

Rockford Photo Club Contest Rules (Revised March 2019)

- 1) Contests are open only to members who are in good standing prior to the night of the contest: Members in good standing are members who have their dues paid in full at least one regular meeting before participation in any contest is allowed.
- 2) All images must be the original work of the club member and must be created with a camera (cell phone, iPad, tablet are allowed)
- 3) Members in good standing may enter up to TWO (2) images in any combination within the two categories (Realistic and Enhanced). A total of TWO (2) images can be entered. Images must be shown as prints.
- 4) Prints shall be at least 5x7 in size and must be firmly attached to a mount board or matted. Minimum overall display size to be 8x10.
- 5) Maximum overall display size to be 16x20 either “flush-mount” or matted.
- 6) Prints shall either be flush-mounted (printed edge to edge) or matted on reasonable photographic medium (canvas mount included).
- 7) Prints shall not be framed or mounted under glass.
- 8) No entries for judging are allowed once the judging begins. However, late entries may be displayed and critiqued.
- 9) Prints that have won (defined as Best of Show, First, Second, and Third places) previously in a Rockford Photo Club contest are not eligible to be entered in another Rockford Photo Club contest.
- 10) If you have photos to enter but are unable to attend the meeting, you may send your entries with someone else. Photo entry information (name of photographer and category being entered) shall accompany photos being entered. Photos must still be entered before judging begins.
- 11) During contest judging a designated board member will be present to assist the judge in the event the judge has a question regarding contest rules, appropriateness of an entry for the contest topic, size of the entry, or any other contest criteria. If the judge has no questions the designated board member will be impassive and not engage in conversation with the judge and will not influence or impress the judge. When the judge has completed judging the entries, the designated board member will assist the judge in bringing the entries into the meeting room to begin his critique and viewing by the rest of the membership.

12) Prints can be disqualified if:

- 1) they do not meet the contest rules or
- 2) they do not fall within the topic/subject of the particular contest or size restriction.

Prints can be disqualified by:

- 1) Prints can be disqualified by the judge during judging after consulting with the designated board member overseeing the contest.
- 2) In the event that a winning entry of Best of Show, First Place, Second Place, or Third Place is deemed ineligible due to having previously won one of these awards in another contest, it may be disqualified by a majority vote of the club members present and all other winners will be adjusted accordingly. For example, if a Second Place print is disqualified, Third Place print would move up to Second Place, the first Honorable Mention would move up to Third Place, etc.

Suggestions, Not Rules:

Since contests are intended as a tool towards learning better photography, it is highly suggested that your photos be taken within the past two years.

While prints are supposed to be judged on impact, quality, balance and rules of good photography, do not discount the importance of visual presentation of both the printing and matting qualities on the judges final decision. It could make all the difference.

Any disqualification based on #12, sub #2 should be discussed and voted on by the membership after the judge is gone as the judge has no knowledge of the previous contest winners. This discussion and voting could be at the next club meeting if necessary (such as meeting running late or the judge is still present).

Classes/Categories for Contest Entries:

Realistic Photography (Global Editing)

Global Editing: Editing where the editing adjustments affect the whole image (image edge to edge).

Global editing permits overall adjustments to help polish your captured image. These rules are intended to allow you to fine-tune your entry and correct basic imperfections in exposure, sharpening, contrast, color, etc. Only global editing will be allowed in this class. No selections or spot-editing tools are allowed with the sole exception of cloning out sensor dust or hot pixels. These guidelines apply on post-processing to all edits performed after the image is captured, whether performed in image-editing

software, using image-editing built into the camera, or during RAW conversion. (Multiple exposure or layers not allowed).

The use of slider adjustments contained in Photoshop, Lightroom, and other similar programs is acceptable. These adjustments are: Temperature, Tint, Exposure, Contrast, Highlights, Shadows, Whites, Blacks, Clarity, Vibrance, Saturation. Sharpening, Leveling, and Straightening are also allowed.

Enhanced Photography (Global and/or Local Editing)

Local Editing: Editing where the editing adjustments only affect one part/section of the image.

You may use editing built into the camera or post-processing software to edit your captured image. Adjustments may be either global, local, or both. You may clone in or out subjects (as long as the work is yours) and use multiple layers. Let your creativity show from HDR to photo montages.