

ROBSON RANCH PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Contest Rules 2025 Rev 1.0

The information contained herein describes the process followed by the RRPC in the conduct of their contests. The sections are as follows:

Image Entry Standards- Describes the technical requirements for images to be entered, Size, file name structure, Title structure

Themes and Rules-Describes the kinds of contests that are used and the rules that may apply

Competition Levels- Describes the levels that the competitors may be entered in and the advancement process,

Judging- defines the role of the judges and the point and place system

Awards- Describes the awards given at the end of the contest year.

Appendix- The Photographic Society of America (PSA) definitions which may be used for some contests

Image Entry Standards

All image submissions must meet the following criteria:

1. Photographs must have been taken and post processed only by the submitting club member
- 2 All pictorial elements in a submitted image must originate from images taken by the member.
- 3 Time constraints, if applicable, apply to all elements in the image
- 4 Software assisted editing is permitted provided 1,2 and 3 above are adhered to.
5. Photographs that have previously been submitted in an RRPC competition of any year and were awarded a place (1st – 3rd or HM) cannot be entered in further RRPC competitions.
6. Size Criteria- Images must be jpegs and must be at least 2500 pixels in the longest direction. There are no constraints in the actual file size.

Note 1 The original images along with their metadata may be requested as proof of eligibility

4. File Name and Image Title

- a. The name of the computer file is to be the TITLE of the image.
- b. Titles are to be limited to 30 characters including spaces.
- c. A member's ID number or other member identification is NOT to be included in the filename or title
- d. An example of an acceptable file name/title would be Grand Caynon.jpg

Examples of file names that are NOT acceptable are:

IMG_1234.jpg
DSC_0334-2.jpeg
EruDcPRyRZmNq8QXvjb5lw_thumb_ab6d.jpg
fullsizeoutput_4e72.jpeg

5. Images and digital files may not contain watermarks or any name or identifying marks other than the digital file name as noted above.

6. Borders and/or digital mats are not permitted.

7. Digital images should use the sRGB profile to ensure colors are the most accurately reproduced during projection. Failure to use a sRGB profile will not be cause for disqualification.

THEMES and RULES

There are two types of contests, those with themes and those classified as OPEN. Each contest will have specific rules that apply only to that contest.

1. Except as noted for a specific contest ALL images must have been taken on or after the 1st of the same month TWO years prior to the month of the contest being entered

2. Unless otherwise specified, TWO entries per contest are allowed.

3. OPEN- Contests designated as "OPEN" are not limited as to subject or post-processing.

4. THEMED contests will have specific rules that may limit the subject matter and/or the degree of post-processing. These rules will be included in the Explanation of the Themes to be found elsewhere on this web page

5. Some contests may be designated as following PSA (Photographic Society of America) definitions. More information regarding these definitions will be found in the appendix to this document.

COMPETITION LEVELS

Club members compete in one of three levels based on photography skills.

Basic – One who is learning the basic operation of the camera and the basic concepts of composition, exposure, lighting, and post-processing of images.

Advanced – One who is experienced in the technical aspects of the camera and proficient in the concepts of composition, exposure, lighting, and post-processing techniques for creating images. May be skillful in more than one genre of photography, for example, landscape, portrait, macro, photojournalism, wedding, etc.

Master – One who can teach others the concepts of composition, exposure, lighting and post-processing of images, and has provided significant service to the club. A Master is also expected to continue to serve as a teacher, activity coordinator etc. Has the skills necessary to provide meaningful critique of others' images and is skillful in several genres of photography, for example, landscape, portrait, macro, photojournalism, wedding, etc. Must have been an active member of the club at least one year.

First-time competitors may choose to compete in either the Basic class or the Advanced class.

Returning members (those who have not competed for at least a year) compete in the class equivalent to their previous class.

PROGRESSION TO A HIGHER LEVEL

NOTE:

ALL advancements must be made before the entries from first contest of the year goes to the judge. No further advancements or changes in level can be made during the contest year.

Photographers in the Basic level and the Advanced level **MAY** be invited to move to the next level for the following year if EITHER of the following applies:

- a. They won the Photographer of the year award in their current level.
- b. Their image placed 1st in the annual Image of the Year competition in their level.

For Advancement to Master, in competitor in the Advanced level must meet the above conditions, but must also have a record of service to the club. That can be by serving as a member of the board, serving on a board appointed committee or organizing and running a club sponsored event.

Members placing 2nd or 3rd in their level's annual contest, or placing 2nd or 3rd in the total point count in their division may ask the board for permission to advance. A simple majority of the board must agree to the request.

Judging

Judges will be given the same instructions regarding the rules for a specific contest as are the contestants.

1. Judging will first be based on compliance with the particular competition definitions and specifications for the category entered.
2. Judges are urged to review each of these before starting the judging process.
3. If an image does not meet the basic competition definitions and/or specifications as, the judge shall award that image a score of zero (0).
4. The entries in each competition level, or combined level, make up a contest in itself. Therefore, the judge will be asked to **score each image on a scale of 1 to 10 with one decimal point (1.0 to 10.0)** regardless of the scores in the other levels. These scores are referred to as "Judges" points.
5. For each division, or combined division, the judge will also be asked to award PLACES in accordance with the following schedule:

Entries In A Contest Level	Allowable Awards For That Contest Level
7 or more	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Places plus 1 or more Honorable Mentions depending upon number of entries (see Note at bottom of table)
5 – 6	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Places

3 – 4	1 st , 2 nd Places
1 – 2	1 st Place only

Note: 1 HM for 7 entries, plus 1 more HM for each additional 5 entries (ex: 12 entries = 2 HMs).

6. In addition to the judge's score, points will be awarded for places as follows:

Place Awarded	Points Awarded
1 st	8
2 nd	6
3 rd	4
HM	2

7. The club will maintain a month by month record of both the Judges points and the place points earned by each member. A running total of all points earned by each member will also be maintained.

ADJUDICATION

1. The board appointed Image Committee will have the responsibility to review the entries before submitting them to the judge SOLEY to confirm the validity of the date taken. If an image submitted was originally created outside of the contest criteria, it will be disqualified.

2. With respect to ALL other rules, the Judges decisions will be final with no further review by anyone.

3. In the event a judge finds an image in violation of the rules for a contest, the judge will be instructed to give the image a score of ZERO, but the judge will still be asked to critique the image as if the violation did not exist.

AWARDS

1. IMAGE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- a. At the end of the contest year, the images that placed 1st and 2nd in each monthly contest will be compiled for each level and submitted for judging by level. In the event that levels were combined due to lack of submissions, that combination will still apply
- b. If a 1st and 2nd are awarded to the images from the same photographer in a given month both images will be entered in this contest.
- c. If, in a particular monthly contest, images in two or more levels are combined due to the low number of entries in one or more levels, those images will remain in the level that was judged.
- d. The judge(s) will be asked to award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and two Honorable Mentions for each level as defined above.
- e. From all of the levels 1st place winners a single IMAGE of the YEAR will be selected by the judge.

2. PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

- a. This award is made within each competition level. It is intended to recognize excellence in the body of work submitted to the contests for the current year
- b. To be considered for this award a member must have entered images in a minimum number of contests depending on their competition level. The winner is the club member accumulating the largest number of TOTAL (JUDGES+PLACE) award points from his/her top monthly scores.
- c. If two images are submitted in a given month only the higher score is used.
- d. The number of monthly high scores counted also depend on the competition level.
- e. The following table lists both the minimum number of contests that are required to be entered and the number monthly high scores that will be counted as shown on the table below.

Competition Level	Minimum number of Contests Entered	Number of monthly high scores counted
Basic	4	4
Advanced	6	6
Master	8	

- f. The 1st Runner- up and 2nd Runner-up MAY be recognized according to award points from their corresponding number of scores.
- g. In case of a tie, the larger number of original entries submitted during the year will determine the winner. Additional breaker will be the member with the greatest number of first places in the level, then if needed, the second places and so on.

APPENDIX- PSA RULES

Some of our contests refer to ‘PSA DEFINITIONS’. The current definitions can be found on the PSA website at

<https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

The link above requires a PSA membership. IF you are not a member, there is a copy of that document on our website at

[PSA Rules and Definitions](#)

Note that our contests may have a theme superimposed on these rules. For example, we might have a contest with the theme of TEXAS that also specifies PSA Photo Travel definitions. In that case the images must conform to the PSA, but are limited to images taken in Texas.