Sun City Palm Desert Camera Club
General Rules for Competitions
Updated 5/31/2014

The Sun City Palm Desert Camera Club (SCPDCC) holds competitions at about half the regular meetings during the Club year.

Although images entered are scored, the primary purpose of these competitions is for club members to enhance their photographic skills by encouraging them to take more photographs, and to learn through judges' comments how their work might be improved.

For each competition a list of categories will be specified plus the number of photos allowed to be entered in each category.

Category definitions, guidelines and manipulation rules are available to club members and are consistent with those used by the Photographic Society of America (PSA), of which SCPDCC is a member, although there may be some variations specific to our club.

Rules for Competition Images

Following are general rules for entering photographs in a competition. Detailed instructions are in other documents on the Sun City Camera Club website.

1. Every image entered must specify in which category it is to be judged.
2. Each entry must conform to the description of its category and the rules.
3. Competition judges will apply the category guidelines and rules when evaluating each image. Judges will disqualify images that in their opinion do not meet the category criteria.
4. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.
   Computer graphics created by the entrant may be incorporated in images, where manipulation is allowed, as long as the photographic content predominates.
5. All images that are entered must be original and may not incorporate works of others, such as photographs, paintings, or newspaper clippings, where there has been no substantive value added by the entrant. This definition does allow images of other's work to be in the image where the other's work is of secondary importance, such as people viewing an exhibition, etc.
6. Any given image, or almost duplicate, may only be submitted in one competition.
7. During a given calendar year, a member may enter into one competition without being present at the meeting. After that, the member will not be eligible to compete in absentia.
   We prefer members be present so that they can benefit from the judge's comments.
8. Entry submission will be allowed during a period of time that will be specified by the Competition Chairman at least one month prior to the competition meeting.
9. Members must follow the currently published method to enter a competition.

Rules for Judging

1. Judges will apply uniform judging standards, as defined below, to all entries.
2. Judges will apply the standards for each category as defined in the documented guidelines.
3. The identity of the photographer of a given entry will not be made known to the judge until after the judging of a given category is complete.

Criteria for Judging

Images should meet certain aesthetic criteria to be successful in Club competitions. Judges will score according to whether the images have "IMPACT" and "WOW".

"IMPACT" is determined by whether the elements of an image meet the following criteria:

1. **Interesting**
   Does the image pop? Does it stand out? Is it memorable?

2. **Movement**
   Does your eye move through the composition? Is the movement enhanced through the use of leading lines or perspective?

3. **Point of Interest**
   What is the subject? Does it have a clear and simple point of interest as the focal subject filling the frame? Are there distractions, especially in the background, that distract from this point of interest?

4. **Arrangement**
   Is the composition balanced? Are the lines, shapes, colors, forms or textures selectively placed to achieve harmonious arrangement? Is the point of interest dramatically placed away from the center of the image for dramatic effect? Is the image cropped to achieve the best result? Are key elements "looking into" the image? [What does that mean?}

5. **Creativity**
   Does the image have drama, beautiful lighting and that creative touch?

6. **Technically correct?**
   Is the image, or parts of the image, focused inappropriately? Is it exposed properly, not too light or too dark?

"WOW" is determined by whether the elements of a good image clearly stand out in an immediate and forceful manner, and speak to the viewer to create a dramatic visual or emotional reaction.

Scoring

Judges will score each image between 6 and 9, where 9 represents a perfect image. They will use the 'WOW" definition and 'IMPACT' criteria as yardsticks for assigning the scores as follows:

6 - Photo does not meet the category criteria or lacks overall impact •
7 - A good average photo that has some "IMPACT" but little or no "WOW"
8 - Photo has good "IMPACT" and moderate "WOW"
9 - Photo has all of the "IMPACT" elements and terrific "WOW"