

St. Louis Camera Club Judging Procedure for Guest Commentators

Thank you for agreeing to serve as our commentator and judge. In an effort to orient your thinking about the process and to make the experience rewarding for both you and our members, we have outlined our recommended commentary/judging process below.

The Goal of Our Competitions: While it is nice to be a "winner", the real goal of our competitions is to improve our image making skills. Every constructive suggestion made by you will further that goal. Imagine the cumulative value of one or two such comments made about 80 images!

The Competition Format: Our members compete in three classes: "B", "A" & "Salon", resulting in three separate competitions. Class B entries are from members new to the Club but are not necessarily beginning photographers. Class A & Salon entries are from members who have been successful in competitions over time and have advanced.

Photo Travel Section Specific Requirements: Requires that an image capture the feeling of a time and/or a place and/or portray a land, a people, or a culture. Travel images have no geographical limitations. Ultra-close-ups which lose their identity and studio-type model pictures are not eligible and should not be entered. The image title shall be read when the image is first projected for judging.

Image Editing: All adjustments must be made in such a manner that the image reflects the actual scene.

Allowable Image Adjustments:

- A. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the pictorial content are permitted.
- B. Cropping and sharpening, including selective sharpening, of an image is acceptable
- C. The use of the clone stamp or similar tools shall be limited to removal of dust spots and scratches only.
- D. (a) Processing of multiple exposures of a single scene (HDR) or the processing of multiple versions of a single RAW capture for exposure control is allowed.
(b) Processing of multiple captures of a single scene employing different focus points to achieve focus control is permitted. This process is commonly referred to as "Focus Stacking".

CAUTION: Excessive use of even an allowable technique that causes the image to look "over processed" may cause the judge to "pass" the image.

Prohibited Image Adjustments:

(Any manipulation which alters the truth of the image will be judged ineligible.)

- A. Any technique which adds to, removes, relocates or replaces any pictorial element of the image except by cropping.
- B. Artificial blurring of the background.