



## Competition Guidelines 2026

Monthly competition is open to [members](#) age 10 and older who have paid calendar year dues. View our [website](#) to join the club and find competition deadlines, updates and news. Entries are submitted at the first Thursday meeting of each month; awards and judge's comments are presented at the third Thursday meeting.

Judges are selected by Competition Committee members who coordinate entry collection, delivery and return. Information about judges is published on our website.

Competition Committee members are co-chairs Shawn Gibson and Ken Spencer, Roy O'Rear, Robert Chura and Brian Fesko.

Monthly entries and award winners are published each month on our website, [fortworthcameraclub.org](http://fortworthcameraclub.org).

### Entry Processing

Any image prepared for competition, including post-processing, must be the sole work of the photographer. While composite images are allowed, any additions to an image photographed by the member must be from another image photographed by the member. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to create or add to an image is prohibited. However, the use of software products using AI to alter or enhance your image (such as Topaz Photo AI, Topaz Denoise AI, or similar software) is allowed.

Printing and/or matting of a print by a commercial lab is allowed.

### Competing in Classes

Members may choose to compete in the B (beginner) or A (advanced) classes of prints and/or digital. Members may enter the Master class after winning Class A Photographer of the Year or by invitation of the board of directors. If a member chooses to change class mid-year, any points awarded in the original competition class do not transfer to the newly selected class.

### Entry Subjects and Closed Subject Months

Monthly entries may be of any subject taken at any time. (Closed or assigned subject contests may be held to encourage members to make new images of a selected topic.)

### Number of Entries

A member may enter no more than two (2) images in each monthly competition and no more than one (1) image per category, i.e., members may enter one print and one digital image each month in A, B or Master competition. *Please be careful when submitting prints to competition. Place them carefully in the entry box and use the provided tissue to protect the image.*

## **Identification**

All entries must be identified by the entrant's assigned membership number. The photographer's name must not appear on any material submitted, print or digital. View guidelines below for each category.

## **Titles**

All submitted work should bear a title unlike any other by the same photographer. A title such as "Untitled" should also include a sequential number, i.e. "Untitled-4."

## **Judging**

Judging critiques and awards will be announced on the third Thursday meeting of each month, or as otherwise announced. Judges are encouraged to attend and share constructive comments. Judge's comments and scores will be published on our website on the password-protected Competition page.

## **Image Re-Entry**

Members can re-enter any image up to two (2) times for monthly competition (for a total of three (3) entries) or until it places 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. The entrant may make adjustments based on judge's comments for re-entry. Once the image places or has been entered three (3) times it cannot be entered again in monthly competition. Once an image has won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place, the winning photographer may not enter subsequent photographs of the same subject, even in another category, unless they differ significantly in perspective, lighting or composition. All entries are reviewed by the Competition Committee.

## **Awards**

Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention places in each class. When there is a limited number of entries, ribbons will be:

- 7 or more entries: all 4 ribbons
- 5 or 6 entries: top 3 ribbons
- 3 or 4 entries: top 2 ribbons
- 1 or 2 entries: 1st place ribbon

In a contest with an unusually high number of entries, one additional Honorable Mention will be added for each increment of 10 entries above 20.

The judge will award a Best in Show each month from all submitted images, print and digital.

## **Award Points**

A cumulative point system is maintained by the Competition Committee. Each entry will be assigned a numerical score from 6 to 15 points. The effort of submitting merits a score of no less than six (6).

- A fair entry should receive a score of 7-9 points.
- A good entry should receive a score of 10-12 points.
- An excellent entry should receive 13-15 points.

In addition to scoring the entries, the judge will assign 1st, 2nd, or 3rd and Honorable Mention awards.

## **Annual Awards**

At year's end, the club member accumulating the largest number of award points from top 10 scores in each class will be Photographer of the Year in that class and will be awarded a plaque. Photographers that place 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention Photographers of the Year will be awarded rosettes. In the event of a tie, the number of original entries submitted during the year will determine the winner. For the purpose of tie-breaking, an original entry is one that has not been previously entered in this contest year. If a further tie breaker is needed, the member with the greatest number of first places in the class will be declared the winner, and, if needed, second places and so on.

In order to qualify for a class photographer of the year award, a member must have entered at least eight competitions in that class.

## **Awards**

Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention places in each class. When there is a limited number of entries, ribbons will be:

- 7 or more entries: all 4 ribbons
- 5 or 6 entries: top 3 ribbons
- 3 or 4 entries: top 2 ribbons
- 1 or 2 entries: 1st place ribbon

In a contest with an unusually high number of entries, one additional Honorable Mention will be added for each increment of 10 entries above 20.

The judge will award a Best in Show each month from all submitted images, print and digital.

## **Year-End Contest**

Entries winning 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in monthly contests are eligible for the year-end contest. Prints may not be re-printed for the year-end contest unless the print has been damaged. The new print must be identical to the print it is replacing.

Awards will be given for the top four (4) places in each class. The 1st place in each class will be declared the Photograph of the Year in that class and awarded a plaque; 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mentions will be awarded rosettes.

## **Progression**

Class B Photographers of the Year will be required to move to Class A. Class A Photographers of the Year may, at their discretion, move to the Master class. Anyone winning Class A Photographer of the Year twice will be required to move to the Master class. Progression will be within both the print and digital classes. A member promoted to Class A prints, for instance, must also compete in Class A digital.

## **Rules and Procedures for Digital Entries**

Color and monochrome digital images will be judged together. Metadata will be removed by the Digital Competition Chair prior to forwarding the images to the judge.

FYI, Identifying metadata information may be found in File > File Info or Export As options in Lightroom and Photoshop. It may also be embedded in camera menu functions.

The photographer's name and details about the image may be titled IXTP, EXIF or similar.

### **Number**

Members may enter one (1) digital file each month.

### **Size**

The maximum resolution allowed for digital entries is 1920 pixels wide and 1280 pixels high. Images submitted that are smaller will not be disqualified but will be at a disadvantage when projected during judging.

### **Format**

Files and file name extension must be jpg or JPEG.

### **Color Space**

For accurate color display, sRGB is recommended.

### **File Naming**

Class, Member Number and Title should be separated by underscores, NOT a dash or hyphen. Title names may contain spaces, but not an underscore. Do not use unsupported special characters such as ' \ / : ; \* ? < > | in title names.

GOOD examples:

- M\_1233\_Tinkering Around.jpg
- B\_1459\_Colorado River.jpg
- A\_1229\_Plane In Flight.jpg
- B\_1234\_River Walk.jpg

BAD examples:

- 233-A-fall\_sunrise.jpg (It's not clear if the entry is for class A or the name of the photograph is "A Fall Sunrise.")
- m-1233\_Tinkering\_Around.jpeg
- 233\_m-TinkeringAround123.jpg

### **Submitting Digital Images**

Submit digital images, with personal identification removed, by email as a jpg attachment to [submit.digital@gmail.com](mailto:submit.digital@gmail.com) by midnight on the day of the first Thursday meeting of each month. Please include FWCC Digital Submission in the subject line. You will receive a confirmation reply when your files are received and checked in.

Identify it this way: Class\_Member Number\_Title

### **Submitting Print Entries**

Print entries should be brought to the first Thursday meeting of each month. Please be careful when submitting prints to competition. Place them carefully in the entry box and use the provided tissue to protect the image.

Print entrants also must submit a jpg image (maximum size 1920x1280 pixels) of their print for showing at the third Thursday awards discussion. Submit the digital image by midnight on the first Thursday meeting date. Entrants will receive a confirmation reply when files are received and checked in.

Submit this image to [submit.printfile@gmail.com](mailto:submit.printfile@gmail.com) with a subject line of FWCC Print Submission.

Identify it this way: Class\_Print\_Member Number\_Title

### **Type**

Color and monochrome prints will be judged together in one category. Monochrome prints may be toned.

### **Number**

Members may enter one (1) print each month in color or monochrome.

### **Mounts**

All prints must be mounted on substantial backing or matte board. Framed prints or those with hanging devices attached are not permitted. Maximum print size and/or matte size is 20-by-24 inches. Maximum matte board thickness is 5/16 inch. No prints will be accepted in plastic bags or with paper attached. Care should be taken that the matte/backing is secured properly and is sturdy enough for competition judging.

### **Markings**

All prints must be labeled on the back, in the upper left corner, with title, membership number (no name), class (B, A or M) and the orientation of the print, if not obvious. Identify it this way: Class\_Print\_Member Number\_Title

### **Thanks for Entering!**

Monthly competition is designed to help us explore, learn and grow as photographers. Good luck to every entrant!

