

Louisiana Photographic Society

Monthly Competition Guidelines

Sections 1: Purpose or Intent of Competitions

The Louisiana Photographic Society (LPS) sponsors monthly Photographic Competitions for its members. The intent of LPS monthly competitions is to promote interest in the many facets of photography.

1. For each monthly competition, themes may be either "Open" or "Assigned". These themes change on a monthly schedule.
2. The purpose of the monthly theme is to challenge LPS members with a photographic assignment. A monthly theme-based competition may be in any of the two categories, color or monochrome inclusive of prints and digital projection media.

Sections 2: Levels of Competition

There are three (3) levels of competition, "Master" Level, Level "A" and Level "B".

1. "Master" level is for photographers who have taken their photography skills to a level higher than Level "A" (Advanced) or Level "B" (Basic).
2. Level "A" is for photographers who are more experienced than Level "B" photographers or who simply want to compete on a higher level.
3. Level "B" is for beginning or less experienced photographers.
4. Each level will compete only against others in their respective levels.

Initial selection of a level is voluntary on the part of each member. Each member's selection of a level should be based on that member's honest self-assessment of his or her skill level; nevertheless, any member may initially select "Master" Level or Level "A".

Sections 3: Types of Competition

1. Color

- A. Prints
- B. Digital Projection

2. Monochrome

- A. Prints
- B. Digital Projection

Sections 4: Preparation and General Guidelines

1. Each LPS member is limited to TWO entries (digital or print) each month. Each member may submit 2-color or 2 monochrome or 1-each color and monochrome. The LPS member must be in good standing, i.e., a member current in his or her dues. The exhibiting LPS member does not have to be present to enter competition. Members who wish to enter the monthly print competition but who will not be present for the meeting must make their own arrangements for placing and retrieving their print entries.

2. All prints must be able to stand on a table easel. Any print medium is allowed (mounted paper, matted paper, metal, canvas, etc). Easels will be provided by the club. You may also use your own table easel as long as it does not distract or stand out (the board reserves the right to disapprove of any easel). Frames are not allowed. Finished maximum size cannot be over 20x24, this includes mats. There is no minimum size.

3. To qualify for voting each month, a digital image of the intended entry (whether print or digital), must be entered into the appropriate level of competition via Visual Pursuits, by 8 pm on the Monday prior to Thursday's competition. Prints must be placed by meeting start time to qualify for voting.

4. Photojournalism description

Photojournalism entries shall consist of images with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary, and spot news. The journalistic value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, images that misrepresent the truth and staged set-ups are not permitted. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the image, without changing the photojournalism content, are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to gray scale monochrome.

5. Nature

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome. Infrared images are not allowed.

6. Black & White/Monochrome

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image (For example sepia, red, gold, etc). A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work

Sections 5: Voting Procedures

1. Prints (Color/Monochrome)

A. Voting Cards

Mark your cards with choices for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Do not vote for your own image. Voting cards will be collected by the committee members for tallying.

2. Digital Projection (Color/Monochrome)

The Digital Projection Coordinator will prepare the slide program for the Thursday night meeting. He/she will then send to the Competition Coordinator a list of the entrant's names, the Title of the photographs and their appropriate skill levels "Master", "A" or "B".

Online voting procedures: See Addendum A attached.

SECTION 6: Awards

The appropriate monthly awards will be given for each of the following:

1. Categories

A. Prints

1. Color
2. Monochrome

B. Digital Projection

1. Color
2. Monochrome

2. Procedure

A. The number of ribbons awarded is determined by the number of entries.

1-2 Entries – 1st

3-4 Entries – Add 2nd

5-7 Entries – Add 3rd

8-10 Entries – Add 1 HM

11-20 Entries – Add 2nd HM

21+ Entries – add 3rd HM

B. If an image receives a ribbon, it shall be retired from further competitions. At the end of the year, the sum of each person's scores in each category shall be totaled for consideration as the LPS Photographer of the Year for each Level

SECTION 7: Movement from Level to Level

1. A member in Level A or B may voluntarily move up to any Level at any time but any accumulated points are non-transferable.
2. Movement from "Master" Level to Level "A" or Level "A" to Level "B" is discouraged and if requested, may be approved only by action of the Board of Directors.
3. Movement from Level B to Level A is required if the photographer accumulates 15 or more points in a calendar year or receives the "Photographer of the Year" award. Movement will occur the following calendar year.

4. Movement from Level “A” to “Master” level is required if the photographer accumulates 20 or more point in a calendar year or receives the “Photographer of the Year” award. Movement will occur the following calendar year.
5. Points are accumulated using the following scoring system:
 - A. 4 points for first place
 - B. 3 points for second place
 - C. 2 points for third place
 - D. 1 point for honorable mention

SECTION 8: Photographer of the Year

1. Categories

Awards are given at the end of the calendar year to those photographers in each Level with the highest accumulated points in these categories.

Color Prints
Monochrome Prints
Color Digital Projection
Monochrome Digital Projection

2. Scoring Procedure

The “Photographer of the Year” is awarded in each Level, based on his or her combined points which is calculated as follows:

Color Print points + Color Digital Projection points + Monochrome Print points +
Monochrome Digital Projection points = **Grand Total**

ADDENDUM A

DIGITAL ONLINE VOTING PROCEDURES:

Beginning January 2019, LPS will be using online voting for digital projection image competition. Entering your images for the competition will be the same as it has been since we started using Visual Pursuits for our competition entries. Following the competition entry deadline at 8:00 pm Monday before our meeting, all members will be able to login and vote for their favorite images. Voting will remain open until 4:30 pm on our meeting night.

Select and Properly Size Your Image

Size image to 1920 x 1200 pixels. The vertical size should be no more than 1200 pixels and the horizontal size should be no more than 1920 pixels. If your image is smaller than these dimensions, the projected image will be small compared to other entries. Name the file using the image name. You should not include other information in the file name. VP already knows who you are and what level you are competing at. So if your image name is "Red Bird" your file name should be Red Bird.jpg. You don't have to add the .jpg, it will be added when you save the file as a jpg image.

Checklist for Submitting an Image to a Competition

1. Login to VP using your email address or user name and password.
2. Click on Competitions/Submit Images to a Competition
3. Select the Competition that you are entering; e.g. Color-Prints or Monochrome-Prints
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Upload Images into the Competition"
5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Select"
6. Find the image or images that you want to enter, click on those images, click "Open"
7. When you see a green dot next to the image/images name, click "Save Images and Proceed to Edit Page"
8. You will see a thumbprint of your image and a dialog allowing you to change the title and add an Author's Image Id. You do not have to change anything on this page.
9. Click "Save any changes and return to the original page"
10. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see a dialog telling you how many images you have entered and how many are allowed. You will see the image/images that you have entered into this competition. If this is what you wanted to enter, click "Return to Competition List"
11. You may now select another competition to enter or just log out if you have entered all your images.

Checklist for Adding Images to Your Library

1. Login to VP using your email address or user name and password.
2. Click on My Account/My Image Library
3. Click on "Image Search (Click here to show or hide options)" to hide search options
4. Click on "Upload Images"
5. Click "Select"

6. Find the images that you want to upload and click on them. You can select as many as you want. Click "Open"
7. When you see a green dot next to all of your image titles, click "Save Images and Proceed to Edit Page"
8. Make any changes you want and click "Save any changes and return to the original page"
9. You now have those images in your library. You can enter them into competitions or galleries.

Checklist for Submitting an Image to a Competition from Your Library

1. Login to VP using your email address or user name and password.
2. Click on Competitions/Submit Images to a Competition
3. Select the Competition that you are entering; e.g. Color-Prints or Monochrome-Prints
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Add Images from my Image Library"
5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Search for Images"
6. Find the image or images that you want to enter, click on the "Selected" box in the top left corner
7. Click "Finished Marking Desired Images" at the bottom of the page
8. This image will now be entered into the selected competition. You may continue with other competitions and images.

Any image that is not in a competition or gallery will be automatically deleted from your library 3 months after their upload date.