Web Site. Currently these require:

- a. The image must not exceed 1400 pixels in width or 1050 pixels in height and must be in .jpg format with a maximum file size of 800 KB.
 - b. Image title is limited to 25 characters.
 - c. A few characters (*?;:”^<>|’#) are unacceptable in a title.
 - d. Member must indicate whether or not they desire to hear comments by the judge.
 - e. Images must be submitted before the published deadline (normally midnight of the Sunday before a Wednesday competition).
3. While our software will correctly interpret color space tags like Adobe RGB during competition, the winning images will be shown on the Web Site where almost all software will assume the image is in sRGB format. These winning images will appear best if converted to sRGB before submission.

PRINT SECTIONS

1. Prints must have one dimension at least 9 inches in length and can be no larger than 16x20 inches.
2. Prints must be marked on the back of the mount in the upper left corner with the maker’s name, competition class and title.
3. Prints must be mounted on mount board no larger than 16x20 inches in a manner which facilitates judging in the print box with reflected light.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

1. In theme competitions, judging will depend not only on photographic merit, but also on how well the image fits the assignment.
2. Prints will be judged from a distance of 5 feet.
3. Projected images shall be judged from a distance of at least 10 feet.

APPLICATION OF RULES

1. Entries that do not meet the Conditions of Entry may be declared ineligible.
2. The President or presiding officer shall be responsible for any interpretation or decisions regarding the rules. A challenge may be made by, or presented to, the section chair or appropriate section representative **no later than 72 hours after the close of the challenged competition.** If an image is challenged, the maker may be required to submit the original RAW or JPEG file or scanned film (slide or negative) to the presiding officer for determination of the image’s qualification for competition. All results of competitions and awards are final when they are announced except in cases of a successful challenge which would result in any points awarded being withdrawn and other winners advanced accordingly, if possible.