

Sierra Camera Club

Guidelines for Club Activities

Section I. Overview

1. **Intent.** The Sierra Camera club was founded in 1936 and is a non-profit organization. Club activities should promote the art and science of photography, advance the knowledge and skills of photography and provide opportunities to enjoy and share photographic knowledge and experiences with others.
2. **Scope.** These guidelines address all Club activities. Each year the Board of Directors will suggest changes or additions to the Club's activities, and request that the membership vote on such changes. Approved changes will become effective at the beginning of the calendar year. At any General Meeting attended by 25% or more of the membership, a simple majority may decide on such changes or additions.

Section II. Divisions

1. **Divisions.** Each organizational branch of the Club will be called a "Division". A Member may participate in the activities of any or all Divisions. To address the various areas of photographic interest, the club will consist of divisions in General Photography, Nature, Travel and Prints. The General Photography, Nature and Travel Divisions are presented digitally as projected images. The Club's organization into divisions may change over time as members' interests change.
2. **Division Categories.** The Divisions are divided into the following Categories:
 - General Division
 - Open
 - Creative
 - Nature Division
 - Nature
 - Landscape
 - Travel Division
 - Travel Singles
 - Travel Sequence
 - Print Division
 - Monochrome
 - Color
 - Creative
3. **Division Directors.** The activities of each Division will be planned, coordinated, and managed by "Division Directors" as called for in the Constitution and the By-Laws.

Section III. Meetings

1. The club has meetings twice a month. The Travel and Nature Divisions meet on the 1st Thursday and each have four meetings a year on different days. Programs are scheduled in the months that neither meets. The General and Print Divisions meet on the 2nd Tuesday and each have four meetings. Programs, including the Annual Holiday Party and Awards Program in December, are scheduled on the nights that the Divisions do not meet for competitions
2. All in-person meetings are held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center. Some meetings are also held on Zoom. Division Meetings are presided over by Division Directors. Each October the Board of Directors will plan meeting times and dates for the following year, consulting with the membership as necessary.
3. Program meetings are coordinated by the President and Vice-President and are held on either the first Thursday or second Tuesday of the month on nights when no Division meetings are planned. All members are encouraged to recommend program ideas to the President and Vice-President. Programs may be presented by members and non-members. Subjects may include any type of photography, photography equipment and photo processing techniques for the education and entertainment of the members. Programs may be presentations or workshops. Programs may include an assigned category for education and enjoyment. The category may be to encourage members to try new and different techniques or may be to take advantage of seasonal changes or holidays.
4. A club calendar is developed each year specifying the specific dates of all competitions and programs.
5. The Board of Directors meets monthly at the discretion of the President.

Section IV. Field Trips

1. Field trips may be sponsored and organized by any member. They may be led by members or experts in the field that the members have recruited. All field trips should be approved by a member of the Board of Directors and advertised so as to give all members a chance to participate. Also, groups of members and friends get together for photo shoots outside of the Club's organized efforts.
2. Field Trip Waivers. A club sponsored field trip or other formally organized outing requires that all participants sign a waiver holding the Club, its officers, trip leaders, and drivers harmless from liability. Trip leaders will distribute and collect waiver forms for the field trip.

Section V. Publication and Promotion

1. **Overview.** Club members should be kept advised of all past, current and future club activities. The Club should promote itself and its activities.
2. **Publication.** The Club publishes a monthly newspaper called the "Gammagram," which is sent to members by email. An annual publication includes a Membership Roster, the Board Members' titles and photos, promotion of the Annual Photographic Society of American Conference, winning photos from the prior year, and the history

of Service Award Recipients, President's Award Recipients, Charter Members, Honorary Members, and Past Presidents. The Club's primary communication is through the Gammagram, the Club Website and by email notices. Copies of current and historic Gammagrams are available on the website. The Constitution and Bylaws are also available on the website, URL www.sierracameraclubsac.com

3. **Meetings.** Meeting schedules and locations may be posted in local camera stores and galleries. When possible, members' photography will be displayed at available venues and notices of said will be put in the Gammagram and posted on the website.

Section VI. Social Events

1. **Overview.** A primary objective of the Club is the enjoyment of photography; to that end, each meeting should provide ample time before, during or after the event to allow members the opportunity to socialize and get acquainted. Whether a meeting is a presentation, workshop, or competition, some time should be provided for members to socialize with one another. Traditionally refreshments were provided. With the advent of Covid 19 few in-person meetings were held and refreshments were not provided. Time will tell if the membership is comfortable to restart this practice.
2. **Scheduled Social Events.** Each year the Club schedules a Holiday Party and Awards Presentation, and other events as desired. Traditionally, informal pre-meeting dinners were often held at area restaurants. This practice was discontinued during Covid but has started again.

Section VII. Competition

1. **Overview.** Competition is considered a valuable tool for members to improve their skills. Each Division has four meetings a year for competition among members. Scores are accumulated throughout the year and annual cumulative score awards are given to first, second and third places. The category winners in each Division are engraved into a perpetual trophy which they retain for one year.
2. **Digital Competition.** All Divisions except the Print Division are entered by digital submittal through the Club's PhotoEntry program. Technical details are included with an email announcing each competition. The digital competitions are managed by the Director with a judge selected by the Director and are either in-person, in-person with the judge by Zoom, or entirely by Zoom.
3. **Print Competitions.** Print competitions are exclusively in-person. Print competitions must also enter their images in PhotoEntry prior to the competition, but all judging is done in-person with matted prints.
4. **End of Year Competition.** Each Division Category has an Annual Competition at year's end. Members may only enter images that have been entered in competitions in that Category during the year. Two images may be entered in each Category. Each member may enter two Travel Sequences. Judges should award an Image (Sequence) of the year, 2nd place, 3rd place, and Honorable Mentions in each Category.

5. **Mentoring.** New members may request mentors to help them become better acquainted with the Club's procedures and also to advise them on selecting and improving images that they may be considering entering into competition. Contact any board member under the "About" tab on the club website to arrange for a mentor.

Section VIII. Entry Guidelines for Digital and Print Competitions

1. **PhotoEntry.** All entries for club competitions are submitted through PhotoEntryUK, a web application for managing photography competitions. Your name is automatically entered into PhotoEntry when you become a member and you receive an email with login instructions. URL: <https://compent.photoentry.uk/compent/>
2. **Instructions and Deadline.** Instructions and deadlines for every competition are emailed to members from the Division Directors. Your images will NOT be included in the competition if you do not meet the entry deadline. It is best to submit early and allow a few extra days in case you need to replace an image and/or title. The Director can work with you to resolve problems. **NO CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE.**
3. **Image Size and Resolution.** Image resolution and maximum dimensions are intended to match projector specifications so that your image is optimally displayed when projected:
 - Maximum 1920 x 1200 pixels at 100 dpi
 - Width not to exceed 1920 pixels
 - Height not to exceed 1200 pixels
 - sRGB color space
 - jpeg file format (.jpg)

Images will be automatically rejected if the color space and/or file format are not correct. If your image dimensions are too large, PhotoEntry will automatically resize them but will probably not do as good a job as you would yourself.

4. **File Name.** In PhotoEntry, name your image with ONLY the title of the image, no reference or metadata. Please use capital letters where needed, use correct spelling and spaces only between words. **NO COMMAS** or other symbols or punctuation, but dashes and apostrophes are acceptable. **DO NOT USE ALL CAPS.**
5. **Submitting Files.** Go to the PhotoEntry website, log in, navigate to the appropriate competition, and identify and upload your images. The Director can see your entries and will notify you if there are any problems, as long as it is sufficiently in advance of the deadline.
6. **Number of Images.** You may submit up to two digital entries for each of the following categories: General Open, General Creative, Nature, Landscape, and Travel Singles. A Travel Sequence consists of 4 to 7 images. (See the travel page for more information). In Prints, up to two entries are allowed for each category (Monochrome, Color, and Creative), and digital entry is required prior to the printed image competition.

7. **Make-ups.** Make-ups can be entered in any competition, including Prints, during the year (except the first competition) as long as the number of entries for any one competition does not exceed 4 and the total entries for the year in any single Division/Category does not exceed 8. Both limits are enforced by PhotoEntry.
8. **Advance Entries.** Sometimes, members may be aware that they cannot attend a competition later in the year but they still wish to compete for the full year. To accommodate this, members can, in the second and third competitions of the year, enter advance entries for the third and fourth competitions, respectively, but the maximum number of entries in any one competition remains 4.

Section IX. Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C)

1. **Overview.** In early 2022, the SCC joined N4C, the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs which currently comprises 16 regional photography clubs. The purpose of joining N4C was to give our club members an opportunity to see how they stack up against other photographers in the region and to encourage more participation.
2. **Competition Levels.** N4C uses four levels of ability and the SCC uses three of those levels: Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters. The four divisions we compete in are Nature, Open, Creative, and Travel Singles. We submit the top 3 images from the Intermediate level, the top 3 images from the Advanced level, and the top 3 images from the Masters level into the N4C monthly competitions. Any ties in each division are adjudicated by a panel of SCC judges who do not compete.
3. **Level Assignment.** SCC members are assigned to the Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters levels solely for purposes of maximizing our competitive entries into N4C. Assignment is provisionally based on a member's total competition score for the prior year but this approach may be refined. New members, as well as existing members who did not compete in the prior year, will automatically be assigned to the Intermediate level. Again, this is only for N4C purposes and has no bearing on SCC competitions which treat all members as one single level.
4. **N4C Points.** Every time an image from SCC wins an honor at N4C, the maker will earn points, similar to how our club earns points in our cumulative competitions. All points are accumulated between Jan. 1st and Dec. 31st. Points in N4C are earned as follows:
 - First Place 5 points
 - Second Place 4 points
 - Third Place 3 points
 - Fourth Place 2 points
 - Fifth Place 1 point
 - Honorable Mention ½ point
 - Digital image of the month 2 points
 - Each image entered 1 point
5. **Nature Entries.** You are encouraged to create longer descriptive nature titles in order to do well at the N4C level where that title style is preferred. When you submit

a Nature image to SCC in PhotoEntry, you will have the option of lengthening the title as explained below.

For the Nature Division only, PhotoEntry will now show a new field called **Entry Statement** on the **Add Entry** page. This new field will provide an additional 100 characters of detail/context to supplement the **Entry Title**, which can only be 50 characters. So, if you wish to have a Nature entry with a title beyond 50 characters, all overflow can go into this secondary field.

What will happen is that the **Entry Statement** will automatically be appended to the end of the **Entry Title**. Therefore, the **Entry Statement** should not be a separate subtitle or phrase but simply a continuation of the **Entry Title**. During the competition, the entirety of the combined two fields will be read or given to the Judge. So, if you have...

Entry Title: A Challenging Moment

Entry Statement: for one member of this elephant family when it suddenly encounters a speed bump

The full title as read or shown will be "A Challenging Moment for one member of this elephant family when it suddenly encounters a speed bump."