

## Rules for Photo Essay Annual Competition

1. A photo essay is a series of projectable images accompanied by music and/or a narrative which tell an integrated story presented in a pleasing and understandable manner.
2. The deadline for receipt of entries by the contest chair is March 31st with judging conducted in April. Members may submit one entry per year with a maximum number of member entries per club of 8 as in other digital contests (see #10 for point accrual.) In addition a club may also submit one club entry in which one or members may work collaboratively on an essay. Customarily, the club president or other club officer submits a club entry. Club entries **are not** awarded points toward the Club of the Year Award.
3. The minimum number of images shall be twenty (20). There is not a limit on the maximum number of images, but the program time shall not exceed six (6) minutes. Hint: the majority of winning entries in the past few years have been between 4-5 minutes. Only still images (*not Video Clips*) can be used to compose the Photo Essay. The “Ken Burns” effect is permitted on individual images. The images must be the work of the entrant(s) except for a travelogue; where up to five percent (5%) of the images may be obtained from commercial sources. The photo essay should contain the source of the sound track and of any travelogue included but *must not identify the maker or club entering the contest*.
4. Standard N4C naming will be used with the photo essay contest—with the file name used for the .mp4 entry submitted via Dropbox to [d.tomes@me.com](mailto:d.tomes@me.com) . Alternatively the photo essay can be saved to this public Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lpqd17oowpbyoiw/AAC3EbTDLbnY-mPwJzcrUrV1a?dl=0> . A USB memory stick may be used to send an entry by mail to the contest chair (Please inform the contest chair!) Although the file name is sufficient for entering the contest, e-mail communication with the maker’s name, e-mail address, and telephone number is helpful if technical assistance is desired. The photoessay chair will confirm receipt of the photoessay via e-mail.
5. Entries can be created in any software, but the entry must be entered as a “universal” file format such as .mp4 or .mov, playable on all computers. The entrant(s) may have non-professional, unpaid assistance in converting the entry to the standard format of .mp4 or .mov as needed. The .mp4 file format is preferred. The entrant’s photo-essay should be sent to the Contest Chair in the specified file type via Dropbox (see above). The Photo-Essay Chair will assemble all entries for judging (see # 9), for showing at Springbrook, and at the Fall Convention.
6. The judging club will provide three judges (consistent with other N4C contests) for this contest. Normally the judging club will not be able to submit entries to the contest the year they are judging. Judges who are not members of any affiliated club in N4C may be used provided that they have sufficient experience in judging photography contests similar to those in N4C and are willing to complete the necessary forms and provide feedback to contest entrants.
7. All the following must be considered by the judges: (a.) Quality of the photography, (b.) Soundtrack Quality (music and narrative if included) and (c) Impact, interest, and integration of sound and images.
8. The club that hosts the essay competition is encouraged to conduct the judging at a time and place where interested individuals may attend. The judges must comment on the entries for the benefit of the audience. It is suggested that the judges’ comments be made available to those entrants and the public who were unable to attend the judging. The photo essay chair will provide a computer, projector and other supplies to present the essays for judging and record the results of the essay judging for the host club.
9. By tradition, all entries are shown at the Springbrook meeting in April. The winners will be announced at Springbrook after essays are shown. The first, second, third place and HM winners will be presented at the Fall convention during one of the banquets.
10. Clubs will accrue points toward the Club of the Year Award as follows:  
First – 8 points, Second – 6 points, Third – 4 points, Honorable Mention – 2 points