



Judging Photographs and Images

March 17, 2005

OVERVIEW

- Having your images evaluated is a learning tool.
- Judging or critiquing images should be encouraging and designed to motivate photographers – not to tear them down – **BE POSITIVE.**
- Don't criticize –
If the purpose of the image is apparent, determine to what extent has it succeeded.

How well has the image been interpreted. What elements have enhanced or detracted from the interpretation.

- Don't dictate how the image should have taken. You may inform the photographer alternatives that may have been available but the photographer decides their preference.
- Score Reasonably - Be consistent

GACC Scoring System

Our club currently allows all members present to be a judge. We score using a point system with a range of 3 to 9 points for each image. The following guidelines should be used when scoring an image:

Below Average – 3-5 Points

- Out of focus
- Over or under exposed
- Not relevant to the subject of the competition
- Little impact or imagination

Average – 6 Points

- Technically correct (exposure, sharpness, etc.)
- Good Color or Black and White
- Relevant to the competition
- Little impact or imagination

Above average – 7-9 Points

- Technically correct (exposure, sharpness, etc.)
- Good Color or Black and White
- Good composition
- Tells a story or creates a mood
- High impact to the viewer
- Exemplifies theme of competition

Scores of eight or nine have are technically superior with no (or only very minor defects which do not detract from the overall image) and clearly tells a story or creates a mood.

Judging Criteria

- Impact – What you see first, first impression, holds your eye.
- Creativity – Use of imagination, originality, unusual angle, cropping, lighting, etc.
- Composition – Good placement of subject (rule of thirds), symmetry, harmonious proportions, color, moods, lighting, etc.
- Color Balance – Creative use of colors.
- Center of Interest – Is there a subject? Fill the frame.
- Lighting – Side, back, mood? Very Important!
- Purpose – Story telling - achievement of purpose needs to be apparent.

References:

www.photofcc.home.comcast.net/competition/judging.html

www.betterphoto.com/contest/guidelines.asp

www.wrpc.co.za/judging.htm