

2017-2018 N4C Contest Rules and Definitions for WWPC Members

Contests

1. Inter-club contests will be held each month, except June, July, August, and December. Competition will be in the following categories:
 - a. Digital Pictorial
 - b. Digital Nature
 - c. Digital Altered Reality
 - d. Digital Travel
 - e. Digital Journalism
 - f. Digital Black & White
 - g. Photo Essay Annual Contest will be held in April
 - h. Panorama Print Annual Contest will be held at the Springbrook mini-convention.
 - i. Camera Club Communication Annual Competition in April

Statement of Ethics

2. Digital Photography and the ability to drastically alter digital images plus the ongoing changes in copyright laws have presented us with some unique problems in conducting our contests. All contest entries must be the work of the entrant and must be made by the entrant either on photographic emulsion or acquired by digital means. All images must be original work and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Copies of copyrighted material or the creative work of others is not acceptable.
3. By submitting an entry, the photographer certifies that the work is his or her own and grants permission to use the work for Council purposes. Any entry which receives a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM award in a monthly competition may not be re-entered in the same year or later years, in the same or any other category, regardless of variations or changes made. Exception: Previous winning images may be included in Photo Essays and may be modified for entry in Altered Reality contests. Other entries receiving merit awards or no award may be re-entered in subsequent competitions, and modifications or rework on such entries is permissible. Judging clubs or anyone handling an image entered in an N4C contest may not in any way alter another's creative work without express permission of the entrant. Exceptions are those conditions the entrant agrees to when entering an N4C contest such as watermarking and resizing winning entries for display on the N4C web page. All images entered in any N4C contest remain the property of the entrant.
4. Digital Adjustment Guidelines. The following guidelines apply to Nature and Journalism only. ACCEPTABLE ADJUSTMENTS
 - a. Cropping
 - b. Color correction
 - c. Overall brightness correction
 - d. White balance correction
 - e. Flare reduction or removal
 - f. Saturation
 - g. Recovering shadow detail
 - h. Resizing
 - i. Straightening

- j. Flipping or reversing the image
- k. Contrast control
- l. Noise reduction
- m. Sharpening
- n. All adjustments must look natural

Entering N4C Contests

5. Digital Image entries must use the format and file naming rules outlined in the "[Rules for all Categories of Digital Images](#)".
6. Judging clubs may not enter the competition being judged by their club.
7. Maximum Number of Entries:
 - a. **Digital Images:** The maximum number of digital images which may be submitted by any club is eight (8) in any one category; one (1) entry per member. See the exception allowing [double entries](#) in the "[Judging Club Rules](#)" Section.
 - b. **Photo Essay:** There is no club limit, but only one (1) entry per individual.
8. A person belonging to **more than one (1) N4C club MUST** consistently enter from the same club throughout the contest year.
9. Entries may be submitted more than once, provided the entry has not been awarded a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM award in a monthly competition in the same year or later years, in the same or any other category. An entry that has received such an award may not be entered again in any inter-club N4C contest. Also see Rule #3 in the [Statement of Ethics](#) section for some exceptions. Merit awards are eligible for re-submission.
10. Entries will be judged on a point system. The jury will consist of three (3) judges, each of whom will score the work between one (1) to five (5) points in each of the three (3) categories of technique, composition, and interest. This method permits a minimum of nine (9) points and a maximum of 45 points per entry. **EXCEPTION:** the Journalism Photography category, where each judge will assign a single score between two (2) to five (5) based on personal journalism experience and Special Journalism Rules covering the subject panel.
 The jury may select the top awards strictly on the basis of points earned, or the jury may review the top scoring photographs in a second round of judging. Winners may be selected at this time by a discussion of the merits of the photographs under consideration. This process is an option available to each individual jury panel.
Double Entries: Judging Clubs may submit double entries (no more than two entries per member) in the monthly contest immediately following their service as a judging club. For example, a club judging Color Prints in January may not enter in that category so they could submit double entries in Color Prints in February, except for the May judging where the club would enter in April to keep the scoring in the same contest year. Double entries do not mean the club may enter double entries in any other categories, just the category they served as a judging club. Please note the reason for double entries on the Official N4C Entry Blank or email when the entries are sent to the judging club.
11. Accidental double entries are not permitted, even though it is an accident. If one individual enters work in the same category through two separate clubs in the same month, the judging club must declare the second entry ineligible. If one club accidentally includes two (2) entries by one photographer, the judging clubs must declare one (1) entry ineligible.
12. Digital Image winner files will be retained by the N4C Webmaster as historical archives and make them available to resolve possible disputes over duplicate entries. Entries must

reach the judging club on or before the 15th of the month in which the contest is held.

Make every effort to email Digital Images by the 13th to allow time for an email confirming that they were received. Digital images should be

13. At the end of the contest season all photographs awarded First, Second, Third, or Honorable Mention will be eligible for the Council annual competition. These must be the same prints, or images that were entered in the monthly contests.

Rules for All Categories of Digital Images

1. Entries in the Digital Pictorial contest can include any subject material but must conform to the conditions specified in the contest definitions.
2. Entries in the Digital Nature contest must conform to the conditions stated in What is Nature Photography?
3. Entries in the Digital Altered Reality contest must conform to the conditions stated in What is Altered Reality Photography?
4. Entries in the Digital Travel contest must conform to the conditions stated under What is Travel Photography?
5. Entries in the Digital Black & White contest must conform to the conditions stated in the Definition What is Black and White Photography?
6. Entries in the Digital Journalism contest must conform to the conditions stated under What is Journalism Photography?
7. **Image Format** -- Image files must be in jpg file format. Saving jpg files using sRGB color space standard is recommended for consistent color under the projection conditions used for judging the contest. No logo or copyright is to appear on the image for judging. Copyrights may be included in the file metadata.
8. **Image Size** – The longest side must be no more than 1920 pixels. The file size must be no more than 500 KB
9. **Naming Image Files** – Example: 01,CE028,DP,Beautiful Sunset.jpg
Following this naming convention is vital as this information takes the place of any further entry forms.
 - a. 01, = to be used on all entries. It may be changed later and used to sequence the judging. The N4C Contact of the entrant's camera club will use this number to sequentially number the filenames being submitted – normally from 01 up to 08.
 - b. CE028, = entrant's personal N4C Member Number. : (CE is the "Club Code" designation of the entrant's camera club – See the section on "N4C Member Numbers" 028, = entrant's personal ID Number within their club assigned by the entrant's camera club. Get a personal ID Number from the N4C Contact of the entrant's camera club)
 - c. DP, = the Digital Pictorial contest category DN, = the Digital Nature contest category
 - d. DT, = the Digital Travel contest category
 - e. DB, = the Digital Black & White contest category
 - f. DA, = the Digital Altered Reality contest category
 - g. DJ, = the Digital Journalism contest category
 - h. Beautiful Sunset = the entrant's title for the image.
 - i. jpg = the file extension indicating the format of the file (.jpg)
 - j. Commas are used to populate the electronic record keeping system for tracking

and judging.

10. Entrants are to submit their digital image entries (jpg files) to their own club N4C Contact who is responsible for the N4C Digital Contests. The N4C Contact will consolidate all the entries, modify entry file names with the desired sequence numbers described above and below, and forward all entries to the appropriate month's digital contest judging clubs.

Definitions

The following subject category definitions are presented to persons entering the monthly contests so that all entries may be judged fairly and equally. To some extent, their interpretation is subjective and all judges have some personal biases. It is our intent to minimize these differences. These definitions are as clear and precise as we are able to state them, though it is not possible to cover all eventualities and answer all questions.

Generally, those entries that conform most closely to the subject definitions have the greatest chance of success in the contests.

What is Pictorial Photography?

In pictorial photography, we are concerned with the artistic quality of the presentation of the subject rather than with the subject itself. Literally, all subjects qualify, but since "Interest" accounts for one-third of the score, subjects that catch the viewer's eye will have an advantage. The judges will be seeking answers to the question, "Did the photographer simply record the subject, or did he/she through the photographic process enhance the viewer's interest in the subject?" Pictorialism may be accomplished by meticulous photographic technique, proper presentation, careful composition, or most likely all of these factors.

What is Black and White Photography?

Black & White Photography is also called monochrome. The resulting image is limited to monochromatic hues or shades of gray, although filters may be applied to give a hue or tint. Different photographic processes and toners may also give a different hue to a black & white photograph; for example, selenium, sepia and split toning (duo-toning). No fraction of the image shall be given a special color treatment.

What is Nature Photography?

No photograph is worth the distress or injury to any wild creature.

The only digital editing that can be allowed must fit with the N4C definition for acceptable Journalism or Nature images (see page F-1).

Nature photography is simply the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. Included are all branches of nature except Archeology and Anthropology.

The hand of man shall not be present in any nature entry except where wild birds or animals have invaded man's world such as fence posts and other man-made objects freely adapted for use by wild creatures.

Banding or tagging on nature subjects is acceptable. Photographs at bird feeders are not acceptable if any part of a man-made feeder is shown in the photograph.

Photographs taken in zoos, animal farms or game farms are acceptable if the setting remains natural and the hand of man is not visible.

Cultivated plants, domestic animals and pets are not acceptable and should be entered in other categories.

What is Journalism Photography?

Journalism Photography or Photojournalism means simply the telling of a story using a picture, or a sequence of related separate pictures arranged for presentation as a single entry. The type of photograph that one sees in the newspaper or magazines that depicts some event or activity is what is meant. The caption is important, but the best journalistic photographs tell their own stories and don't always need a caption. A good picture is, after all, worth more than a thousand words. An element of human interest is important and virtually essential for pictures to succeed in competition. Interest is paramount, but good composition and technique will often make the difference that decides the winners.

The only digital editing that can be allowed must fit with the N4C definition for acceptable Journalism or Nature images. In the interest of credibility, photographs, which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, combined or changed in any way that affects the integrity of the image content. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be added or applied, and any sharpening must appear natural.

What is Travel Photography?

Travel implies going to some place other than one's customary environment, and travel photography suggests the photographic depiction of that new environment or the means used to get there. Be sure to state the name of the locale where the picture was made in the title of the digital image or print. IF THE LOCATION IS IN THE UNITED STATES, LIST THE STATE IN THE TITLE, IF FOREIGN, LIST THE COUNTRY IN THE TITLE.

There is no definition of how far away that environment must be to qualify as "travel" or how different that new environment must be. However, the judges will generally award prizes to those photographs that depict more exotic and unfamiliar places, even though such places are "home" to someone. Good photographic technique and particularly the ability to convey the feeling and flavor of the place visited will help you be a winner. Try to emphasize the character that makes the place unique from other places.

What is Altered Reality Photography?

The primary distinction for the Altered Reality category is that the maker intends (and the viewer easily recognizes) that the image is not a representation of reality. The Altered Reality image must have a photographic base of the maker's own creation. Manipulation of the basic image or images can be done in camera and/or in computer. The makers of Altered Reality images should feel free to use a wide range of tools and resources, limited only by imagination.