

Travel Guidelines for Single Images

Travel images should depict a time and portray a land, a people, or a culture in a natural state. Images are not limited to other lands or countries; they may include domestic content. They should not contain ultra close-ups that lose their identity, studio type model pictures, or manipulation. Altered images and techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. In sequences, any captioning, other than on the title slide, is not permitted. Although borders may help to define a black background, they are strongly discouraged. Any HDR should NOT be obvious and always used with discretion.

Travel Guidelines for Sequence Images

The definition for sequences are basically the same as for single images. However, the title image will receive equal consideration for the purpose of judging, unless the slide is text only against a neutral background (no image) then it will be given no consideration.

Nature Guidelines

Nature photography is restricted to the use of photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story-telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Although species don't have to be identified in the image title, importance is placed on correctly identifying the species depicted, incorrectly identified species may count against your overall score. Feel free to reach out to club members if you need help in identifying species. Avoid using overly clever or vague titles while still properly conveying the nature story

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed .

Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. The environment that the species is adapted to may be present in the photo so long as the subject is that of the wild species. For instance, crops or fields may appear in photos depicting birds which inhabit or use this land as part of their habitat. It is up to the judge's discretion to determine if the human environment plays too large a role in an image. The judge will evaluate the image based on content. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. All images of horses will be considered ineligible.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. Images of insects on any plant regardless of whether the plant is native, hybridized or from another area will be considered eligible as long as the insect is the primary subject rather than the plant. Honeybees are eligible.

Landscape Guidelines

Landscapes – These images depict an expanse of scenery. The subject is the scenery and not individual elements of the scene. These images include but are not limited to landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, outdoor scenic, sunsets, farms, etc. Close ups of objects, people or wildlife should not be the primary subject.

No techniques that add, relocate, or replace, pictorial elements are permitted. Removal of unnatural intrusions such as airplane contrails, signs, or vehicles are allowed. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking, image stitching and dodging/burning. Artificial lighting and flash are also permitted. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images can be converted to grayscale monochrome.

General Open

There are no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post processing. Evaluation will be based primarily on pictorial and technical content. Images that have been manipulated extensively should be entered in the Creative Section.

General Creative

Other names for this division are Abstract, Altered Reality, Creative, Surreal and Contemporary. All components of the image must have been created by the maker. Inclusion of stock images or clip art is not permitted. The original photographic content should predominate. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated. The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of these three. Creative images are often montages or composites (a blending of multiple images), or content can be rearranged, replaced or added to the original image. ICM, or In Camera Motion techniques are also acceptable. High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are NOT considered altered or creative and should be entered in the Open division. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.