

NCC Competition Categories

Many photographs may fit into more than one category, and it is up to the photographer to choose in which category he/she wishes to compete.

ABSTRACT

The subject matter is secondary. Elements such as line, shape, texture, shadow, color, form and pattern become the primary concern of the photographer.

ANIMALS/PETS

Maybe domestic or wild animals, photographed in any surrounding.

COMMERCIAL

A photograph whose purpose is to sell a product or concept.

CREATIVE

Work in which the normal photographic processes have been exaggerated or manipulated by chemistry or other means for the purpose of creating special effects that are not achieved in the normal photographic process, i.e., hand coloring, excessive color shift negative prints, solarizations, reticulations, posterizations, etc. A photographer may choose to enter the creative work in the category that defines the subject, i.e., portraiture.

DOCUMENTARY

To record without embellishment.

NATURE/WILDLIFE

Nature photography depicts observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands of wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. Wildlife is defined as one or more organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat.

PEOPLE

Entries in the "People" category should feature one or more persons where the lighting and subject matter are not necessarily under the control of the photographer. It is intended to be a less formal category than "Portraiture".

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Depicts a photographic story of an event and its impact, including but not limited to: Hard news, sports, features, personalities, and human interest. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be weighed more

than the pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Photojournalism competition.

PICTORIAL

The artistic portrayal of scene(s) and/or person(s) expressed through mood, composition and tone.

PORTRAITURE

Any photograph of a person(s) or animal(s) with the lighting and subject matter under the control of the photographer.

STILL LIFE

An object or a group of objects either man-made or natural, found or arranged, and photographed under natural or enhanced lighting.

UNCLASSIFIED

CLUB CHALLENGE

Scoring and placement will be based on how well the photograph expresses the theme of the club challenge while using quality photographic guidelines. There is no distinction between color and monochrome in the club challenge category.

Additional Category Definitions for Special Competitions Only

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, 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. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like earthquakes or hurricanes. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. 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 entered in **Wildlife** are defined as one or more zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes and geological formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or any zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds, and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects including fungi and algae, taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects as are carcasses of existing species. A Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subject directed or hired for photography are not appropriate. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment. Techniques that add, replicate, replace, or remove an element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural.