

# *Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs*

## COMPETITION STANDARDS

Excerpted from:  
PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE STANDARDS  
MARCH 2005

### **I – General**

- K. Each member of any SWMCCC club in good standing may submit entries of one to four photographs in any or all of the categories (i.e. general monochrome prints, general color prints, general small prints, general slides, general projected digital, portrait prints, portrait slides, portrait projected digital, nature prints, nature slides, nature projected digital).

The fee is \$3.00 for each entry, i.e. one to four photographs in each category. Slides, print negatives and digital images must have been taken or made by the submitter, and prints, both monochrome and color, must have been taken by the submitter, but may be developed and printed by a commercial lab if so desired. Small prints, monochrome and color prints made by any process are acceptable. Photographs given an acceptance or honor in any SWMCCC Conference category are not eligible for re-submission in any other SWMCCC Conference category.

- L. Individual members must submit their entries through their club's delegate, or for members at large, through the delegate at large. If an individual belongs to more than one club, he may submit one entry (one to four photographs) in each category through each club.

- M. Entry forms:

1. The SWMCCC Secretary shall arrange for printing entry forms and eight sets of four copies each (exact triplicate copies to be sent with entries and one for the club to retain) to the delegate of each club two months before each Conference.
2. Along with the entry forms, the Secretary shall send to each delegate a sheet of instructions, including:
  - a. Date and place of Conference.
  - b. Names and addresses of persons to whom entries (together with entry forms and fees) are to be sent.
  - c. Deadline for receiving entries shall be the date of the regularly scheduled board meeting. If the Board Meeting is postponed, entries must be received by the Friday following the original meeting date. If the delegate is not present at the meeting, the entries must be delivered to the Division Director on or before that day.
  - d. Statement: more forms can be obtained from the Secretary.

- e. Statement: entries will not be judged unless payment of Club's dues is certified before the deadline for entries.
    - f. Statement: the entries will not be judged unless they are submitted properly (with the title of the slide or print, and name of the maker complete and easy to read, and the thumb spot on slides or top spot on prints with assigned entry number) with no previous entry number showing.
  - 3. If any club has not paid its dues, SWMCCC Treasurer shall notify the club delegate two months before the Conference and the Competition Coordinator eight days before the judging. If dues are not paid by that date, entries will be removed from the competition.
  - 4. Entry forms should show:
    - a. Competition to be entered (General Projected Digital, Nature Projected Digital, Portrait Projected Digital, General Slides, Nature Slides, Portrait Slides, General Monochrome Prints, General Color Prints, Nature Prints, Portrait Prints, General Small Prints).
    - b. Fees required for each person's entries (one to four slides, prints or digital images in each class). The fee per entry shall be \$3.00 unless changed by the SWMCCC Board.
    - c. Space for Club name and for name, address and phone number of Club Delegate.
    - d. Space for entries, with blanks for: entry number, name of maker, title of each entry, and identification number if desired, score and result (A, H or T)
- N. General monochrome prints, general color prints, nature prints, and portrait prints of 8 inches by 10 inches to 16 inches by 20 inches must be mounted on a mount board with a maximum of 20 inches and no less than 8 inches, with makers name and club name on the back. Only the title of the picture may appear on the front. All prints shall be judged by size, prints with no measurement larger than 8 inches by 10 inches at 6 feet from the judges; prints larger than 8 inches by 10 inches and no measurement larger than 11 inches by 14 inches at 9 feet from the judges, prints larger than 11 inches by 14 inches and up to 16 inches by 20 inches at 12 feet from the judges. General small prints 5 inches x 7 inches to 8 inches x 12 inches must be mounted on a mount board with a maximum of 20 inches and no less than 8 inches with maker's name and club name on the back. Only the title of the picture may appear on the front. Small prints will be judged at 6 feet from the judges.
- O All slides 2" by 2" only, must have the maker's name, club name, and title on each. A "thumb spot must be in the upper right hand corner when slide is in projection position (lower left hand corner in viewing position). A projected digital image should be sized by its pixels after setting the resolution to 72 DPI, 768 pixels maximum height and 1024 pixels maximum width.

- P. There shall be three general judges (competent in prints, slides and digital images), three nature judges (competent in prints, slides and digital images) and three portrait judges (competent in prints, slides and digital images). Judges for each division may be members of SWMCCC Clubs (but not from the same club). Judges who are SWMCCC members may submit entries, but may not vote on their entries. For their personal entries, the judge will be instructed to vote an eight. When an eight is displayed on the voting machine, the score reader will average the two standard score, and round any fraction to the next higher number, add that number to the other two scores, and announce the result. The judges must be experienced or trained photographic judges, except that one of the three judges may be a non-photographic judge if he is an expert naturalist (nature division) or an experienced art judge (general division). See also Section (V-A).
- Q. PSA Uniform Practices shall be used as guidelines for judging procedures.
- R. Judging shall be done on a point system, using a machine that adds the one to five points from each of the judges (i.e., three to fifteen points total).
1. Slides: Judged slides will be accepted on a percentage basis with 25% to 40% being accepted including Honored and Top Honored Slides. Honor slides shall be 5% to 10% including Top Honored. Top honor slides shall be up to 2%. If a special award (Most Creative or other Special Award) is to be given it will be chosen from the accepted, honored or top honored slide unless otherwise stated.
  2. Prints: Judged prints will be accepted on a percentage basis with 25% to 40% being accepted including Honored and Placed prints. Honor prints shall be 5% to 10% including Placed prints. First place, Second place and Third place prints shall be selected from the Honored Prints. If a special award (Most Creative or other Special Award) is to be given, it will be chosen from the accepted and honored prints unless otherwise stated.
  3. During the scoring of entries, the score announcer will announce the score.
- S. Recognition ribbons (blue for honors and red for acceptances) shall be awarded for all accepted and honored prints and slides. Top honor (gold ribbons) shall be awarded to the entries that are in the top 2% in each slide and digital image division. In each print division (instead of Top Honors), awards shall be given for First Place, Second Place and Third Place from the Honors. If there are less than three prints in the Honor section, then drop to the next highest scored group to find these awards. In general monochrome, color and small prints, an award shall be given in each division for the Most Creative Print, to be selected from the Accepted and Honor prints. First Place, Second Place, and Third Place could also receive the Most Creative Award.

If sponsored, special awards are to be presented. Such as:

1. In the general slide division an award (the Joe Timmer Award) shall be given for the most creative slide, to be chosen from the accepted, honor or top honor slides.
2. In the portrait slide division an award (the Evelyn Zeek Award) shall be given for the best portrait, to be chosen from the honor or top honor slides.

3. In the nature slide division an award for the Best Nature Slide shall be given to the slide chosen from the honors or top honored slides.
- T. Any person receiving four Honors in any category from one club's entries will receive special recognition in the form of a Four-Honors Medal (Oscar).
  - U. Point Award (for consistent good work). One point shall be awarded for each Acceptance and two points for each Honor at SWMCCC Conferences. Separate records of points shall be kept for each person in each club (not combined if a person belongs to more than one club) and for each division separately. However, if a person drops out of one club and joins another (and notifies the Honors Chairperson) the points earned in the first club may be transferred to the second club but not added to any points that they may already have in the second club. Competitions shall start with the spring 1973 Competition. A First Step Award (for 20 points) shall consist of a bronze SWMCCC medal, a Second Step Award (for 50 points) shall be a silver SWMCCC medal, and Third Step Award (for 100 points) shall be a gold SWMCCC medal. After the Third Step Award an additional gold medal shall be awarded for each additional 100 points; these medals shall be inscribed Fourth, fifth, etc. Step awards.
  - V. Entries must be picked up by the Club's Delegate (or other authorized person) immediately after the close of the Conference. The person picking them up must sign a receipt. If any entries are not picked up, the club delegate shall contact the chairperson(s) with instructions of how they will pickup the entries, all expenses shall be bore by the club.
  - X. The definitions of acceptable photographs (especially nature) shall conform to those used by PSA-approved International Exhibitions.
  - Y. These Standards may be amended by a simple majority of the vote at any regular or special meeting of the SWMCCC Board.
  - Z. No smoking shall be permitted at any meeting, conference or judging.
  - AA. If no chairperson exists for a competition category at the time of the executive board meeting, no competition will be held in that category.

#### **IV - Duties of Host Judging Committee**

- A. Recruit enough committee members to conduct the judging so that 10-13 people will be on hand to work at all times. They are as follows:
  1. Projectionist for slide competitions.
  2. Focuser (to focus projector).
  3. Slide sorter (to place slides in correct box according to point score).
  4. Two or three print handlers (to place prints on viewing box, remove them, and place them in piles according to point score). Care should be taken that judges do not see back of prints.

5. Master-sheet scorer to read number from master sheet (do not read title unless requested by judge) as slide or print is shown, and enters score on sheet when announced.
  6. Score announcer to read score from meter and announce it. (Use P.A. if necessary).
  7. Club-entry-blank scorers (three to six people) to enter score on club entry blanks. Each scorer will mark the score on the entry blank as it is announced. After the entries have been judged, the scorers will go over their sheets and mark A, H or T in appropriate places.
- B. Make sure the following equipment will be on hand. (Items marked \* are owned by SWMCCC).
1. \* Projector for 2" x 2" square slide (brightness must conform to PSA Standard), and extra spare projector.
  2. \* Extra projector bulbs.
  3. \* Screen, preferably 70" x 70", matte.
  4. \* Print-viewing box.
  5. \* Voting machines that automatically add one to five points from each of three judges. (should have two on hand, one for spare).
  6. Table and chairs for scorekeepers.
  7. Tables to stack prints by point score.
  8. \* Lights for score keeper, etc..
  9. \* 13 boxes to keep slides sorted by score.

### **V - Duties of Competition Coordinator**

- A. From list supplied by the Advisory committee, or from other sources, secure (approximately 4 - 6 months in advance) three competent judges of the General, Nature and Portrait divisions. These must be trained or experienced competition oriented judges. To be considered a "trained or experienced competition oriented judge" a person must have served as a judge in Camera Clubs (not their own club) at least three times in the division they are judging (i.e. nature or general) or must have successfully completed an accredited workshop on judging. The names of the judges must be published in the Counsellor prior to the Conference. If the judges have not been confirmed in time for the publication deadline, it shall be so noted and names shall be announced at the Board Meeting.
- B. Notify the Judges of the time and place of the judging, meet them, and introduce them at the judging or arrange someone else to do it,
- C. Arrange with the SWMCCC Treasurer to pay to each outside judge \$25.00, 25 cents per mile round trip, lunch the day of the judging, and lodging for one night if

the judge comes from over 200 miles. SWMCCC member judges (and spouse) will receive lunch on the day of the judging.

- D. Coordinate the work of the Competition Directors and Host Judging Chairperson.
- E. Attend the judging and make sure the Competition Directors follow SWMCCC Standards and guidelines.

**VI - Duties of Competition Directors:  
Projected Digital Images, Slide and Print - General, Nature and Portrait**

- A. Recruit not less than two persons to serve on each competition committee and help with the arranging of slides/prints, work at the judging showing and help with the return of entries. These persons must be instructed in operations of the Committee and be prepared to take over the work of the Director in the event he/she cannot serve at that function.
- B. Obtain slide or print files (or other suitable containers) for holding the slides or prints before judging, and for holding the acceptances and rejects after the judging.
- C. Collecting and arranging projected digital images, slides and prints:
  - 1. Designate one person (usually the director) to receive entries for each competition. This person's name and address must be sent to the SWMCCC Secretary, who will send them to all Club Delegates together with 32 copies (eight set of four) of the entry forms (see I-M). These names and address should also be published in the Counsellor. Entries must come from member clubs or for members at large, through the Delegate at large - none from individuals.
  - 2. As Entries come in, check to make sure they correspond to information on entry blank and that entry fee is paid. Write or call Club Delegate if necessary to resolve discrepancy. Remount any slides with broken glass.
  - 3. Use the permanent club code letters assigned and the Secretary will assign a permanent code to any new member club.
  - 4. As entries come in, arrange the slides or prints in four groups, a, b, c and d. In all divisions group (a) will be red labels, (b) green labels, (c) orange labels, and (d) blue labels. Within each group, the order is by clubs and then by entrants. In this way, the four entries from any member will be distributed evenly throughout the whole group.
  - 5. Prepare a Master Scoring Sheet listing the slides or prints in the order they are to be judged, listing entry number, title, and spaces for scores and results (A, H, or T). The order should be as indicated above.
- D. Judging and scoring - Take the entries to the judging and help the Host Club conduct the judging according to the Standards. (see IV).
  - 1. Announce the scoring system with the appropriate percentages needed for Acceptances, Honors, and Top Honors, in the slides divisions and

percentages needed for Acceptances, Honors, First Place, Second Place and Third Place in prints. Announce applicable special awards (Most Creative, Other Special Awards). The Director may provide a preview of prints/ slides if judges so desire.

2. Judging shall be done on a point system, using a machine that adds one to five points from each of the judges (i.e., three to fifteen points total).
  - a. Slides: Judged slides will accepted on a percentage basis with 25% to 40% being accepted including Honored and Top Honored Slides. Honor slides shall be 5% to 10% including Top Honored. Top honor slides that be up to 2%. If a special award (Most Creative or other Special Award) is to be given it will be chosen from the accepted, honored or top honored slides unless otherwise stated.
  - b. Digital Projected Images: Judged digital projected images will accepted on a percentage basis with 25% to 40% being accepted including Honored and Top Honored digital projected images. Honor digital projected images shall be 5% to 10% including Top Honored. Top honor digital projected images shall be up to 2%. If a special award (Most Creative or other Special Award) is to be given it will be chosen from the accepted, honored or top honored digital projected images unless otherwise stated.
  - c. Prints: Judged prints will be accepted on a percentage basis with 25% to 40% being accepted including Honored and Placed prints. Honor prints shall be 5% to 10% including Placed prints. First place, Second place and Third place prints shall be selected from the Honored Prints. If a special award (Most Creative or other Special Award) is to be given, it will be chosen from the accepted and honored prints unless otherwise stated.
  - d. If any score group needs to be graded (re-judged) to meet the percentages, judging shall be as follows. Score groups shall always be up graded. Judges shall score the group being upgraded with a 0 (zero) or 1 (one). Images shall be placed in the score received 0 (zero), 1 (one), 2 (two), or 3 (three). The images receiving the largest score (3) shall be added to the score group being upgraded to, if the number of images meets the percentages required then the judging is done, if not the next largest score group (2) shall be added and so on until the percentages are met.
3. During the scoring of the entries, the score announcer will announce the score.
4. Recognition ribbons (blue for honors and red for acceptance) shall be awarded for all accepted and honored prints and slides. Top honors (gold ribbons) shall be awarded to the entries that in the top 2% in each slide division. In each print division (instead of Top Honors), awards shall be given for First Place, Second Place, and Third Place from the Honors. If there are less than three prints in the honor section, then drop to the next

highest scored group to find these awards. In general color, monochrome and small prints, an award shall be given in each division for Most Creative Print. To be selected from the accepted and honored prints. No more than one ribbon shall be given to any slide.

If sponsored, special awards are to be presented. Such as:

- a. In the general slide division an award (the Joe Timmer Award) shall be given for the most creative slide, to be chosen from the accepted, honor or top honor slides.
  - b. In the portrait slide division an award (the Evelyn Zeek Award) shall be given for the best portrait, to be chosen from the honor or top honor slide.
  - c. In the nature slide division an award for the best nature slide shall be given to the slide chosen from the honors or top honored slides.
5. At the option of the Print Directors, prints may be judged by the following procedure, providing good lighting and facilities for hanging prints are available. This procedure involves hanging the prints, with the judges moving from print to print, judging by point system.
  6. Announce the winners of the Four-Honors Medals (Oscar), Best of Show, Second Place, and Third Place (prints), Most Creative (General Prints) and the special awards to the audience and also during a showing after the Saturday night banquet.

E. After results of judging have been recorded on all three copies of entry forms:

1. Deliver the top (white) sheet of the entry form to the Honors Chairperson, who will later lend it to the Counsellor Editor.
2. Place the second (canary) copy, together with the rejected entries, in the clubs return boxes.
3. Retain the third (pink) copy.
4. Compile a listing of the winning photographs including club name, members name, title and award. Secure sufficient copies and submit to secretary for forwarding to club delegates.

F. Print Directors

1. Hang accepted and honor prints as early as possible on Saturday morning of the Conference. They should be left up until Sunday noon. The general, nature and portrait print exhibits should be sufficiently separated to make it clear to which division any print belongs. All prints should be marked with corner tag or otherwise giving the name of the maker and club and whether the print is accepted, honored or has received an award.
2. Check with the Equipment Chairperson before the Conference to be sure print racks will be on hand.

3. After noon on Sunday, add to each club's return box (see VI-E-2) the required competition ribbons and prints displayed at the conference. No later than immediately after the Conference, give prints, ribbons and entry form to club delegate (or representative), who must sign a receipt.
4. If any entries are not picked up by the end of the Conference, the club delegate or club president shall contact the Chairperson(s) with instructions of how they will pick up the entries, all expenses shall be bore by the club.

G. Digital Projected Image and Slide Directors

1. Prepare a Showing Script that gives recognition to the makers of the accepted and honored slides. An example follows:

SHOWING SCRIPT

SWMCCC General Slide Competition

ABC Camera Club – 24 entries, 8 acceptances and 2 honors

John Doe 1 acceptance and 1 honor

A – “Landscape”

H – “Abstract”

Jane Doe 1 acceptance

A – “Red Rose”

The digital projected images and slides may be arranged in another order to give a coordinated show (with music if desired), but the above information must be included.

2. Place in each club's return box the following: slides rejected at the judging, the second (canary) copy of the entry forms, and the required number of red, blue and gold ribbons.
3. Arrange for the showing at the Conference by securing projectionist, focuser, slide handlers, and script reader. Make sure necessary equipment is on hand.
4. After the showing on Saturday evening, add the accepted and honor digital projected images and slides to each club's return box.
5. No later than immediately after the Conference, return all entries and give ribbons and canary copy of the entry form to each club's delegate or designated representative. The person receiving these items must sign a receipt.
6. If any entries are not picked up by the end of the Conference, the club delegate or club president shall contact the Chairperson(s) with instructions of how they will pick up the entries, all expenses shall be bore by the club.

H. Digital Projected Image and Slide Showings (Saturday evening)

1. Announce the name of the judges.
2. Announce the total number of entries, and the total number of acceptances, honors and top honors in each category
3. Digital Projected Images and Slides are shown in the order given on the Showing Script, and the information thereon is read (including titles).
4. At the banquet, awards are made by the SWMCCC President (or someone delegated to do so) to the winners of a Four-Honors medal (Oscar) if any, Point Awards and other awards if desired.