

ACCC Competition Rules (revised 2021-09)

1 Introduction

Historically, competition has been an important element in ACCC Roundup meetings. A principal goal of the Roundups is to provide club members a broader base for competition than can be provided by individual clubs. Each Roundup includes both individual competitions and special awards made by the member clubs. For some members, this may be the only opportunity for competition. Participants in this competition not only have an opportunity to win awards, but also an opportunity to see their own work displayed with a variety of others. Such a comparison, coupled with the views of the judges involved, may provide guidance toward future growth in a member's photographic work. Submitted images may also be used:

- a) In Roundup Competition slideshows
- b) On ACCC web sites including social media sites
- c) In slide shows distributed to ACCC member clubs
- d) Otherwise for educational purposes, and to promote ACCC activities

In all cases, credit and copyright will be given to the image maker. Participation by all club members is encouraged.

Competition is open to all members of ACCC member clubs, and to individual members of ACCC who do not belong to an ACCC member club. As explained below, entries in the Projected Images Division are submitted online, and entries in the Print Division are made through the Club Representative for each ACCC member club.

2 ACCC Divisions and Categories

ACCC competition takes place in two Divisions: Print and Projected Images. Each Division is further divided into multiple Categories. Note that the Open Categories have Color and Monochrome versions. If not specified in the Category name, both color and monochrome images may be entered into a Category. Following are the definitions of the two Divisions.

2.1 Print Division

Entries are limited to **2 entries per Category**. The Categories are:

- Color Open
- Monochrome Open
- Nature
- Rotating
- Creative
- Photo Travel

2.2 Projected Image Division

Entries are limited to **2 entries per Category**. The Categories are:

- Color Open
- Monochrome Open
- Nature

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- Rotating
- Creative
- Photo Travel

2.3 Categories

All photos entered shall adhere to the following Category definitions. For all categories except Nature and Photo Travel, composite images such as sky replacement or combining elements from multiple photographs are allowed, as long as all elements are taken from the photographer's own images.

- **Color Open**

Can be any subject, and any treatment of the subject.

- **Monochrome Open**

A monochrome image is typically a black & white work, ranging from the very dark (black) to the very clear light (white) with various shades of gray.

Monochrome may also include works toned entirely in a single color (e.g. sepia).

A black & white image modified by partial toning, or by the addition of any color to only a part of the image becomes a color image that cannot be entered in a Monochrome Category.

- **Nature**

The ACCC definition for Nature Categories is based on the PSA/FIAP Nature Division definition as of 2021-09. Where differences exist, the following ACCC definition shall be used:

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural. Adding a vignette or blurring the background during processing is not allowed.

Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

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Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

No modification that changes the truth of a Nature image is allowed. Images may be cropped but no other technique that removes, adds or moves any part of the image is allowed.

Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise and lens flare are allowed.

Complete conversion of color images to greyscale monochrome is allowed. Partial conversion, toning and infrared captures or conversions are not allowed.

Images of the same subject that are combined in-camera or with software by focus stacking or exposure blending are allowed. Multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively and combined in-camera or with software (image stitching) are allowed.

- **Rotating**

ACCC establishes a Rotating theme for each Roundup. Images entered into the Rotating Category should strongly reflect the theme. Rotating themes for upcoming Roundups are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Spring Roundup</i>	<i>Fall Roundup</i>
<i>2021</i>	Street Photography	Motion Blur
<i>2022</i>	Portraits	Food
<i>2023</i>	Nightscapes	Bridges
<i>2024</i>	Photojournalism	Sports
<i>2025</i>	Flowers	Cityscapes

- **Creative**

All elements of a Creative image must be derived from the photographic images of the maker. The maker must, through their own efforts, accomplish obvious creative modifications of the original photo or photos.

- **Photo Travel**

The ACCC definition for Photo Travel is based on the PSA Photo Travel Division definition. Where differences exist, the following ACCC definition shall be used:

“A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images

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from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any 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. Composite images are not permitted. All images must look natural.”

An otherwise excellent image may not score well if it does not convey a “sense of place”. National Geographic explains “there are three key components of place: location, locale, and a sense of place. Location is the position of a particular point on the surface of the Earth. Locale is the physical setting for relationships between people, such as the South of France or the Smoky Mountains. Finally, a sense of place is the emotions someone attaches to an area based on their experiences.”

In conveying a “sense of place”, a photograph depicts the unique identity of a location that is deeply felt by the viewer and does not necessarily identify a specific location. See the PSA Guide for Photo Travel on the ACCC web site [here](#) for examples.

3 Preparing Your Photos

3.1 General

- **Own Work**

All elements of an image must be derived from the photographic images of the maker.

- **Repeat Entry Disqualification**

Any image that has received an award of **Honorable Mention (HM)** or higher in ACCC competition shall not be submitted again in the same Division.

Any image that differs only slightly in minor detail from any image for which that entrant has previously received an award of **HM** or higher shall not be submitted in the same Division. This includes a monochrome rendering of a color image.

Any image that is identical to, or that differs only slightly in minor detail from another image shall not be submitted to the same Roundup competition, regardless of Division. This includes a monochrome rendering of a color image.

- **Entry via One Club**

An individual who is a member of more than one club may enter the Print Division through one club and the Projected Images Division through another club. The individual must enter through the same club(s) throughout the calendar year.

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- **Adherence to ACCC Competition Rules**

To help assure fair and friendly competition, ACCC has adapted the following from the PSA conditions of entry.

ACCC retains the right to investigate in any way all complaints of breaches of the ACCC Competition Rules and void the acceptances and awards of any image found to be in violation of these rules. Such investigations may include, but are not limited to, discussions with any entrant and requiring the submission of RAW files or other digital files representing the original capture of the submitted image(s). Entries that are still questionable after the entrant has presented evidence may be considered in breach of the ACCC Competition Rules.

Entrants acknowledge that the decision of the Competition Chair or the judges is final, and automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Exhibition, and agree to cooperate with any investigation.

3.2 Print Division

All prints shall adhere to the following specifications. At the discretion of the judges, any image that does not adhere to these rules may be disqualified, or have its score reduced.

- **Strokes & Borders**

Any image, in any category, can include a thin line called a “stroke”, or a “border” which would be wider, to separate the image from the background. If, in the judge’s opinion, the stroke or border detracts from the image, the score could be affected.

- **Name or Identifying Marks**

The photographer’s name, signature, watermark, or other identifying mark shall not be visible.

- **Media**

All prints shall be made on paper media. No other media is permitted.

- **Print Sizes and Mounting**

- Prints can be any size up to 16”x20”.
- Each print shall be securely mounted on a single 16”x20” mounting board from 1/16th to 1/8” in thickness (e.g. 4-ply mat board).
- Over-matting is permitted, and only a single 4-ply mat may be used.
- Allowable mounting combinations are:
 - 16 x 20 mounting board + print
 - 16 x 20 mounting board + print + over-mat
- No other mounting combination may be used.
- Foam Core may **not** be used for mounting.
- Prints and labels shall be firmly attached (e.g. no masking tape, Post-It notes, etc.) and can be disqualified if they do not stay securely attached to the mounting board.

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- **Print Preparation**

All prints shall carry an **ACCC Print Label** on the back, near the upper left-hand corner. Labels shall use the most recently published ACCC Print Label template, which can be downloaded from the ACCC web site:

<http://www.arizonacameraclubcouncil.org/>

3.3 Projected Image Division

All Projected Images shall adhere to the following specifications. At the discretion of the judges, any image that does not adhere to these rules may be disqualified, or have its score reduced.

- **File Format**

- Must be formatted as JPEG (.jpg) files.
- Must be sized to a maximum of 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels high.
- Must be sized to a maximum file size of 2MB.
- It is recommended that images be converted to sRGB.

- **Strokes & Borders**

Any image, in any category, can include a thin line called a “stroke”, or a “border” which would be wider, to separate the image from the background. If, in the judge’s opinion, the stroke or border detracts from the image, the score could be affected.

- **Name or Identifying Marks**

The photographer’s name, signature, watermark, or other identifying mark shall not be visible.

4 Submitting Your Photos

4.1 Print Division

- **Entry Deadline**

All prints shall be submitted by Club Representatives at the ACCC board meeting held approximately one month prior to the Roundup. Late submissions shall not be accepted. Specific dates for board meetings are published in advance on the ACCC web site. Each club determines their own deadline for members submitting prints to the Club Representative.

- **Fees**

The fee for entries in the Print Division is \$2 per category.. The Club Representatives shall submit the fees at the Board Meeting.

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- **Return of Print Entries**

Prints shall be picked up at the conclusion of the Roundup by the maker or Club Representative. ACCC is not responsible for Print entries that are not picked up by the maker or Club Representative.

4.2 Projected Images Division

- **Entry Deadline**

All entries shall be submitted via the online Digital Entry Form approximately one month prior to the Roundup. Specific deadline dates are published in advance on the ACCC web site. Late submissions shall not be accepted. The Digital Entry Form can be found on the ACCC web site:

<http://www.arizonacameraclubcouncil.org/>

- **Fees**

The fee for entries in the Projected Images Division is \$2 per category. Entry fees for Projected Images shall be paid online as part of the submission process.

5 Awards and Honors

5.1 Individual Competition Awards and Recognition

A variety of awards are made at each competition. The following awards are made for each Category in both Print and Projected Images Divisions:

- Best of Show, chosen by the judges from the first place winners in each Division, will receive a rosette.
- First Place will receive a ribbon and an ACCC Medal.
- Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention, and Acceptance will receive ribbons.

All Print entries will be displayed during the Roundup with the **First Place** and **Best of Show** award prints displayed separately and prominently.

Entries in the Projected Images Division will be projected as part of the program during the Roundup. Award winning images are projected separately and given special attention.

5.2 Special Awards

At each Roundup, ACCC member clubs can recognize individual members' special accomplishments. These awards, which can be made to color and monochrome entries unless otherwise stated, are listed in the table below. For each award, if it is deemed that no image meets the award criteria established by the ACCC member club, then an award will not be given. Special awards will be presented to the individual recipients during the ACCC Roundup.

In 2018, the Trilogy Photography Club replaced its Portrait award with "The Great Southwest". The new award applies only in the Projected Images Division. This award is

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presented to a Projected Image ONLY in any category. Most importantly, the image must communicate to the viewer “This is great photo of the American Southwest.” The subject matter may be the amazing geography of the arid desert to the deciduous woodlands and evergreens, or the wide variety of flora such as saguaro cacti, Joshua trees, cottonwoods to name just a few, or the many critters and creatures in our midst like rattlesnakes, scorpions, roadrunners, wild horses and the like, or the Southwestern people such as Native Americans, ranch hands, agricultural workers and others. In addition, the image must be well-composed and tack sharp, and have good lighting, appropriate exposure, and strong impact.

In 2019, Grand Photos began sponsoring the new Human Interest award for a Projected Image which depicts a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation. The image may be color or monochrome. Judging will be based on the image telling, depicting or illustrating a story while maintaining high technical quality. The image must have a significant impact on the viewer. Sports action, as the main subject, (recreational or organized sport activity) is not allowed. Setups (posed, staged or otherwise contrived images) are not allowed. Images eligible for this award must meet all of the qualifications of the category in which it was originally submitted. The selection will be made from all Acceptances and above in categories in keeping with the Human Interest definition.

Starting with the 2020 Fall Roundup, Photography West replaced the “Distinguished Travel Photo” award with the new “Night Skies” award, which applies only in the Projected Images Division. The Award will be given to the best digital image portraying the subject matter with its main content focusing on the night skies in an artistic and technically competent photographic manner. Night Skies are defined as images taken from civil twilight – that is after sunset through darkness to civil twilight before dawn. Qualifying images may include Astrophotography, atmospheric conditions e.g. lightning storms, stars, star trails, comets, and/or natural phenomenon e.g. the Aurora borealis. Landscape elements can be included to enhance the image but are not the main subject of the image.

<i>Award</i>	Presented By	Print	Projected
Bob Metz Distinguished Monochrome	Camera Guild of Sun City	X	--
Creative Expression	Sun Lakes Camera Club	X	X
The Nancy Sams Award for Best Nature Story	Saguaro Camera Club	X	X
Excellence in Landscape Photography	Phoenix Camera Club	X	X
Distinguished Travel Photo	Photography West	X	X
Night Skies	Photography West	--	X
The Great Southwest	Trilogy Photography Club	--	X
Human Interest	Grand Photos	--	X

5.3 Cumulative Awards (Star and Galaxy Awards)

In order to recognize quality photographic work over a period of time, a system of awards based on ranking in competition over multiple ACCC Roundups is in use. It is also hoped that these “Star” and “Galaxy” awards, which are given at the Fall Roundup, will encourage members to continue participating in the Roundup competitions.

Points toward “Star” and “Galaxy” are accumulated for the Print Division and Projected Images Division as follows:

2 points for each First or Second place

1 point for each Third Place or Honorable Mention

- **Star Awards, or “ratings” are awarded based on point accumulations as follows:**

1 Star = 4 Points

2 Star = 6 Points

3 Star = 8 Points

4 Star = 10 Points

5 Star = 12 Points

- **Galaxy Awards, or “ratings” are based on the following criteria:**

1 Galaxy = 16 Points

2 Galaxies = 20 Points

3 Galaxies = 2 First or Second Places after receiving two Galaxies

4 Galaxies = 2 First or Second Places after receiving three Galaxies

5 Galaxies = 2 First or Second Places after receiving four Galaxies

6 Galaxies = 3 First Places after receiving five Galaxies

7 Galaxies = 5 First Places after receiving six Galaxies

8 Galaxies = 5 First Places after receiving seven Galaxies

- **Cumulative Awards for Clubs**

Club Plaques for Prints and Projected Images are presented annually at the Fall Roundup to recognize club achievement. The winning club in each Division is determined using each club’s top 13 scores in the Print Division and the top 13 scores in the Projected Images Division. Scores are calculated separately for each Roundup, and then added for the overall annual score.