

St. Louis Camera Club Judging Procedure for Guest Commentators

Thank you for agreeing to serve as our commentator and judge. In an effort to orient your thinking about the process and to make the experience rewarding for both you and our members, we have outlined our recommended commentary/judging process below.

Our Meetings: Our meetings begin promptly at 7:00PM with the first few minutes being devoted to announcements. Our educational program then begins and should end at about 8:00PM. The evening's competition begins at approximately 8:10PM and depending on the number of entries, should end between 9:00 & 9:15PM.

The Goal of Our Competitions: While it is nice to be a "winner", the real goal of our competitions is to improve our image making skills. Every constructive suggestion made by you will further that goal. Imagine the cumulative value of one or two such comments made about 80 images!

The Competition Format: Our members compete in three classes: "B", "A" & "Salon", resulting in three separate competitions. Class B entries are from members new to the Club but are not necessarily beginning photographers. Class A & Salon entries are from members who have been successful in competitions over time and have advanced.

The Process:

The St Louis Camera Club uses software to assist us in managing our weekly competitions. The software is web based and can easily be accessed by competition judges in order to preview and judge images. You will be emailed an account ID and password which will enable you to access the website. The images are available for you to review and judge after midnight the Sunday prior to the date of the competition in which you are judging (usually the next Wednesday).

In the past, we relied on "live" judging which was done in front of our member audience. This judging was completed after the judge only saw the images or the prints at the meeting one or two times for a very limited amount of time. Our software solution allows a judge to review and judge images at his leisure days prior to the competition.

Judging the competition prior to the competition offers several advantages --

-- The judge can review and think about which images will be awarded First, Second, Third and Honorable Mentions on the judge's own time so there is no pressure completing this task the night of the competition.

-- Because of the ability to judge prior to the competition, we believe that the judging is improved because no quick decisions need to be made. Since no judging decisions need to be made in front of an audience, the judge has more time to think about the images which will receive an award.

Provided below is some general information on how to preview the images you will be asked to comment on at our competition. The instructions also include direction on how to preview and judge the images prior to the competition.

A brief video will explain how the judging process is completed.

The video can be found at --

<https://edcenter.softwarepursuits.com/visualpursuits/ViewVideo.aspx?V=68439309-75dd-407b-836d-ec89aca005e6>

How to View & Judge the Images:

After the competition entry period has closed (midnight of the Sunday before the competition), go to the website: <https://stlcamerclub.com> ...and click on the Login button in the upper right of the page.

On the menu select **Judge -> Judging Queue for Website Judging.**

You should see a line for the competition you will be judging. Click on Select and you will be taken to a new screen where at the bottom there is dropdown menu to select the **“Competition Level to Process”**.

We have 3 Competition Levels that are judged separately: B, A, and Salon. Select one of the levels and click on **Randomize**.

You should now see thumbnails of all the images in the selected Level.

Click on the first image and it will become larger for better viewing. Buttons along the bottom are used to move through the images: Next, Prior and Exit when you are finished.

Judging & Awards:

After carefully reviewing the images in a particular class, assign a ranking of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the best) and then proceed to the judging as described in the video (above).

In scoring the images to choose winners, **it is important to "Save Updates"** as you will then be ranking the mages to determine which ones will receive awards.

Awards are given to 40% of the submitted images in each class, rounded to the nearest whole number (27 images X 40% = 10.8 or 11 awards). You will then award 1st, 2nd & 3rd, with the remaining 8 images receiving an Honorable Mention. **Be sure to Save.**

Exit takes you back to the previous menu where you may pick the next Competition Level and repeat the above.

When finished with all three levels, save & click Logoff in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Live at the Meeting:

With the judging already completed, your "job" at the meeting is to offer a concise critique of the images you have already evaluated. Your comments should recognize what the maker has done well and especially what could have been done better to improve the image. Our goal as members of the Camera Club is to learn to make better, more impactful images.

After you have finished commenting on a particular image, simply say "next". When all the images have been commented upon, we will then present the awards for those images you have previously selected, and move on to the next Competition Level.

Thank you gain for agreeing to be our commentator and judge for the evening'

Richard Glass

St. Louis Camera Club

If you have questions or need assistance regarding our web based judging system, please feel free to contact: Bob Rickert

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Photojournalism Section Specific Requirements

This section requires a single story-telling image such as seen in news media, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Artificially produced situations or image manipulations which alter the truth of the image are prohibited. The image title shall be read when the image is first projected for judging.

Image Editing – All adjustments must be made in such a manner that the image reflects the actual scene.

Allowable Image Adjustments

A. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the pictorial content are permitted, but should be limited to color, saturation, brightness and contrast adjustments.

B. Cropping and sharpening, including selective sharpening, of an image is acceptable

C. The use of the clone stamp or similar tools shall be limited to removal of dust spots and scratches only.

CAUTION: Excessive use of even an allowable technique that causes the image to look “over processed” may cause the judge to “pass” the image

Prohibited Image Adjustments

(Any manipulation which alters the truth of the image will be judged ineligible)

A. Any technique which adds to, removes, relocates or replaces any pictorial element of the image except by cropping

B. Artificial blurring of the background

C. Exposure blending, HDR, “Helicon Focusing” or similar image editing techniques.

