



NJFCC JUDGE'S GUIDE

Updated: 9/16/2009-

(Includes: Category Definitions, Judging Guidelines, & NJFCC SCORING SYSTEM)

Competition Definitions

Photo Travel Slide- Those images that capture the feeling of a time & place , and portrays a land, its people, or a culture in its natural state. Ultra close-ups, studio type model shots, and *any photographic manipulations which misrepresent the true situation or alter the content of the image are unacceptable in Photo Travel competition.* < New 8/2003

Nature Color Slide- Nature photography depicts observations from all branches of natural history, except Anthropology and Archeology. The story-telling value of a photograph ***shall*** be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, obviously set arrangements and any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement, are not acceptable. < New 8/2003

Spring- Nature Slides- Has four (4) categories:
1. General Nature 2. Ornithological 3. Botanical 4. Zoological (Insects included)

"Regular" Print Competitions- There are five (5) categories in each regular (Spring & Fall) competition:

Monochrome & Color- Entirely by the maker & taker" ("**darkroom**" or "**printer**")- two categories in each:

Class A - Includes all print makers who wish this top level of competition, all makers designated so by their club chairperson, and all makers elevated from Class B.

Class B - Includes all print makers considered beginners by their club chairperson and all others not recommended for elevation to class A. When a print maker has accumulated sufficient recognition, the NJFCC Print Chairperson shall notify his club chairperson that he should compete in Class A in the following competition year.

Trade Process- (Color & Monochrome together)- **Prints NOT done by maker (camera store, lab, or friend).** Use of a Printing Kiosk by maker is considered "by maker" (not trade). < new 2005

Restricted Competitions- (Definition)- Entrants ***restricted to only those who have never*** received a Ribbon, Medal or Plaque ***in "any" previous*** NJFCC competition.

Judging- NJFCC General Guidelines & Considerations

1-5 are technical aspects of an image A-D are the more viewer impact aspects these are not rules but a list of image elements to consider.

Judging is still a subjective and personal evaluation. It is based on the judge's background, experience, preferences, and human sensitivities. The elements listed below are merely a guideline for judges to supplement their personal considerations before scoring an image. It should be understood that no picture will need to succeed in all these elements for it to be considered good or outstanding.

In some circles, the viewer impact aspects are given equal or more weight than the technical aspects of an image.

A. Main Elements of Evaluation of Images- (not in any order of importance)

TECHNICAL

1. Design Elements-	a. Horizontal / Vertical Choice b. Patterns / Textures c. Composition elements d. Placement of point of interest e. Light/Dark Values & Balance f. Color Values & Balance g. Sharpness- Where needed & Not h. Background i. Minimizing distracting elements	3. Imagination or Point of View	a. Uniqueness b. New Perspective c. Unusual lighting
2. Subject Matter-	a. What & Why selected- motive of Photographer b. What included, What NOT c. Complementary Background	4. Technique or Difficulty	a. Timing, a captured moment b. Treatment of movement, speed c. Management & Control of Light d. Exposure
		5. Presentation	a. Appropriate Cropping in slides or choice of Mounting for prints b. Clean, Dust-free c. No signalers

VIEWER IMPACT

A.	Mood, Emotion, Feeling affect on viewer / judge
B.	Message or Story
C.	Strength or Impact
D.	Creativity

B. Considerations in a Judges Comments -

1. Recognize and mention the positive elements of an image.
2. Recognize and mention those non-technical aspects (A-D) of an image when present.
3. **Give positive constructive suggestions first as a substitute and alternative for critical negatives type comments.**

C. Considerations in Scoring -

1. No Single good element of evaluation (above) should forgive poor elements of the image unless they are not a factor in the overall image. However, Several good elements could be sufficient to overcome some poor elements.
2. A Successful image should satisfy most ,if not all, of the elements of evaluation.
3. A successful image should be recognized regardless of the expense of travel, advanced expensive equipment, or difficulty that may have been used to produce the image. Conversely, an image produced by expensive travel or equipment should not automatically be considered to be a successful one.

NJFCC Competition Scoring - New (2001-02)

* 11/17/2005- Special note: Judges in NJFCC Regular and Photorama Contests are not permitted to have entries in the same contest.

1. Scoring for both Prints and Slides will be on 3-9 point system (for each judge).

- 9= Medal/Plaque candidate
- 8= Merit Award (MA) Ribbon candidate
- 7= Honorable Mention (HM) Ribbon candidate
- 6= Better than average, but not at HM candidate level
- 5= Average**
- 3-4 Below Average
- 1-2 **not to be given by a judge**

2. Winner Selections.

Assuming a three judge panel:

Medal/Plaque Winner- The best of the 27s. If no 27s, the best of the next lower score.

Merit Award Ribbon Winner- Those with the same score and one point lower score from the medal winner.

Honorable Mention Ribbon Winner- Those with 21s or higher **but limited to approximately the top 20% of the total number of entries ,after the Merit Awards.**

Runner-Up Medal for "TOPS-in-NJ" and SKIBNESKI- The winner of a run-off, if needed, of those with the same score as the plaque winner. If no scores the same as the Plaque winner, the winner of a run-off of those with the next lower score.

In run-offs it is not recommended to go back and re-score the entire group. In judging run-offs, the "IN" and "OUT" method (where a "1" is an "IN" and a "0" is an "OUT") is suggested. Each judge gets one vote, a net total (assuming three judges):
3 vote is an "IN"
2 vote is a "HOLD"
1 vote is a "OUT".

Keep in mind that a "2" vote "HOLD" is a majority and **must be looked at again with the "3s"**. This prevents one judge, from being an undue influence.

COMPETITION VIEWING REQUIREMENTS (Highly Condensed from a PSA Uniform Practice)

1. Illumination Levels-

- a. Print Box illumination should be in the 3200 K to 5500 K temperature range. Household tungsten bulbs are usually around 3000 K, while cool-white fluorescent bulbs are around 5500 K. An appropriate balance is achieved with about 20-25% of the total wattage being fluorescent (2 x 20 W "cool-white" fluorescent + 4 x 40 W "soft-white" tungsten).
- b. EV measurements can be made with a photographic light meter, or by using an in-camera light meter set at an ISO (ASA) value of 100. A reflected light meter reading for a print box should be made with an 18% reflectance gray card placed at the center of the print area. If using an incident light meter it should be placed at the center of the print area facing the judges. A reflected light meter reading for a slide projection screen should be made when using an empty "super slide" slide mount (40 mm square format). Variations from center to corners of light box or screen should not be more than 0.5 EV or 1/2 f-stop.

<u>Print Box- 18% gray card</u>			
EV=10.0	or	1/15 @	f 8.0
*EV= 9.5	or	1/15 @	f 6.5
EV= 9.0	or	1/15 @	f 5.6

<u>Slide Screen- empty mount</u>			
EV= 9.0	or	1/15 @	f 5.6
*EV= 8.5	or	1/15 @	f 4.5
EV= 8.0	or	1/15 @	f 4.0

2. Judging Distance-

- a. The center of the print viewing area should be at the eye level of the judges. The minimum distance for positioning the print judging should be 5 feet for 8x 10 size prints and 10 feet for 16 x 20 size prints
- b. Small prints be judged first and the judges' seating adjusted for the judging of the large prints.
- c. The minimum distance for positioning the slide judging should be 10 feet.

3. Support Area Behind Print-

The print should be placed against a panel that has been painted a medium gray tone using "flat" (non-glossy) paint. The size of this panel should be 30" X 30" for a 16 X 20 inch print. Copies "How to construct a Print Judging Light Box" available at "hq@psa-photo.org"

4. Screen Image Keystoning-

Corrections for keystoning (top wider than bottom) should be made by raising level of projector to center of screen or by tipping the screen.

5. Room Conditions & Safety for Judging-

- a. All distractions (lights or reflections) should be removed from the judges field of view. While room lights should remain ON for print viewing, they should be OFF for slide viewing.
- b. Seating for any audience should start a minimum of two rows behind the judges.
- c. Comfortable chairs must be provided for the judges. Rest and/or refreshment breaks are to be arranged between rounds, as necessary.
- d. There must be no audible comments or conversation from the audience or the workers that might influence or otherwise distract the judges.
- e. Scoring devices must be behind the judges so they are not able to see the individual judges scores.
- f. Soft white cotton darkroom gloves or medical vinyl gloves should be worn by print handlers at all times.
- g. Secure electrical service/hook-ups (e.g. tape down loose electrical drop-cords that cross public aisles).
- h. Insure adequate aisles space for safe public access or egress.
- i. Have a public or cellular phone available in case of sickness, injury or other emergencies.
- j. Designate someone to turn the lights on and off when required.
- k. Public safety laws vary- the space should be in compliance with local & state public safety regulations.