

# **LPC Competition Rules – Updated for 2009-2010 Season**

## **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**

- B (Beginners) Minimally experienced photographer
  - I (Intermediate) Moderately experienced photographer
  - A (Advanced) Very experienced photographer
- a. New members may start at any level at which they feel comfortable competing.
  - b. Members who accumulate 50 points within the competition year will 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 50 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. Members may submit a maximum of 4 entries for any one competition. No more than two (2) entries may be in one category. All entries must be at the same level (B, I or A).
- 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. All images must have been taken by and owned exclusively by the member.

- f. An entry is ineligible if it has previously won a ribbon in an LPC competition.
- g. 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.
- h. 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.
- i. Images must have been captured using a digital or film camera. Scanned images are not permitted. 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.
- j. 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). Cover mats must extend to the edge of the print, leaving no void. The cover window mat must be securely affixed on all four sides to a firm backing.
  - iv. Double mats or floating mats are not allowed.
  - v. The maximum outer dimensions are 14 by 14 inches including matting. The minimum window opening of the cover mat is 4.5 by 6.5 inches (e.g. a matted 5 by 7 inch print).
- 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.

## 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. 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.
- e. The Print of the Month winners will be selected from among the first place winners for that competition month.

- f. In June or July, the Print of the Month and first place winners from previous months that year will compete for Print 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. The chart below shows the ribbons and points that are awarded.

Points Awarded For Ribbons:

Number of entries	1	2	3	HM
3	3			
4-5	4	2		
6-7	6	4	2	
8-9	8	6	4	2
10+	10	8	6	4*

\* Additional Honorable Mentions may be awarded so that the total number of ribbons awarded is 1/2 of the entries (rounding down) with a maximum of 5 Honorable Mention ribbons awarded per category.

The Print of Month will earn an additional 10 points.

## 8. AWARDS

- Photographer-of-the-Year award to the member with the most points during competition year. Eligibility for this award requires entry in a minimum of three competitions.
- Print-of-the-year selected from all Prints of the Month and 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.