

2020 Competition Themes

January – Birds

Photographing birds is a real challenge, especially when they are in flight. However, you can take even more captivating images of birds perched, feeding, in courtship displays, or tending young. This can be done in a park, a zoo, or your own back yard!

February - Leading Lines

Leading lines refers to a technique of composition where the viewer of your photos attention is drawn to lines that lead to the main subject of the image. A leading line paves an easy path for the eye to follow through different elements of a photo.

March - Long Exposure

Have you seen the difference between a waterfall with silky soft water and one that has sharp frozen drops? Long exposure is the use of a relatively slow shutter speed against a certain subject to capture an image so that you can capture the movement. To have your shutter open for a longer period of time. This can capture and soften movement of clouds or water or give you deeper saturation at night. If you are trying to do a long exposure in daylight you need to think about using a neutral density filter or a polarizer.

April - Silhouettes at Sunrise/Sunset

In photography, a silhouette is defined as an outline that appears dark against a light background. More specifically, it is where your subject is seen as a black shape without detail against a brighter background.

May - Natural Framing

In photography, a natural frame is anything that forms a border or part of a border around your subject. It can be literally natural, such as a tree branch, the mouth of a cave or a rock arch; or it can be man-made, such as a doorway, a bridge or the slats in a fence.

June - Freeze Motion

This will need to be a subject that is in motion. The subject should be sharp and focused to show the freeze. This technique will involve a fast shutter speed so that everything is frozen. Panning will **not** produce a frozen image as it would produce a long blurred background and when freezing time everything is stopped. Moving subject and fast shutter speed will be the key here.

July – Wildlife

Photographing animals is always a challenge and when they are not restrained by a leash or command it is an even bigger challenge. Remember a squirrel in your background qualifies just as much as a lion in a zoo. You need to create an image that shows wildlife in the ‘best possible light’.

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August - Low Key

Low-key photography is a genre of photography consisting of shooting dark-colored scenes and emphasizing natural or artificial light only on specific areas in the frame. This photographic style is usually used to create a mysterious atmosphere that only suggests various shapes, often graphic, letting the viewer experience the photograph through subjective interpretation.

September – Macro

Macro photography is extreme close-up photography, usually of very small subjects, in which the size of the subject in the photograph is greater than life size. Nothing makes your skin crawl like a zoomed in close-up of the face of a spider. Macro lenses will help here but you can also use cropping to get the same effect with other lenses. Pick your subject matter carefully and give it some real impact. Pay attention to focus and composition, a well-done paint chip macro shot can be as effective as a bug so think small and produce big.

October – Eyes

It has been said that the eyes are the windows to the soul. Taking pictures of eyes can involve extreme close-ups or not but the eyes must always be the center of attraction and the main subject. Eye photography can often show deep emotion or deep mystery. Remember that we are looking for good photography with proper exposure and focus but we are also looking for something interesting and impactful.

November - Golden Hour

In photography, the golden hour is the period of daytime shortly after sunrise or before sunset, during which daylight is redder and softer than when the Sun is higher in the sky. The opposite period during twilight is blue hour, just before sunrise or after sunset, when indirect sunlight is evenly diffused.

December - Best of the Best

This is the end of year competition where ribbon winners from the year will be compiled and presented to a panel of three judges. There is no theme and entry requirements.