

# JUDGING CRITERIA

## CATEGORIES

You will be judging six submission categories:

### 1. **Novice**

Our beginning photographers may submit either mono or color images in this category. You are encouraged to downgrade images based on basic photography techniques. We allow images to be manipulated to any extent the photographer chooses, as long as the original images started as a photograph.

### 2. **Mono B**

Our intermediate photographers may submit monochromatic images in this category. You are encouraged to severely downgrade based on basic and intermediate photography techniques. We allow images to be manipulated to any extent the photographer chooses, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

### 3. **Color B**

Our intermediate photographers may submit color images in this category. You are encouraged to severely downgrade based on basic and intermediate photography techniques. We allow images to be manipulated to any extent the photographer chooses, as long as the original images started as a photograph.

### 4. **Mono A**

Our more experienced photographers may submit monochromatic images in this category. You are encouraged to severely downgrade based on basic, intermediate, and advanced photography techniques. We allow images to be manipulated to any extent the photographer chooses, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

### 5. **Color A**

Our more experienced photographers may submit color images in this category. You are encouraged to severely downgrade based on basic, intermediate, and advanced photography techniques such as. We allow images to be manipulated to any extent the photographer chooses, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

### 6. **Open Topic**

All levels of photographers are invited to submit images in the Open Topic Category. Please note special rules for this category:

- a. Creativity is encouraged.

- b. Any amount of post processing is allowed.
- c. Judging should be limited to the type of photography attempted, i.e. portraiture, landscape, nature, sports, composite, etc.

## SCORING

At the beginning of the scoring process for each entry, you will be asked to Decide whether the image fits within the monthly assignment's theme.

Is the subject matter and/or techniques employed consistent with the theme? If so, please proceed with your judging process. If it does not follow the theme, please enter "0" as the final Technical Quality score.

In the other two judging elements (Impact and Composition) please score without any further deductions. We ask that you score and include comments on all of the entries, even if they do not comply with the theme. The photographer will benefit from your critique and acknowledgements.

You are asked to assign a numerical score (from 0-33) in each of the three judging areas: Technical Quality, Impact and Composition. Within these parameters, you can decide your own scoring values.

## JUDGING ELEMENTS

Image entries in the photo competitions of the Ocala Camera Club are judged on the elements of Technical Quality, Impact and Composition.

**Technical Quality** considerations include (but are not limited to):

- Compliance with monthly theme -see note above under SCORING
- Lighting
- Focus
- Depth of Field
- Exposure
- Color/tonal contrast
- Appropriate backgrounds
- Lack of distracting elements

**Impact Elements** include (but are not limited to):

- Strong first impression
- Power of the image to command viewers' attention
- Emotion
- Sensory stimulation
- Imaginative approach
- Subject matter made more interesting by the photographer

**Composition Elements** include (but are not limited to):

- Placement of subject matter
- Dynamic symmetry, rhythm or repetition
- Strength and definition of the center of interest
- Balance
- Framing
- Texture
- Pattern

## COMMENTS

We appreciate the time you spend judging our images and we're especially grateful for the comments and critiques you include with the scores. Please tell us your reasons for downgrading an image, as well as your reasons for giving an image a high score. If possible, please start with the positive elements of an image before moving to the reasons for downgrading the image.

A review of the images, projected on a large screen, accompanied by a reading of the judge's comments, comprise the main part of our meetings each month. We've found we all learn from watching and hearing all of the critiques. For example, a judge's comment about blown out areas may lead us into a discussion of metering for the highlights, and having a judge point out sensor spots will encourage some cleaning (or at least some cloning). Being reminded to straighten those horizons and keep extraneous things out of the frame helps keep us from forgetting those kinds of details to be able to stay on top of our game.

In the Novice category, we ask that you provide them with helpful critiques, perhaps with brief explanations of technical issues, composition problems, etc. Our beginners in this category are often too new to understand technical terms and may be too timid to ask for an explanation.

Our B and A shooters are more experienced, and are usually able to understand technical comments. Don't be afraid of making pickier comments on entries in the A, B and Open Topic categories. We all want to learn to become better photographers.

Thank you. If you have any further questions, please contact us through:  
[competitiondirector@ocalacameraclub.org](mailto:competitiondirector@ocalacameraclub.org)