

Image Competition Rules

Competition Year 2023

The Arkansas Professional Photographers Association (APPA) Image Competition is a competition where photographic entries are evaluated against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image as defined by the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). By participating in image competition APPA members are eligible to earn Image Exhibition Credits, which can place the entrant closer to an APPA degree such as the Associate Fellow, Fellow, and Senior Fellow of Photography. The following rules for competition have been approved and adopted by the APPA Board of Directors.

I. General Rules

These rules pertain to images entered as digital files created by traditional photographic processes. The competition committee shall have full authority to decide any questions not specifically covered by these rules.

II. Image Viewing Guidelines and Scoring

All monitors must be calibrated using an approved monitor calibration device to match the following settings:

Viewing for Digital files: Monitor Settings, D65, 120 cd/m², 2.20 gamma.

III. Image Scoring Guidelines

The point system is used with scores from 0 to 100 as follows:

- Exceptional 100-95
- Superior 94-90
- Excellent 89-85
- Deserving of a merit 84-80
- Above average 79-75
- Average 74-70
- Below Exhibition Standards 69-65
- Deserving of review 78-79

Judges will be instructed to evaluate each entry, without comparison, on its own merit using the 12 elements of a merit image.

IV. Responsibility

Submission of photographic images to this competition automatically indicates the entrant's consent to the following rules. APPA and their agents assume no responsibility for any damage or loss to images during uploading, handling, or failure to exhibit images for any reason. All reasonable care in handling of images will be taken. Decisions of the competition committee shall be final.

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V. Registration for Competition

The APPA Image Competition uses www.printcompetition.com to facilitate the registration and management of the competition. All entries must be made using this site prior to the entry deadline published for the competition. On-site or late entries will not be accepted. Please allow adequate time for you to upload your information and images to the site prior to the deadline.

Note that there is an additional charge for membership of the service upon registration for additional benefits. This fee is paid directly to the provider and is not required for entry into the competition. APPA receives no money from the additional membership fee.

An entrant may enter an unlimited number of entries into the APPA Photographic Competition.

VI. Entry Submission Standards

Image Case (formerly Print Case)

An entrant is able to enter as many images as they would like, but must indicate their Image Case of six (6) images upon entry. These six images are the only images that will be eligible for awards through the Image Competition. All other images will be judge for score only.

Submission Image Format Requirements

All entries are to be digital submissions and submitted through www.printcompetition.com. No entries will be accepted outside of this platform. Files must be formatted to match the following guidelines:

- Files must be sized so the longest edge is 4000 pixels.
- Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or AdobeRGB1998
- Each file must be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10
- Files total size should not exceed 3.5MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary as long as the above requirements are met.
- Files are to be named "Image Title" with no underscores or special characters
 - Ex: "High Five"

VII. Eligibility for Competition

Entrant Eligibility

The APPA Image Competition is open to anyone. You do NOT have to be a member of the APPA to enter. However, unless specifically indicated, you must be an APPA member in order to qualify for awards.

- Current studio/individual membership dues must be paid to be eligible for awards.
- Non-Member entries will be judged for score only unless otherwise indicated.

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- Non-member entries are NOT eligible for awards unless special awards are offered for non-members.

Image Eligibility

Images entered in the APPA Image Competition must meet the following requirements:

- All entries must have been captured and created by the entrant registered.
- Any entry that has been reproduced from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic, or any other artwork (including Artificial Intelligence “AI”) produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules for the APPA Photographic Competition and will not be judged, accepted, or displayed.
- If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall be disqualified, and the entrant notified in writing.
- The entrant’s name, studio, or logo must not be visible in any way on the entry image.
- Entries previously merited at the PPA International Photographic Competition or at any past APPA Photographic Competition prior to 1/1/2023 are NOT eligible.
- All post processing, manipulation, artwork or rendering of an entry must be done by or under the specific direction of the entrant.
- Any entry created under the supervision of an instructor or at a class, workshop, or seminar, regardless of sponsorship, shall be deemed ineligible.

Violation of Image Eligibility

The rules for the APPA Image Competition shall be governed and administered by the APPA Competition Committee. Any violations shall be determined through the good-faith opinion of this committee. If an entry is determined to be in violation of the rules, the committee shall address the violation as follows:

- If discovered prior to judging, the committee shall use its best judgement to determine if the entry shall be allowed to be judged.
 - If yes, the committee has the right to re-categorize the image to an appropriate category.
 - If yes, the committee has the right to withhold any award(s) the image may qualify.
 - If no, the committee shall remove the image from judging.
- If discovered after judging has been completed, the following guidelines shall apply:
 - The image shall be disqualified from the competition.
 - If the entry qualified for an award(s), that award shall be rescinded and conferred on the next qualified entry.
 - If the entry was part of a case that qualified for an award(s), that case shall be rescinded and conferred on the next qualified entrant.
- The entrant shall be notified in writing of the competition committee’s decision. This notification shall include the appeal process for the decision.

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- Any entry fee paid for a disqualified entry shall not be refunded.

Appeal Process for Disqualifications

The APPA Competition Committee shall make all decisions regarding the administration of the APPA Image Competition. The committee shall make every good-faith effort to maintain fairness to the competition and its participants, while maintaining the integrity of the competition and the APPA.

In the event the committee disqualifies an image, the entrant may submit an appeal request to the APPA Competition Committee in writing within thirty (30) days of the dated notice. The committee will schedule the appeal to be presented to the APPA Board of Directors at the next scheduled regular board meeting.

The decision of the APPA Board of Directors shall be final.

VIII. APPA Image Competition Divisions

The APPA Image Competition consists of two (2) divisions for entry. The entrant must determine their division and enter only in the division of their eligibility.

- **General Division:** This division is open to any entrant who has not won six (6) or more trophies in the areas below and are eligible to compete for all special awards.
 - 1st Place in any of the major categories
 - The William Hughes Award
 - The Pete Major Award
 - Any Photographer of the Year recognition
- **Salon Division:** This division is for entrants who have won a total of six (6) or more trophies in the below listed areas and are eligible to compete for all special awards except the Ron Jackson Award (unless otherwise specifically stated in the award definition).
 - 1st Place in any of the major categories
 - The William Hughes Award
 - The Pete Major Award
 - Any Photographer of the Year recognition

All PPA Master Photographers (including Wedding) are also Salon entrants.

IX. APPA Image Competition Categories

The APPA Image Competition will consist of two sub-competitions, the Photographic Open and the Artist Competition.

Photographic Open - Everything in the image must have been captured by the photographer, no outside elements are allowed. This competition will consist of four (4) main categories. These categories are listed below along with a description of expectations.

- **Portrait** – This category is for general portraiture work. Images may be styled and photographed as fit by the photographer. Sub-categories for this section consist of the following:

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- General Portrait
- Child or Children
- Families or other groups of 3 or more
- Maternity
- Newborns (up to 6 months)
- **Wedding** – This category is for all wedding images. Images in this category shall fall under one of the following sub-categories:
 - Bride
 - Groom
 - Group (2 or more)
 - Candid
- **Commercial** – This category is for entries which would be set for commercial use or license and include architecture, product, real estate, and other entries as the entrant deems appropriate.
- **Illustrative** – This category consists of images that do not fit other categories and are of a pictorial or artistic nature. All elements of the image must have been photographed by the entrant.

Special Categories – These NEW categories will be judged within the above main categories but will then be separated out for the purpose of Awards.

- **Animal** – Any entry where an animal is the primary subject of focus. Images may have post-production work but may not be composites. Backgrounds may be manipulated in a manner to make the subject known, but the subject must remain in its natural state. Entries may be wildlife, domesticated, or captured in a zoo setting.
- **The Natural State** – This new category is for images showcasing the beauty of the State of Arkansas. Images may depict landscapes, buildings and architecture, events, etc. People may be in the image but should *not* be the focus of the image.

Artist – This competition is for all entries which have undergone significant post-production work including the use of outside elements. ***Guide images must be provided for anything not photographed by the entrant.*** Entries in this competition fall under the following guidelines:

- Entries will be composites and consist of elements not photographed by the entrant.
- Artificial Intelligence elements may only be used within its own category.
- All entries shall consist of a presentation and guide images of any stock work included in the composite or the main subject if painted.
- Categories are the same as in the Photographic Open.
- **Artificial Intelligence** – This new category is being added and is the only category where AI elements are allowed. All additional rules apply as above.

X. APPA Image Competition Awards

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The APPA Image Competition is honored to confer the listed awards below upon participants who meet the desired requirements. These awards are presented on behalf of the Arkansas Professional Photographers Association, with potential sponsorships from other organizations. Listing of any award in this document does not guarantee its presentation. Award designation is at the discretion of the APPA Competition Committee.

Photographer of the Year Awards

- **Wedding Photographer of the Year** – Awarded to the entrant with the highest total score of their top three (3) images entered in the wedding category. A minimum score of 240 is required, with all images scoring above 80 (merit).
- **High School Senior Photographer of the Year** - Awarded to the entrant with the highest total score of their top three (3) images entered in the Portrait category, High School Senior sub-category. A minimum score of 240 is required, with all images scoring above 80 (merit).
- **Children Photographer of the Year** - Awarded to the entrant with the highest total score of their top three (3) images entered in the Portrait category, Child sub-category. A minimum score of 240 is required, with all images scoring above 80 (merit).
- **Arkansas Photographer of the Year** – Awarded to an entrant with a complete Image Case of six (6) images, determined by the combined total of their Image Case in any category.

Top Category Awards

The APPA Image Competition shall award a General Award (First Place) and no more than three (3) Distinguished Image Awards per category entered. These awards shall be determined by the judges in a head-to-head competition, with a minimum of 80, and are listed as follows:

- Portrait
- Wedding
- Commercial
- Illustrative
- Artist
- Landscape*
- Artificial Intelligence*
- The Natural State*

** These categories will be judged with other categories and separated out strictly for the sake of awards.*

Special Awards

Awards listed in this section are being presented on behalf of individuals and organizations and in conjunction with the Arkansas Professional Photographers Association. The awards are listed below, along with their qualifications.

- **Ben Red Award** – Best Photographic Décor entry as determined by the panel of judges.

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- **Delores Shrader Award** – Best Black & White entry as determined by the panel of judges.
- **Ron Jackson Award** – Best entry by a first-time entrant as determined by the panel of judges. The entrant must be in the General division and must have indicated “First Time Entry” upon registration.
- **Best Out of State Award** – Best entry by an out of state participant as determined by the panel of judges and presented at the discretion of the APPA Competition Committee.
- **Pete Major Award** – Best of Show entry as determined by the panel of judges.
- **William Hughes Award** – Best of Show entry as determined by the general membership.
- **Past President’s Award** - Best of Show entry as determined by Past Presidents of the APPA.
- **ASP State Elite** – This award is determined by the judges from among ASP entrants. Images must have a minimum score of 80 (merit). Entrant must have indicated ASP membership at time of registration.
 - This award is given in conjunction with the American Society of Photographers. Learn more about ASP by visiting www.asofp.com.
- **Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) Award** – Best entry by a CPP holder as determined by the panel of judges. Entrants must have indicated CPP credentials at time of registration.
 - This award is given in conjunction with the Professional Photographers of America. Learn more about PPA by visiting www.ppa.com.
- **Animal Image Maker Award** – Best image of an Animal as determined by the Judges.
 - This award is given in conjunction with Animal Image Makers, a PPA Community Partner. Learn more about AIM at www.AnimalImageMakers.com
 - The award includes complimentary submission to the Animal Image Makers Annual Competition.
- **The Natural State Award** – Best image depicting the beauty of the State of Arkansas as determined by the Judges.

Judges Choice Awards

The Judge’s Choice Awards shall be certificates presented to the judge’s picks. These awards shall be given at the discretion of the APPA Competition Committee.