

Napanee Photo Club 2021 Competition Rules

Competitions are intended to be consistent with the purpose of the club, which is “to educate and develop its members as photographers, and to promote the art of photography”.¹ The participation of all club members is encouraged. These rules are designed with both beginning and advanced photographers in mind.

Competitions for club members will be on these dates in 2021:

- February 9, 2021: digital images. **Deadline for entry is January 29, 2021.**
- June 8, 2021: digital images. **Deadline for entry is May 28, 2021.**
- September 14, 2021: whether print or digital images depends on the status of the pandemic. Details will be announced as they are known.

Before each competition, under the Competitions tab on the club’s website² you’ll find [links to submit your entries](#).

Note: These are the rules for *competitions*. There is a separate document outlining the rules for the Photo Art annual print show.

Key points to remember for competitions

- Competitions are open to all members of the Napanee Photo Club, provided their annual dues have been paid. Contact [Pat Werden](mailto:pjwerden@gmail.com) pjwerden@gmail.com to pay 2021 dues.
- Members may enter a **maximum of three photos** in each competition. Keep in mind that only one photo may be entered in any particular category, i.e. if you are entering more than one photo you must select distinct categories for each entry.
- The four categories available are Nature, Altered Reality, Monochrome and Colour Pictorial. See their descriptions at [this bookmark](#).
- Images must have been captured within 36 months of the competition date.
- Images that have won a prize or award in any external competition are not eligible to be entered in a Napanee Photo Club competition.
- Digital manipulation of a photograph is acceptable. For more details, see [this bookmark](#).
- Each image entered in a competition must have been made using a camera (no scanned images).

The intention of the competitions is to encourage members to find fresh ideas, to create images of high quality, to improve the photography skills of club members through continuous practice, and to submit new work.

The Competition Chair has the right to reject any image deemed inappropriate for display. If an image is rejected, the photographer will have the option to replace the rejected image.

¹ See the club’s website under the Club Profile tab for the Constitution & By-Laws: www.NapaneePhotoClub.ca/club-profile/napanee-photo-club-elections-and-constitution

² The website address for the Napanee Photo Club is: www.NapaneePhotoClub.ca

Judging

Judges are asked to use the full range of scores from 1 to 10 (whole numbers only) and the following guideline to award scores:

- **1, 2** – Unacceptable, having major faults in all areas.
- **3, 4** – Sub-standard, having serious faults that significantly detract from the photograph, e.g. subject is out of focus, image has incorrect exposure, or lacks good composition.
- **5, 6** – Standard quality photograph with some tolerance for minor problems, without either serious faults or significant strengths; nothing obviously special about the photograph. For example, the image quality is reduced because the image has mergers, distracting hot areas, or problems with cropping, or colour and tone.
- **7, 8** – Superior, being better than the standard photograph with only minor defects or photographs with strengths that outweigh any minor defects.
- **9, 10** – Excellent, being without defect; clearly special. A rarity.

Judges are asked not to consider the image names in awarding scores. The name adds interest as a descriptive caption but is not intended to be part of the evaluation of entries.

For the printed images competition, (if it occurs), three judges will score competition entries during the regular meeting in the presence of the members. Each judge will score individual images out of a possible ten points. The scores of the three judges will be tallied to give a total score out of a possible 30 points.

The audience and judges are asked to keep a quiet atmosphere while the images are presented for scoring.

There will be no discussion among judges during scoring.

Judges should consider the presentation of the image, i.e. matting, in their evaluation.

Judges may approach an image for closer observation.

For the digital images competition, three judges will score competition entries online. The results will be recorded and presented online along with the competition images to members.

The Napanee Photo Club very much appreciates the time and experience that each judge shares with the club. Competitions are significant in the growth of its members.

Club members are reminded that scores are the result of one set of judges on one occasion. While objective elements such as poor exposure or slanted horizons are measurable, the subjective component is based more upon a reaction: a human reaction, one that will vary from person to person. But overall, scores indicate where photos stand in the opinion of a particular set of judges with photographic and artistic experience.

Although the club favours judges certified by the [Canadian Association for Photographic Art](#), members of the Napanee Photo Club are encouraged to act as a judge at competitions. If a member who is acting as a judge enters the competition they will not score their own work and, for those entries, the scores of the other judges will be multiplied by 1.5 to give a score out of 30. As much as possible, everyone involved, including photographers, the committee members and any judging members, will try to keep all images anonymous until judging is completed.

Just as the judges do not know the photographer whose image is being scored, there is no reason for members to know who the judges are prior to the competition date, so their names will be withheld until then.

Printed Image Competition Procedure and Awards (Assuming that meetings have resumed)

As printed images are displayed for a competition, the title, photographer and score for each image displayed will be announced before the next entry is presented in each category. (In other words, titles will not be announced until judging has been completed.) The image is the focus of judging. The name adds interest as a descriptive caption but is not intended to be part of the evaluation of entries. Only the total score for an entry will be announced and available to photographers, not the score given by individual judges.

Completing the judging of images in a timely manner is the priority, though **constructive comments or criticism** of the images **that might help educate club members is welcome**. A discussion of the competition images will be initiated if time is available, once all prints have been scored.

At the next month's meeting, photographers in first, second and third place in each category will be presented an award card. Just the photographers in these top three places are also eligible to receive ribbons based on the following ratings:

Gold: 26-30 points

Silver: 21-25 points

Honourable Mention: 18-20 points

In addition, the photographer with the highest sum of scores for that competition will be announced.

The Competition Chair will ensure that a record of all competition results is kept and that a summary is available to club members listing the photographer, title, category and total score for each entry.

Scores for up to 9 images from all entries of individual photographers in the three competitions will be used to determine the winner of the [Award for Photographer of the Year](#). This award will be presented at the club's Annual General Meeting at the end of the year.

Categories, Number of Entries, Image Titles, Digital Manipulation

- Members may submit a total of three entries in a competition. If you are entering more than one photo you must select distinct categories for each entry.
- A category must have at least four entries in it in order to be judged.
- Before the competition each entry will be reviewed to confirm that it is in the appropriate category. On occasion this may result in a change in the category assigned to the entry.
- Any change in category will be discussed with the photographer of the entry.
- The photographer, title and category for each image to be submitted to a competition must be provided by the deadline. (For print entries this means members have the time between the deadline and the competition night to ready their work, if needed. This is not the case with digital file entries, which must be received by the deadline.)
- Each entry must have a title. The name of a category is not acceptable as a title for individual images nor is 'Untitled' an acceptable title.
- Digital manipulation (see also Allowable Processing, at [this bookmark](#)) of a photograph to enhance its appearance is acceptable in any entry, though some restrictions apply to the nature category.** Images that present an obvious departure from the normal perception of reality should be entered in the Altered Reality category.*

There are four categories³ of entry for each competition:

| Colour Pictorial | Altered Reality* | Monochrome | Nature** |
|--|---|---|---|
| -a general category -indoor & outdoor settings, people, portraits; scenery, architecture, flowers, etc. | -digitally manipulated or abstract images that represent an innovative technique. -Original image must have been taken by the photographer using a camera. | -generally black and white but sepia and other tones may be used in an image of a single hue. | -restricted to all things that are wild and not showing human influence. <u>Titles should use scientific names if possible but common names are acceptable.</u> |

****Requirements for Photos in the Nature Category**

In satisfying the requirements set out here, the highest level of artistic skill should be engaged in making photographs for the nature category. The photographer must have taken the original image.

Eligible Subjects and Techniques

Photographs in the nature category illustrate living, untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat, and they may show geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena, from insects to icebergs, from waves to wolves.

Photographs of animals that are domesticated, caged or under any form of direct or tethered restraint in order to permit public viewing, are ineligible for the nature category.

Photographs of cultivated and botanical garden plants are ineligible.

Photographs of wild animals in a setting such as a provincial, national or state park or wildlife refuge, where wildlife roams freely, are eligible subjects for the nature category.

Photographs of animals free to roam, though confined within large enclosures or similar restraining environments such as a wolf park, are eligible for the nature category provided they do not show signs of the stress these animals may be experiencing from their situation. The structure of the enclosure such as fences, barriers etc. should not be evident in photography from these sites.

If an animal is not roaming freely or shows signs of stress or unnatural behaviour, then the photograph would not be eligible in the nature category.

Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable in nature photography, such as barn owls or storks, adapting to environments modified by humans. Photography involving natural forces, such as hurricanes or tidal waves, reclaiming the environment is acceptable.

³ For examples have a look at images from previous competitions on the club's website: www.napaneephotoclub.ca/competitions

Specific types of composite photos are allowed, such as focus stacking⁴, High Dynamic Range (HDR)⁵ and changing a background, within the limits described here and in the Allowable Processing section below.

Focus stacking⁴ is allowed in photography for the nature category as long as the subject is part of the natural world, i.e. not staged.

The use of High Dynamic Range⁵ techniques is acceptable provided the resulting image represents what the eye naturally sees.

The use of slow shutter speeds is allowed e.g. photography involving moving water.

Allowable Processing

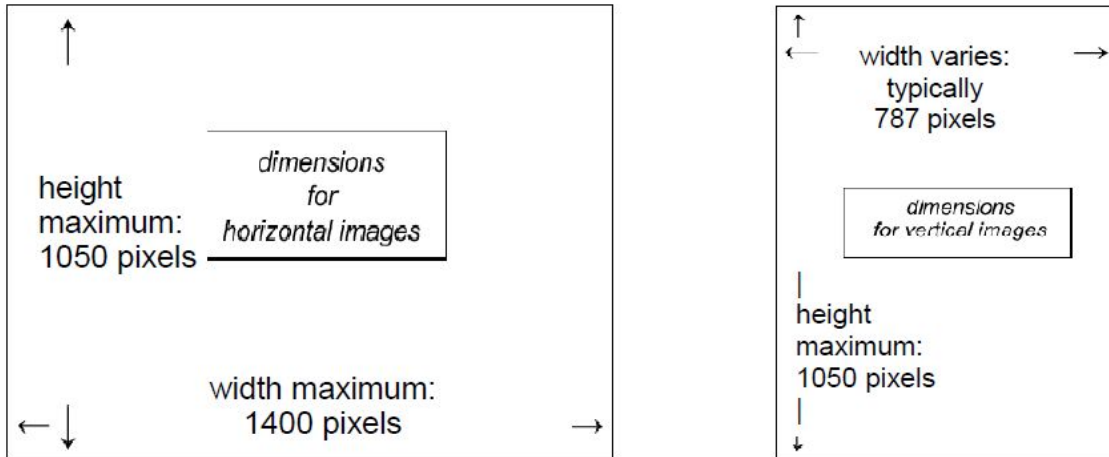
- As in the other categories (altered reality, colour pictorial, and monochrome) photo manipulation is permitted. Manipulation includes: use of High Dynamic Range (HDR)⁵; focus stacking; removing distracting elements; altering colour, saturation, brightness; changing or removing backgrounds; combining more than one image into a composite image, and the use of Photoshop or similar software.
- In the nature category the intent of any manipulation is to enhance the natural appearance of the original photographic scene without substantially altering its content. For example, the removal of a distracting element such as a power line is permitted. However, swapping a blue sky background with a solid black one in a photo of a flower or bird is not allowed since it moves away from the portrayal of natural habitat as described above.
- Black and white photographs are not allowed in the nature category. The monochrome category provides the opportunity for these photos.

⁴ Focus stacking combines multiple exposures of a single scene, taken at different focal distances, to give an image a greater depth of field than any of the individual exposures.

⁵ Cameras take photographs within a limited exposure range, resulting in the loss of detail in bright or dark areas. HDR compensates for this loss of detail, using multiple photographs at different exposure levels, and combining them to produce a photograph with a broader range of tones.

Specifications for Digital Images

- Images must be sized to be no more than 1400 pixels in width for horizontal images and no more than 1050 pixels in height for vertical images. Photo resizing is possible using many applications. One good free program is called FastStone Image Viewer. Find it here: <http://faststone.org>



- Save the image as a high quality JPEG file using a quality setting of 90% or better. Aim for a file size of about 500 kB to 800 kB.
- Use a resolution (pixels per inch) of 72 ppi to 120 ppi.
- Digital images will be shown as received. They will not be resized, cropped or rotated.
- For 2021 we'll be submitting digital images using Dropbox. **With this routine you just need to ensure that the photo file is renamed using the Title of the image.** Your name and the category for the entry are included as part of the process.

Specifications for Printed Images

- Print entries must have been taken by the photographer but the photographer does not have to make the print.
- Prints must be presented mounted, matted or over-matted. Prints that are mounted must have the mounting board extend beyond the print at least one inch on all sides of the print for handling purposes.
- An over-mat is a reusable, hinged mat and backing board combination. It's one possible method. No restrictions are placed on colour choice for over-mats but it is recommended that white or muted neutral tones be selected. Remember: please keep your prints out of sight of the judges when you deliver them to the meeting.
- There is no minimum print size. However, it is strongly recommended that the overall size of the print not be less than 60 square inches (e.g. 5" x 12", 6" x 10", 7" x 9", or 7.75" x 7.75").
- Maximum overall size of the entry, including mounting board or mat, must not exceed 16" x 20".
- Prints must be identified on the back with the photographer's name, a title for the image and the category of the entry.

Notes: Any infraction of the rules may result in disqualification of the entry. While every effort will be made to handle prints and digital files with the utmost care, the Napanee Photo Club and the Competition Committee will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.