Annex to Competition and Advancement Guidelines and Rules, Photography Club of Sun City Hilton Head, October, 2026

Sun City Hilton Head Photo Competitions- Judging

***About our Competitions*:**
At each meeting, members may submit an image based on the specific theme for the month. They do so in their earned category of Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Expert. The intent of our judging guidelines is that similar criteria will be used each month. In each category, an award is made for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and one honorable mention, depending on entry numbers.

Main Objectives of our Competitions
To encourage practice and learning throughout the year
To encourage growth by way of photographing new subjects
To encourage the application of new techniques and ideas being taught
To advance each photographer's own artistic development
To create beautiful photographs

Judging Guidelines for Judging and Critique Comments
Our expectation is that first and foremost, all photographers submit an impactful and striking image that is immediately recognizable as fitting the theme of the month. (Our club manages the submission requirements for timing and level.) The level of the photographer should be taken into consideration. Each level should be judged appropriately.

The Guidelines
We provide our judges with the following list as a guideline: We expect that each of our judges will have their own highly developed sense of what makes a great photograph. Pure objectivity is not possible or even desirable. We welcome a variety of points of view.

1. IMPACT — Does it grab me? Does the image immediately create interest, emotion, mood, or curiosity?

2. COMPOSITION — Does it work visually? Is the eye led effectively through the image? Are cropping, balance, viewpoint and center of interest strong?

3. TECHNICAL QUALITY — Is anything distracting? Consider focus, exposure, lighting, color/tonality, processing and unwanted distractions. Technical choices should serve the image.

4. CREATIVITY & STYLE — Is there a point of view? Does the photographer show originality or a distinctive way of seeing the subject?

5. STORY & SUBJECT — Does it say something? Is the subject compelling? Does the photograph communicate an idea, moment, relationship, atmosphere or story?

6. DOES THE WHOLE PHOTO SUCCEED — Not merely follow the rules?

Judging Decisions and Awarding of Ribbons

As our judge, please communicate your decision process, using these points in your comments about the winning images. This will supplement the learning process and provide some continuity to judging from photo to photo and month to month!

We thank you for your time and for agreeing to judge our club's competition.