

# Photo of the Month Competition and Advancement Guidelines

## Photography Club of Sun City Hilton Head

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*Effective January 2016*

### **A. Participation**

1. You must be a paid member of the Photography Club to participate in any competitions.
2. You must be present at the competition to enter your photo and present your photo to a member of the competition committee for entry into the competition.
3. A submitted photograph must have been photographed by the member submitting it for a competition.
4. All contest submissions must be checked in by a member of the competition committee or their designee

### **B. Photo Rules**

1. You may submit only one (1) photo per competition. You may also submit one (1) photo in the Abstract category (See new paragraph at end).
2. Photo must have been taken within the last 24 months There will be a onetime waver of this rule during the fiscal year “January through December.”
3. Photos that have previously won a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Honorable Mention in the monthly competition may not be entered again.
4. All Photos must have a hard backing such as dry mounting, foam core (no thicker than ¼”) in order for the Committee to be able to handle and display the photo without it bending when displayed in the window at the studio..
5. Mats are not required, but if a mat is used, it must be either black or white.
6. Photos may be color, black and white, or sepia each month unless the called for theme is specified to be color related or black and white/sepia specific.
7. Finished Product- The photo may be any size or shape you like, but the final product, with or without a mat, must not exceed 20 inches on the long side. If you are a 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and your photo will not fit in the standard 11x14 or 16x20 mats in Pinckney Hall you may be asked to change your photo mat size.

If you have problems please contact [Tom Mills](#), (843) 705-5141.

### **C. Acceptable Images**

1. Non-manipulated images are defined for our purposes as ones that are produced using digital techniques such as “Photoshop Elements” or “Equivalents” to enhance color, contrast, brightness, sharpening; or, retouching, or using the “clone” tool to eliminate red eye or distractions like glare, name tags, wires, branches, leaves, etc. In these instances information is being eliminated or enhanced. Non-manipulated photos are acceptable in all levels of participation.

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2. Manipulated images are defined for our purposes as images that are created by adding information such as inserting people, places or things using “layers” or “cut and paste.” Any image added using Layers/Cut and Paste must be the work of the presenting photographer and not a stock photo or a photo from another photographer. Manipulated photos are acceptable in the Advanced and Expert Skill Levels only. The Abstract Category (See page 5) may have manipulated images by members in any skill level.

### **D. Photo Identification**

All photos must be labeled on the back with the following information:

- a. Photographer’s name
- b. Title of photograph
- c. Level of photographer (i.e. Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, or Expert).  
Abstract Category does not need a skill level noted on it.
- d. Date photo was taken (must have been within the past 2 years) except for an open theme competition.

The Sun City Photography club website has a label template that can be used to identify your photo submission. This [link](#) takes you directly to the form; just print it and fill it in.

**NOTE: If the Competition Committee deems that the specifications in A., B., C., or D. above are not met or that the photo is not in the “theme” category, the photo will not be allowed into the competition.**

### **E. Digital Images for Projection**

1. All participants are required to submit a digital copy of their photo to [pcschh1@gmail.com](mailto:pcschh1@gmail.com) by email. Please email at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. All submitted photograph files are removed from their emails and placed in a single folder. Thus, all the necessary identifying information needs to be included in the file name. More than one photo file (not normally required) may be sent in a single email and high resolution files are not required since all are reduced to the projectors resolution of 1920x960 (approx. 1 megapixel).
2. The following are the requirements for submitting competition photographs for projection:
  - a. The submitted photo file attachment should be a JPG.
  - b. Rename the photo file following this naming convention:  
Level - Photo title - Photographers name.jpg  
(example: Novice - Blue Bird - John Doe.jpg)
  - c. Email your photo file as an attachment to [pcschh1@gmail.com](mailto:pcschh1@gmail.com).

Thanks for your help. If you have a problem please contact [Tom Mills](#), 843-705-5141.

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### **F. Levels of Competition and Criteria for Advancement**

1. Initial Competition Level: Typically a new member will begin competition at the NOVICE level. However, the club encourages all members to compete at a level appropriate with their photographic skill, not their relative newness to the club. Thus, members who join the club with considerable prior photographic experience as a result of other club memberships, educational or professional activities, may request to compete at a level higher than NOVICE subject to review by the Competition Committee.

2. Advancement Through Skill Levels: Progression through skill levels is based on competency and every club member may not achieve the highest level. Moving to Advanced and Expert requires considerable technical and creative skills that some members may not have the time or inclination to pursue. The more a member participates, the greater the learning and the chance to move up.

3. Points: Beginning in 2016 calendar year, progression through the levels will be accomplished by the accumulation of points from various wins. Every time a member moves up one level the requirements of the new level apply and the previous points are reset to zero.

4. Club Competition Points: Are achieved as follows.

A: First Place: 9 points

B: Second Place: 6 points

C: Third Place: 3 points

D: Honorable Mention: 1 point

5. Tri-club competition points:

A: Awards at Tri-club by PCSCHH will have the same point value as club competition.

6. Points Required to Advance to a Higher Level.

**A: Novice:** A photographer with a very basic understanding of photography. **12** points are required to move from Novice to Intermediate.

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**B: Intermediate:** A photographer with some years of experience in photography who can use several shooting modes and understands the basic principles of photography. **18** points required to move from Intermediate to Advanced.

**C: Advanced:** A photographer with many years of experience in photography who knows how to achieve a creative and technically excellent image. **30** points required to move from Advanced to Expert.

**D: Expert:** A photographer with many years of experience in photography who can teach at all levels and has mastered the technical aspects of photography and exhibits a solid portfolio.

### 7. Explanation of how points are totaled.

A: Any combination of award points is possible for advancement.

B: A Novice who wins a first place (9 points) and a third place (3 points) has achieved 12 points and will move up to Intermediate.

C: An Intermediate must accumulate the 18 points but one of those point values must be a first place to move to Advanced. Example could be (a first place 9 points) (3 third place wins “3x3 = 9 points) has achieved 18 points achieved and will move up to Advanced.

D: An Advanced must accumulate 30 points but two of those point values must come from first place wins. As an example the 2 first place wins would accumulate (18 points). A second place would add 6 points for a total of 24 points and 2 third place wins would add another 6 points for a total of 30 points and the Advanced would move to Expert.

### 8: Award Definition

A: A “**WIN**” is considered being awarded a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place or an Honorable Mention. **Note: Only “WINS” (as defined above) that were awarded from January 2008 forward will be counted towards advancement from one level to the next.**

B: **Abstract Images** (This is not a Skill Level for advancement)  
This is a fun new category starting in 2011. Any photographer in any level may participate together in this one grouping by bringing in any image he/she wants. They should be hard backed for ease of handling. These images can be manipulated, abstract and as imaginative as you would like. These images will not be part of advancement through the Levels noted above. We will ask the judge to critique his/her top three (3) selections.

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**DEFINITION OF ABSTRACT\*** - Photography is visual writing, usually depicting familiar subjects such as landscapes, animals, birds, people, architecture, flowers, etc. Conversely, abstracts are non-representational and do not rely upon recognizable subject matter, but rather consist of colors, tones, shapes and textures. If the image has an obvious subject, it is not an abstract. Abstracts may be “created” or “found.” “Found” abstracts generally require some isolation in order to render the subject unrecognizable. Abstracts are the poetry of photography, free verse written in color and tone producing feelings of mystery regarding what the image is and what it is trying to say. Abstracts are an art form and like other works of art are felt as well as seen. Some consider abstracts difficult to master or even to understand because of the lack of a subject to “carry” the image.

\*Joseph Miller [www.nvacc.org](http://www.nvacc.org)

### **G. Competition Committee**

1. The Competition Committee will organize photos at the meetings, assist the Judge in labeling the winning photos, and facilitate the viewing of the photos. They will also be responsible for displaying the winning photos in the appropriate places.
2. The Chairman of the Competition Committee will be responsible for tracking the “WINS” and notifying the Member by e-mail when he/she is to advance to a new level of competition participation.

### **H. Judging**

1. Each meeting where we have Competitions, we usually have a guest speaker who is versed in photography and that person will be the Judge for that night. Each photo will be shown to the audience, but normally only the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mentions will be critiqued by the Judge.

**Note: For a First place to be awarded there must be 3 photos entered.**

**For a Second place to be awarded there must be 6 photos entered.**

**For a Third Place to be awarded there must be 9 photos entered.**

**For an Honorable Mention to be awarded there must be 10 photos entered.**

### **I. Awards and Displays**

1. Ribbons will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mention winners.
2. The first place winners in all four levels will have their winning photo hung in Pinckney Hall until the next Competition.
3. All 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mention winners will have their winning photo displayed in the window at the Photography Studio until the next Competition.

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### **J. People's Choice Awards and Best of Year**

1. All 1<sup>st</sup> place photos for the year will be eligible to contend for these awards.
2. Individual 1<sup>st</sup> place winners on each level will have the option of displaying his/her photo at the December Holiday Party. The Members attending this event will then vote by ballot counts for the People's Choice, one per level;
3. Then, there will be one winner chosen for the Best of Year-voted on by the attendees and chosen from all who enter no matter what the level.
4. The People's Choice winning photos and the Best of Year photo will be displayed in Pinckney Hall until the next Club Competition.