Competition Rules

rev. 08/2017*

Rules common to all NJFCC Competitions:

1. All contests are only open to members of NJFCC member clubs.
2. Images must have been made by the declared individual photographer.
   Submitting someone else's work is not permitted.
3. All entries must be received by NJFCC Chairperson *on* or *before* the competition deadline due date.
4. Individuals having multiple club memberships are permitted to enter **only** under one club name for any given competition.
5. *A club member can submit a maximum of two (2) entries per individual in the Fall and Winter competitions. A club can have unlimited entries in these competitions.
6. Submissions of virtually the same image in more than one division or category is not permitted. **For example:** an image is submitted in a nature projection competition. It may not also be submitted in a pictorial competition or a print competition. Similarly, a monochrome rendition of a color image, and vice versa, may only be submitted in one of the categories.
7. Entries that did not receive an award in any competition are permitted to be re-submitted in a subsequent competition only one time.
8. Persons submitting images to NJFCC competitions must accept that NJFCC shall not be responsible for loss or damage to images.
9. All images submitted for NJFCC competitions may be used for display on the NJFCC website with full credit given to the maker. A maker can notify the appropriate chairperson if they wish to have their image removed from the website.
10. Tops in NJ competitions will be held at the end of each season (typically March through May). The Tops competitions will consist of winning images (any image that received a medal, award or HM) from the Fall and Winter competitions. Individuals or clubs will not submit images directly to these competitions, with the exception of Prints, which must be resubmitted by the clubs.

Print Competition Rules

All Print Competitions are OPEN, meaning there are no topics. Image manipulation/creativity is allowed, but ALL images must be made from an original photo from the maker.

The Print Chairs in each club will collect prints from the members and complete the labels and entry forms.

The Prints are to be submitted to the NJFCC Print Chair at the Delegates Meeting prior to the competition date (as posted on the website).

Size Requirements

The minimum image size is 8″x10″, or 80 square inches. The maximum size (image or image plus backing) is 16″x20″. Prints measuring 16″x20″ must be mounted on a 16″x20″ mat or foam board. For 16″x20″ images, the mount must not extend beyond the border of the image. However, if your images is smaller than 16″x20″, your mount can be as large as the acceptable size of 16″x20″.

Mountings:

1. Prints may be mounted on mat board or thin foam core. Images mounted on oak tag will be disqualified.
2. Prints must be securely mounted. Any print not secured is subject to disqualification.
3. No over-matting or window matting is allowed.
4. No signatures, copyrights, titles or any other marking may be present on the front of the image or mount
   NOTE: Any entry in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

There are two competitions for each Print Competition—COLOR and MONOCHROME. Maximum number of entries per club for each Print Competition (Color and Mono) is unlimited. For Fall and Winter competitions, each maker is limited to three (3) images in Color and three (3) images in Monochrome. For Tops in NJ competitions, there is no limit—ALL images that received any recognition (medal, award, HM) can be entered.

Monochrome Images:

The NJFCC defines Monochrome as follows: A single-toned image such as Black and White or sepia, with no additional accent color.

Pictorial Competition Rules (Projected)

1. Images may not be created from scratch—by drawing or any other non-photographic means.
2. *There is no maximum number of entries per club. The limit per maker is TWO (2).
3. Image sizing:
   a. Image files must be converted to **sRGB** color space.
   b. The maximum file size is 1.5 megabytes.
   c. Images size must be 1050 pixels along the longest edge. Square images, where both height and width are 1050 pixels, are acceptable.
   d. The photographer's name, trademark and/or copyright may not appear on an image
4. ***NEW*** There are now three (3) separate contests in each Pictorial Competition. These will run in a comparable manner to Nature Competitions as they will be 3 distinct competitions. The new categories for Pictorial Competitions are:
   a. **Creative**: Images presented in such a manner that post processing or in-camera manipulation is obvious to the average viewer.
   b. **Pictorial Nature**: Nature 'type' images that do not otherwise meet the entry requirements for NJFCC Nature Competitions. If an image is eligible to be entered into NJFCC Nature, it will be disqualified/excluded from this category.
   c. **Open**: All other images not eligible for entry elsewhere.

   NOTE: Regardless of category, if an image is eligible for entry into NJFCC Nature, it is NOT eligible for entry into Pictorial competitions. The Pictorial chair will eliminate/disqualify images that do not meet Pictorial entry guidelines.**

Nature Competition Rules

1. All Nature competitions are divided into four (4) individual categories: General Nature, Botany, Zoology (includes insects), and Ornithology.

a. General Nature: This category includes landscapes, seascapes, rock formations and anything else that does not fall into Botanical, Ornithological or Zoological.
b. Botanical: This category includes plants and fungi.
c. Ornithological: This category includes birds.
d. Zoological: This category includes all animals except for birds. Basically, if it walks, crawls, flies or swims, it is an animal and must be entered in the Zoological category.

2. Images shall be judged on the story-telling aspect first. If all elements are judged to be the same, then pictorial quality shall take precedence.
3. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable.
4. Human elements shall not be present except on the rare occasion where those elements enhance the nature story.
5. Photographs of domesticated animals, mounted specimens and obviously set arrangements are not acceptable. Farm animals are considered to be domesticated. If an animal is an exotic pet, it must be taken in a natural setting—no bars, fences or man-made objects. Examples of exotic pets are chimpanzees, alligators, alpacas, etc.
6. Any form of image manipulation that misrepresents the true situation or that alters the content of the image is not permitted. Minor cloning to remove small incidental distractions in the image are permitted if the cloning operation is undetectable by the judge. A judge may disqualify any image in which he or she detects evidence of cloning or pasting.
7. Any plant may be included as long as it is photographed in a natural setting.
8. There is no maximum number of entries per club. Each member is allowed to enter up to two (2) images per competition. The member must choose which of the 4 categories in which to enter their images.
9. Image sizing
   a. Image files must be converted to sRGB color space
   b. The maximum file size is 1.5 megabytes.
   c. Images size must be 1050 pixels along the longest edge. Square images, where both height and width are 1050 pixels, are acceptable.
   d. The photographer's name, trademark and/or copyright may not appear on an image.
10. Follow the Club Competition Procedures for submission instructions.

RULES FOR TOPS IN NJ (Digital Competitions Only)

It was decided that the Tops in NJ Competitions will be true 'best of the best'. No new entries will be accepted for these. The winners (Medal, Awards, Honorable Mentions) from the Fall and Winter Competitions will automatically be uploaded and entered in the end-of-the-year Tops Competitions.

HOSTING NJFCC COMPETITIONS

Clubs Provide: Competition location and projection screens. Clubs also arrange for, pay for and introduce the three (3) judges.

NJFCC Provides: Central collection point for all club entries, randomization of the order of entries and brings all entries to the host club on the night of the competition. The NJFCC also brings our multiple judge scoring device, the electronic image projector and the laptop computer. The NJFCC chairperson conducts the competition, collects the score records, and returns entries (with NJFCC awards/Plaques, Medals & Ribbons) to the club delegates at the next NJFCC monthly meeting. The NJFCC will also reimburse the hosting club $150 ($50 per judge) to offset the cost of the judges.