

WRPS COMPETITION RULES 2009-2010

Western Reserve Photographic Society (WRPS) conducts competitions each year; Nature and Travel will conform to the procedures of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), of which WRPS is a member.

Each season, competition categories will include but not be limited to Nature, Pictorial and Outings. The WRPS board, while planning the annual calendar of events, will determine all other competition categories.

The board will appoint a Competition Chairperson who may form a committee to serve for one year and be responsible for:

- Receiving entries
- Obtaining qualified judges
- Conducting competitions
- Provide necessary equipment
- Recording scores
- Determining winners
- Awarding ribbons
- Overseeing outside competitions

ANNUAL COMPETITION AND AWARDS

At the Annual Awards Dinner, held on the fourth Tuesday in May, the year-end awards for all competitions are presented. The year's winners of first, second, third places and honorable mention from all three categories (prints, projected open, and projected creative) will be honored.

A year-end club choice award will be voted on and awarded from the entire year's first place and invitational winners.

RULES FOR COMPETITION ENTRY


1. Any current WRPS member may submit entries.
2. All images must be titled or they will be disqualified. "Untitled" does not constitute a title. Titles must be neat and legible and are limited to 17 characters.
3. All images that have previously won a WRPS competition are ineligible for any future WRPS competitions (except current year-end club choice).
4. All WRPS members may submit a MAXIMUM of 4 images. You may submit in any of the 3 categories, print, projected open, and projected creative, but your total entries may not exceed 4 images with no more than 2 images per category.
5. All images and post processing must be the original work of the entrant. Printing need not be the work of the entrant.
6. Entries that do not meet the rules of the particular competition will receive a lower score at the judge's discretion and may be disqualified.

7. All printed images must be submitted to the Competition Committee no later than 7:15 PM the night of the competition (at the meeting) or as pre-arranged with the chairperson.
8. All projected entries must be submitted via e-mail to the Competition Chairperson no later than 9:00 PM the Friday before the competition. A confirmation e-mail will be sent by Saturday at noon. Please note earlier submissions are allowed. If you do not have email, you can submit your entries by CD at the meeting prior to the competition.

RULES FOR SUBMITTING PRINT IMAGES

1. Minimum image size is 5x7. All images must be mounted on 8"x10" minimum to 16"x20" maximum mount.
2. Framed prints are not eligible
3. Titles and entrant's name must not appear on the front of the image or mat.
4. All entries must be properly affixed with the WRPS label (available on club website and new member packets) on the back of the image in the upper left corner with the title, maker's name and address.

Example

# ----- <i>WRPS USE</i>	TITLE -----	
NAME: ----- ADDRESS: ----- CITY & ZIP: ----- PHONE: ----- 		
COMPETITION: _____ DATE OF COMP.: _____		<i>WRPS USE</i>

PLACE ON BACK OF PRINT IN UPPER LEFT CORNER

5. Entrant should also have their name on the outside wrapper, box or envelope so that the images can be returned in the same manner as received.

RULES FOR SUBMITTING PROJECTED OPEN AND PROJECTED CREATIVE IMAGES

1. Entry name and email subject line must be the same
2. A digital entry must be properly named as follows:
 - 1st letter is competition name, example:
 - “N” nature
 - “P” pictorial
 - “O” outings
 - 2nd letter is category
 - “O” open
 - “C” creative
 - 3rd letter
 - First initial of your first name
 - 4th letter
 - First initial of your last name
 - 5th-8th number
 - Last four digits of your home phone number
 - 9th-25th characters
 - Title of your image, 17 characters maximum. No spaces or characters such as /'?. and jpg extension is a must.

EXAMPLE: Mr. Wood E. Duck entered a creative lighthouse image in the pictorial competition. The title, file name, and email subject would be PCWD5008RoundIslandLight.jpg

3. Image size
 - Maximum 1024 pixels x 768 pixels @ 300 dpi
 - Height of image cannot exceed 768 pixels
 - Width of image cannot exceed 1024 pixels
 - Maximum file size is about 1 MB
 - Projected images view better with sRGB
4. E-mail images to Marilyn Beasley by 9 PM Friday before the scheduled competition at marilynphoto@yahoo.com

You will receive a confirmation by Saturday at 1 PM. If you have not received the confirmation, recheck e-mail address and contact the competition chairperson via e-mail or phone to make sure there are no issues.

Send each image under a separate e-mail

Absolutely no entries will be accepted after 9 PM Saturday

Rules for Projected Open

This category is an open category meaning “to make the image the best it can be”.

Allowed image corrections and adjustments for projected open category are

- White balance
- Color (temperature and tint)
- Exposure/brightness
- Contrast
- Saturation (vibrance)
- Sharpening (clarity)
- Dodge and burn
- Cropping and resizing
- Rotation of the entire image
- Conversion to black and white or sepia
- Transform and freeform*
- Blurring distracting elements*
- Cloning, spot healing, healing brush, or patch tools*
- Use of electronic filters*
- Stitching of multiple images to form a panorama*

*Items with an asterisk may be used only if they do not alter the main subject or a significant part of the subject. For example:

- You may use the clone tool to remove a distracting element, not as a major component of the main subject.

As a general rule, you may remove those items that you would have removed but could not remove or avoid at the time of capture. You would have removed or avoided if you had noticed them at the time of capture.

All of the asterisk items are not allowed in the nature competition

Items cannot be added to the image in this category.

Combined images are not allowed in this category.

You may use electronic filters and other tools that do not result in what a judge would consider to be an “artistic interpretation” of the subject. For example, you may use a blur filter to soften distracting elements but may not use a blur filter to create an ethereal mood or special effect that wasn’t part of the original subject. Judges will be expected to take into consideration any apparent overuse of allowed enhancements, such as color saturation or color balance.

Rules for Projected Creative

This category is for any image that creates an artistic interpretation by significantly altering the original look and feel of the subject. Any manipulations that would disqualify it from the open category, the image should be entered in the creative category

You're only limited by your own artistic imagination.

There is no creative category for Nature competitions.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

1. A panel of three main judges and a possible fourth alternate judge will judge each competition. The fourth judge may be a judge in training. Any club member judging for the first time should be an alternate judge. The score of the three main judges will be used unless a judge has an entry in the competition. In such case the alternate judges score will be used.
2. Guest judges are encouraged, but must be members of the photographic or art community and are familiar with judging.
3. Rules for each competition will be read to the judges before each competition. First and foremost in the judging is, does the image meet the criteria of the competition. If the judge feels it does not, the image may be scored lower or disqualified.
4. Judges will be expected to evaluate each photograph base on the following point system.

1-3 points = impact

1-3 points = composition

1-3 points = technique

A perfect score would be 27 points, 9 points per judge.

5. Prints, Projected Open, and Projected Creative images will be judged in separate groups (3 groups). Titles will not be read aloud as judging is being done. The entries will be viewed as the judges record their scores, which are then recorded by the committee. Titles for winning entries will be read when the winners are announced.
6. The score recorders will tabulate the scores for each of the 3 categories. In case of ties in scoring, all photos with the highest score will receive a first place award. The same rule applies for the second, third place, and honorable mentions.
7. The entries will be critiqued at random by the guest judges as time permits.
8. Ribbons will be awarded to all images that placed.
9. When a guest judge is present, an additional ribbon for "invitational" will be awarded. The guest judge selects one entry deserving of an outstanding honor and submits the entry to the Competition Chair before the end of the evening. The chairperson will announce the winner and a ribbon will be awarded.
10. Year-end competition is tabulated by the Competition Chair and ribbons are awarded at the club's annual banquet. The tabulations are based on the accumulated points for all the year's competition winners. The point system is as follows for each image
 - 4 points - first place and invitational winners
 - 3 points – second place winners
 - 2 points – third place winners
 - 1 point – honorable mention

DEFINITIONS OF COMPETITIONS

Nature Competitions

All images used in recognized PSA Nature Division competitions must meet the PSA Nature Definition of Nature Photography as follows:

“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 certify as to its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **must** be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. 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 elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except sharpening, resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color to the scene. No special effects filters can be applied. Any adjustments must appear natural.”

All digital images used in PSA Nature Division approved competitions or for competitions governed by PSA Nature Division rules must be considered “Digital Realism”.

“Makers may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. Addition of elements, removal of elements other than by cropping, combining elements from separate images, rearranging elements or cloning elements is NOT acceptable.”

As stated earlier nature and travel competitions will conform to the procedures of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), of which WRPS is a member.

Pictorial Competitions

This can be any image that may be of interest to viewers.

Outings Competitions

This can be any image that is taken at any WRPS outing, meeting, or scheduled club event. Images need to be taken during the current club year. The official list of outings will be published by the Outings Chairperson.

Other Competitions

Definitions for other competitions will be published when the board determines the dates and topics for those competitions.