

Westchester Photographic Society

Guidelines for Judging Competitions for WPS

Thank you for agreeing to judge a photographic competition for the Westchester Photographic Society. We look forward to your efforts in helping WPS to create an environment where our members can benefit from your comments and learn to improve their photography skills.

During the continuing pandemic, we are conducting our competitions remotely, using Zoom. In order for you to judge our competitions remotely you will need the following: (1) computer equipped with a camera and microphone, (2) have a Zoom account (free) installed on your computer (3) have a degree of proficiency signing onto a Zoom meeting and operating within that environment. (4) while not essential, many find a headset with built in microphone helpful.

Competition Formats

On any single competition evening, you will be assigned to score images in one of our two formats (A or B). There are two categories per competition format.

A Format Competition:

*** COLOR DIGITAL:**

This category alone has three skill levels (B-Beginner, A-Advanced & S-Salon).

Each skill level will be judged separately.

Scoring reflects traditional photographic principles.

Please read the description of this category in *Description of Competition Categories*.

*** OPEN MIND:** Single group – no levels. Scoring reflects an emphasis on a combination of impact and creativity (in either order) and then any aesthetic or technical aspects you view as germane. It's not just about Photoshop or software alterations.

* Any kind \ style of image can be entered in this category.

Please read the description of this category in *Description of Competition Categories*.

B Format Competition:

*** BLACK & WHITE DIGITAL:** Single group- no levels. Scoring reflects traditional photographic principles. Monochromatic, a single tone is acceptable.

Please, read the description of this category in *Description of Competition Categories*.

*** THEME ASSIGNMENT:** Single group – no levels. Scoring reflect stylistic adherence to and creative interpretation of the specified theme.

Please, read the description of this category in *Description of Competition Categories* and description for Theme Assignment for your specific date.

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Scoring Protocol

- * A pre-scoring “run through” will be conducted to provide you with opportunity to assess the quality and nature of the images in each given category or level.
- * To help you pace yourself, we will inform you of the total number of images to be judged, prior to the start of the competition. Based on the number entries you may be asked to be mindful of time and limit comments to two-three cogent points, per image.
- * *You are not responsible for disqualifying any image.* If an image does not meet the criteria, for that competition category, there is a membership-mediated mechanism to “challenge” entries after the fact. We simply ask that you provide a considered score.
- * Scoring for Open Mind (OM) and Theme Assignment (TA) images can present some challenges as they are strongly based on subjective interpretation. OM images should be creative in thought and impactful in visual presentation, not just photoshopped. TA images should have some identifiable aesthetic relationship to the specified theme.
- * Our **SCORING Range is 70 – 100**, in increments of single digits.

- * ***Suggestions for scoring are as follows:***

Below < 75 – generally reserved for images that need a lot of work
Upper 70s - images have some desirable qualities but need work
Low to Mid 80s – average quality images
Mid 80 represent credible images with positive qualities
Upper 80s – solid images that just lack that extra something
Lower to Mid 90s – very strong images with only minor or intangible detracting elements
Upper 90s to 100 – reserved for truly exceptional images.

- * You do not have to be overly attentive to your previous scores. You may give multiple images the same score. That being said, we would appreciate your efforts to have a range in your scoring distribution.
- * For all categories, Color Digital, Open Mind and Black & White Digital and Theme Assignment we will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention positions, at the end of each competition.
- * We intentionally, do not inform the membership of who will be judging for any specific competition. You are asked to be discrete about your arrangement to judge for us.