

LPC Competition Rules

1. PURPOSE

Competitions are held to:

- Encourage members to participate in photographic competition,
- Provide education opportunities for improvement,
- Promote the Photographic Arts in Loudoun County, and
- Reward members' photographic achievements.

2. COMPETITION YEAR

The competition year begins with the entries submitted and judged in September and ends with the year-end competition in June or July.

3. LEVELS AND ADVANCEMENT

- N (Novice) Less experienced photographer
- E (Experienced) Very experienced photographer

- a. New members may start at any level at which they feel comfortable competing.
- b. Members who accumulate 55 points within the competition year may require advancement to the next higher level (note this may occur mid-year).
- c. At any time during the competition year after participation in two competitions by new members, the Contest Coordinator can assign individuals to a higher level if their results are clearly not in line with the level in which they are competing. Additionally, and at any time, if a member has not accumulated 55 points during the competition year, but both the member and the Contest Coordinator agree that the member should be more appropriately competing at a higher level, the member may be assigned to that higher level.

4. CATEGORIES

- a. Color
- b. Black & White (Monochrome) – Includes single color toned images (e.g. sepia toning)

The number of categories may be expanded or contracted if justified by member interests.

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- a. Only paid members may submit entries for competitions.
- b. Number of entries:

- i. Members (Novice and Experience level) may submit a maximum of four (4) entries for any one competition. No more than two (2) entries may be in one category (Color, B&W).
All entries must be submitted at the same level.
- c. Entries must be received by 7:00 PM on the day of the competition.
- d. The entry roster must be filled out and signed for all entries. (Roster available at club meetings)
- e. An entry is ineligible if it has previously won a ribbon in an LPC competition.
- f. The Contest Coordinator (or the President in the case of disputes regarding the Contest Coordinator's entries) or the judge reserves the right to eliminate any entry, which does not follow the rules, does not conform to the competition theme or is deemed inappropriate.
- g. Images entered must have general appeal and must not be objectionable to the general membership. Nude images are not suited for the family-oriented nature of the club's membership.
- h. Images must have been captured using a digital or film camera. Scanned images are not permitted.
- i. All images must have been taken by and be owned exclusively by the member.
- j. There is no restriction on the amount of or type of computer manipulation performed on the image. However, all manipulations and source material (e.g., cloned sources) must be made by and owned by the photographer.
- k. Post processing, manipulation of the image is left to the discretion of the photographer, but it should be the photographer's judgement that the final image represents the work of the photographer and not that of another artist. Regardless, the judge has the final opinion on whether the use of post processing was suitable for the subject. Disputes regarding flagrant mis-use of origin of content will be handled as defined below in Section 6.d.
- l. Print and Mat Requirements:
 - i. Prints may be made commercially or by the photographer.
 - ii. The minimum size of the print (not including matting) is 5 by 7 inches.
 - iii. Cover window mats are required. Cover mats may be white, gray or black with a minimum border of 1 inch along all sides. The border width may vary from side to side (e.g., museum weighted mats).
 - iv. Cover mats must extend to the edge of the print bleed area, leaving no void.
 - i.e. No false border may be left visible between the print and the mat.
The cover window mat must be securely affixed on all four sides to a firm backing.
 - v. Double mats (multiple layers of mats) or floating mats (where print does not touch mat) are not allowed.
 - vi. The maximum outer dimensions including mat are 16 by 20 inches 20 24" for panorama with no set ratio. Square with be maxed at 16 by 16 inches with mat. The minimum window opening of the cover mat is 4.5 by 6.5 inches (e.g. a matted 5 by 7 inch print).
 - vii. Print must consist of a single final image. Use of multiple separate images to create triptychs, grids, or other multiple separate image prints

are generally not permitted except in special cases such as a Triptych themed competitions, etc...

- k. Matted images must be clearly labeled on the back with the photographer's name, level and category. This may be done with a sticker, Post-it note, or by printing legibly on the back of the mat. Prints may not be framed or placed in a poly bag. Prints may be signed, but the signature must be covered prior to judging.
- l. Specific themes may allow for the addition or removal of certain restrictions. Any3 changes will be defined with the theme.

6. JUDGING

- a. The Contest Coordinator will select the judge(s). Judges will not be selected from LPC.
- b. If the judge does not show up for the competition, a substitute judge will be selected by the Contest Coordinator. The substitute judge shall be someone who is not exhibiting in the contest categories they are judging. This may necessitate selection of multiple judges.
- c. The judge(s) will be given the name and description of the competition theme and can disqualify any entry that does not in his/her opinion, satisfy the requirements.
- d. If any dispute of origin of content arises all images will, for the duration of the competition, be given benefit of the doubt and place as judged. Proof of original content may be subsequently required. If origin cannot be adequately verified, image awards will be given their successor. Non-awarded images will not subsequently be awarded a ribbon by this action.
- e. Judging will be based on four (4) elements, each of which will have equal weight. They are:

INTEREST – Defined as the impact, the appeal, and the significance of the subject, and the way it is presented by the photographer.

COMPOSITION – The arrangement of the image's objects to show what the photographer wants you to see. It is the organization of the visual elements, such as lines, shapes, framing and perspective.

TECHNIQUE – Employs the mechanics of photography. The photographer's use of depth of field, focus, exposure control and flash to express his/her perspective.

PRESENTATION – The quality of the printing and matting to present a clean, professional presentation of the image.

- f. The Print of the Month winners will be selected from among the first place winners for that competition month.
- g. In June or July, the first place winners from previous months that year will compete for Photograph of the Year. Eligible entries may be expanded to include other prints at the discretion of the Contest Coordinator.

7. POINTS AND RIBBONS

A minimum of three images must be entered in any individual combination of level and category for that level and category to be judged separately. If there are less than three entrants, they will be grouped with another level in that same category. If there are still an insufficient number of entries, then that category will be grouped with another category.

PLACE POINTS are awarded to the monthly competition entries.

Additional Honorable Mentions may be awarded so that the total number of ribbons awarded is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the entries (rounding up) with a maximum of 2 Honorable Mention ribbons awarded per category.

Number of Ribbons will be awarded as follows:

1-4	1st
5-8	1st, 2nd
9-12	1st, 2nd, 3rd
13-16	1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM
17+	1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM, HM

The following Points table would be used for all level.

Number of entries	1st	2nd	3rd	HM
4	3			
5-8	4	2		
9-12	6	4	2	
13-16	8	6	4	2*
16+	10	8	6	4*

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8. AWARDS

- Photographer-of-the-Year award to the member with the most points during competition year for each level; Novice and Experienced. Eligibility for this award requires entry in a minimum of three competitions.
- Print-of-the-year selected from all 1st place winners during the competition year or from any eligible prints as determined by the Contest Coordinator prior to the competition. (See item 6.f above)
- Competition year-end awards will be made at a club social function during June or July.