

ROBSON RANCH PHOTOGRAGHY CLUB CONTEST PROCESS

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The information contained herein describes the process followed by the RRPC in the conduct of their contests. The sections are as follows:

Image Entry Standards- Describes the technical requirements for images to be entered, Size, file name structure, Title structure

Themes and Rules-Describes the kinds of contests that are used and the rules that may apply

Competition Levels- Describes the levels that the competitors may be entered in and the advancement process,

Judging- defines the role of the judges and the point and place system

Awards- Describes the awards given at the end of the contest year.

Appendix- States the Photographic Society of America (PSA) rules which may be used for some contests

Image Entry Standards

2019 All image submissions must meet the following criteria:

1. Photographs must have been taken and post processed only by the submitting club member.
2. Photographs that have previously been submitted in an RRPC competition of any year and were awarded a place (1st – 3rd or HM) cannot be entered in further RRPC competitions.
3. Size criteria- All digital images must be JPEGs with at least 1280 pixels but not more than 3840 pixels on the horizontal side and not more than 2160 pixels on the vertical side with a resolution of at least 240 pixels per inch. Files should not exceed 10 mb each.
4. **File Name Format-** The name of the computer file. It can either be the file name assigned by the camera or created by the competitor

5. Format Titles are to be limited to 30 characters including spaces. Titles are to be unique and complement the image. Words such as “Untitled” and “No Title” are not acceptable as part of the image’s title. Camera capture file names or titles consisting of only numbers are not acceptable.
6. A member’s ID number or other member identification is NOT to be included in the filename or title
7. Images and digital files may not contain watermarks or any name or identifying marks other than the digital file name as noted above.
8. Borders and/or digital mats are not permitted.
9. Digital images should use the sRGB profile to ensure colors are the most accurately reproduced during projection. Failure to use a sRGB profile will not be cause for disqualification.

THEMES and RULES

There are two types of contests, those with themes and those classified as OPEN. Each contest will have specific rules that apply only to that contest.

1. Except as noted for a specific contest ALL images must have been taken on or after the 1st of the same month 1 year prior to the month of the contest being entered
2. Unless otherwise specified, only ONE entry per contest is allowed .
3. OPEN- Contests designated as “OPEN” are not limited as to subject or post-processing.
4. THEMED contests will have specific rules that may limit the subject matter and/or the degree of post-processing. These rules will be included in the Explanation of the Themes to be found elsewhere on this web page
- 5 Some contests may be designate as following PSA (Photographic Society of America) rules. These rules will be found in the appendix to this document.

COMPETITION LEVELS

Club members compete in one of three levels based on photography skills.

Basic – One who is learning the basic operation of the camera and the basic concepts of composition, exposure, lighting, and post-processing of images.

Advanced – One who is experienced in the technical aspects of the camera and proficient in the concepts of composition, exposure, lighting, and post-processing techniques for creating images. May be skillful in more than one genre of photography, for example, landscape, portrait, macro, photojournalism, wedding, etc.

Master– One who can teach others the concepts of composition, exposure, lighting and post-processing of images, and has provided significant service to the club. and is expected to continue to serve as a teacher, activity coordinator, etc. Has the skills necessary to provide meaningful critique of others' images and is skillful in several genres of photography, for example, landscape, portrait, macro, photojournalism, wedding, etc. Must have been an active member of the club at least one year.

First-time competitors may choose to compete in either the Basic class or the Advanced class.

Returning members (those who have not competed for at least a year) compete in the class equivalent to their previous class.

PROGRESSION TO A HIGHER LEVEL

Photographers in the Basic level **MUST** move to Advanced level for the following year EITHER of the following applies:

- A. They won the Photographer of the year award in their current level.
- B. Their image placed 1st in the annual Photograph of the Year competition in their level.

For Advancement to Master, in competitor in the Advanced level must meet the above conditions, but must also have a record of service to the club. That can be by serving as a member of the board, serving on a board appointed committee or organizing and running a club sponsored event.

Members placing 2nd or 3rd in their level's annual contest or placing 2nd or 3rd in the total point count in their division may ask the board for permission to advance. A simple majority of the board must agree to the request.

ALL advancements must be made before the entries from first contest of the year goes to the judge. No further advancements can be made during the year.

Judging

Judges will be given the same instructions regarding the rules for a specific contest as are the contestants.

1. Judging will first be based on compliance with the particular competition definitions and specifications for the category entered.
2. Judges are urged to review each of these before starting the judging process
3. If an image does not meet the basic competition definitions and/or specifications as, the judge shall award that image a score of zero (0).
3. The entries in each competition level, or combined level, make up a contest in itself. Therefore, the judge will be asked to **score each image on a scale of 1 to 10 with one decimal point (1.0 to 10.0)** regardless of the scores in the other levels. These scores are referred to as “Judges” points.
4. For each division, or combined division, the judge will also be asked to award PLACES in accordance with the following schedule:

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Entries In A Contest Level	Allowable Awards For That Contest Level
7 or more	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Places plus 1 or more Honorable Mentions depending upon number of entries (see Note at bottom of table)
5 – 6	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Places
3 – 4	1 st , 2 nd Places
1 – 2	1 st Place only

Note: 1 HM for 7 entries, plus 1 more HM for each additional 5 entries (ex: 12 entries = 2 HMs).

5. In addition to the judge’s score, points will be awarded for places as follows:

Place Awarded	Points Awarded
1 st	8

2 nd	6
3 rd	4
HM	2

6. The club will maintain a month by month record of both the Judges points and the place points earned by each member. A running total of all points earned by each member will also be maintained.

ADJUDICATION

1. The board appointed Image Committee will have the responsibility to review the entries before submitting them to the judge SOLEY to confirm the validity of the date taken AS SHOWN IN THE FILE NAME. If an image submitted was originally created outside of the contest criteria, it will be disqualified.
2. With respect to ALL other rules, the Judges decisions will be final with no further review by anyone.
3. In the event a judge finds an image in violation of the rules for a contest, the judge will be instructed to give the image a score of ZERO, but the judge will still be asked to critique the image as if the violation did not exist.

AWARDS

IMAGE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

1. At the end of the contest year, the images that placed 1st and 2nd in each monthly contest will be compiled for each level and submitted for judging by level. In the event that levels were combined due to lack of submissions, that combination will still apply.

Note: If, in a particular monthly contest, images in two or more levels are combined due to the low number of entries in one or more levels, those images will remain in the level that was judged.

2. The judge(s) will be asked to award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and two Honorable Mentions for each level as defined above.

From all of the levels 1st place winners a single IMAGE of the YEAR will be selected by the judge.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

To be considered for this award a member must have entered images in a minimum of eight contests during the year. The club member in each member level (Master, Advanced, Basic) accumulating the largest number of **TOTAL (JUDGES +PLACE)** award points from his/her top eight scores during each calendar year will be acclaimed the Photographer of the Year in that level.

Second place and Third place MAY be recognized according to award points from their top eight scores.

In case of a tie, the larger number of original entries submitted during the year will determine the winner. Additional breaker will be the member with the greatest number of first places in the level, then if needed, the second places and so on.

APPENDIX- PSA RULES

Some of our contests refer to 'PSA RULES". These are shown below for reference. Note that our contests may have a theme superimposed on these rules. For example, we might have a contest with the theme of TEXAS that also specifies PSA Photo Travel rules. In that case the images must conform to the PSA rules, but are limited to images taken in Texas.

These rules only apply if specified in the contest definition

PSA Image Submission Categories and Definitions

The Projected Image Division (PID) (digital or slide but not prints) is open or general subjects photography; there are no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post processing.

The Photojournalism Division (PJD) has an accepted definition which specifies its scope.

The Photo Travel Division (PTD) has an accepted definition which specifies its scope.

The Nature Division (ND) has an accepted definition which specifies its scope.

The Pictorial Print Division (PPD) has no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post processing. There are four PPD tracks - Large Open, Large Monochrome, Small Open and Small Monochrome.

The 3D Division (3DD), formerly Stereo Division, is responsible for conducting and overseeing PSA activities regarding 3D photography. The content or subject matter of an image submitted to a 3DD program or activity is unrestricted.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Photojournalism Definition:

The Photojournalism Division (PJD) is devoted to recording current events or situations to preserve them for the future. News, features, man and man's environment, human interest, and other topics all are included. The Photojournalism Division provides an opportunity for photographers to learn to capture events effectively (whether for family records, a private collection of historical happenings, or publication) and to share these images with fellow photographers. Photojournalists contribute to the world's archives for future generations.

Photojournalism images shall consist of pictures or sequences with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. 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 in Photojournalism. Human Interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation, excluding recreational or sports ACTION

Photojournalism Human Interest Images Human Interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation, excluding sports action. * Must include a person or persons (no implied person) * Judged on photojournalism story depicting/illustrating interaction or emotion or unusual situation. Setups not allowed.

Photo Travel Definition:

The Photo Travel Division is one of PSA's reality-based divisions (the others are Nature and Photojournalism). We seek to portray the world as close to reality as we find it. For that reason, PTD has a PT Definition. The definition provides guidelines for the photographer and for competition judges as to what is permitted and what is not permitted in a PT image.

The definition is as follows: A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not appropriate. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.

Pictorial Print Definition:

The prints may be in color or monochrome. Digital capture, film photography, desktop and darkroom processing, and commercial prints are all included in the Division's activities. The content or subject matter of an image submitted to a PPD program or activity is unrestricted. There may be a theme specified for some PSA-recognized PPD exhibitions and the exhibition's definition of the theme should be consulted.

Nature Division Definition:

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **must** be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed. (Note: Bold emphasis added by PSA)

Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife. Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of Exhibitions.