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. 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

- 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. The following statements were adapted from the PSA Division Definitions as of 2023-11 located here https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions and apply to all ACCC competition categories:

- **Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Image Creation and Ownership**

  In all ACCC competition categories, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. They may not incorporate images produced by anyone else (for example: clip art, replacement skies, or stock images). Images created in whole or in part by image creation software (frequently called 'AI' images) are not allowed. Editing or alteration of images is permitted within the limits specified in the category definitions below.

- **Statement on Subject Matter**

  The fundamental rule that must be observed at all times and applies to all ACCC categories is that the welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any ACCC competition. Under no circumstances may a living creature be placed in a situation where it will be killed, injured, or stressed for the purpose of obtaining a photograph. Images that show live creatures being fed to captive animals, birds or reptiles are not permitted under any circumstances.

  There are also concerns about the use of aerial photography, drones, helicopters, low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupts the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entrants in ACCC competitions must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, associated with aerial photography, in the location in which the image was taken.

  Entry into ACCC competitions is conditional on accepting these policies. The content of images must also comply with the category definitions listed below. Images that - in the sole opinion of the judges or the Competition Chairs - do not comply, will be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem when considering entry into future ACCC competitions.

Color Open Category

Can be any subject, and any treatment of the subject. Any image that is allowed in the Monochrome Open category may not be submitted in Color Open. Attention is drawn to the Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter, above, which apply to all categories.

Monochrome Open Category

The ACCC definition for this category is based on the PSA Monochrome Division definition as of 2023-11. Where differences exist, the following ACCC definition shall be used:

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example, by sepia, red, gold, etc.) A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work. Attention is drawn to the Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter, above, which apply to all categories.

Nature Category

The ACCC definition for the Nature Category is based on the PSA/FIAP Nature Division definition as of 2023-11. Where differences exist, the following ACCC definition shall be used:

Content Guidelines
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.

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.
- o Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

Editing Guidelines

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

o   Cropping, straightening and perspective correction
o   Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion
o   Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene
o   Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome
o   Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
o   Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas)

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

o   Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening
o   Adding a vignette during processing
o   Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
o   Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
o   All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
o   Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color

Attention is drawn to the Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter, above, which apply to all categories.

Rotating Category

ACCC establishes a Rotating theme for each Roundup. Images entered into the Rotating Category should strongly reflect the theme. Attention is drawn to the Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter, above, which apply to all categories.

Rotating themes for upcoming Roundups are as follows:

Year	Spring Roundup	Fall Roundup
2024	Photojournalism	Sports
2025	Flowers	Cityscapes
2026	Sunrise/Sunset	Arches
2027	Silhouette	Eyes
2028	Patterns in Nature	Doors & Windows
2029	Street Art	Still Life
2030	Children	Architecture

Creative Category

All elements of a Creative image must be derived from the photographic images of the maker. The maker must, through their own efforts, accomplish <u>obvious</u> creative modifications of the original photo or photos. Attention is drawn to the Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter, above, which apply to all categories.

Photo Travel Category

The ACCC definition for the Photo Travel category is based on the PSA Photo Travel Division definition as of 2023-11. Where differences exist, the following ACCC definition shall be used:

A Photo Travel image is a portrayal of the real world we live in, as it is found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.

Content Guidelines

o If the image is predominantly or exclusively a land-, sea- or cityscape, these "scapes" must include characteristic, distinctive and recognizable physical features, although it is not necessary that the image identify the exact location.

o Images that predominantly or exclusively depict people and their activities must illustrate a distinctive culture of a country, region, or continent.

o Images that predominately or exclusively depict animal populations are allowed, if the animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that country, region, or continent.

o Portraits or other close-ups of people or objects, in addition to meeting the above paragraphs as applicable, must include elements depicting some of the surrounding environment to make it obvious that the image was not taken in a studio setting.

o Images from events or activities arranged for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are **NOT** allowed.

o Time exposures are allowed, if they do not dominate the image as a special effect (star trails, for example, are a dominating effect).

- o Highly distorted images such as those produced by fish eye lenses are **NOT** allowed.

Editing Guidance:

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

- o Cropping, straightening and perspective correction
- o Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion
- o Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene
- o Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome
- o Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- o Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas)

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- o Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening
- o Adding a vignette during processing
- o Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- o Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- o All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
- o Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color

Attention is drawn to the Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter, above, which apply to all categories.

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 <u>shall not</u> 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 <u>shall not</u> 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 <u>shall not</u> be submitted to the <u>same Roundup competition</u>, 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.

- **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 or Print Chair, 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 <u>securely</u> mounted on a single 16"x20" mounting board from $1/16^{th}$ 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.

- **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 or Projected Image Chair, 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 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high.
  - Must be sized to a maximum file size of 3MB.
  - 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 each 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 $3 per category. The Club Representatives shall submit the fees at the Board Meeting.

- **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 each 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 $3 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.

Print entries will be displayed during the Roundup with the **First Place** and **Best of Show** award prints displayed separately and prominently. In rare situations where space is limited, some non-accepted prints might not be displayed.

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.

"Bob Metz Distinguished Monochrome" sponsored by Camera Guild of Sun City

This award is given to the print displaying the best Interpretation of a "landscape" in "monochrome". This image shall show a high degree of technical excellence, use of tonal value and have great visual impact. This image is considered to be monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color, containing black, white and shades of grey only. A single toned image of a grey scale is permissible (ex: sepia tone), a multi-tone is not. This award is given in the print division, only.

"Best Nature Story" sponsored by Photography West

This award applies to both the Projected Images Division and Print Division and will be presented to one individual in each Division from any Category. The concept of "Story" must be clearly recognized in the submission and be consistent with the definition of "Nature" by PSA/FIAP. The depiction can be of an interactive, emotional or unusual situation. Judging will be based on the image telling, depicting or illustrating a story while maintaining high technical quality. The image must make a significant impact on the viewer. No modifications may be made in the editing/processing that are not allowed by the "Nature" definition. The selection will be made from all Acceptances and above, from any contest category.

"Night Skies" sponsored by Sun City Festival

This award, which applies only in the Projected Images Division, 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.

"The Great Southwest" sponsored by the Trilogy Photography Club

This award, which applies only in the Projected Images Division, is presented to a Projected Image 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.

"Human Interest" sponsored by Grand Photos

This award, which applies only in the Projected Images Division, will be awarded to the best digital image depicting 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.

Award	Presented By	Print	Projected
Bob Metz Distinguished Monochrome Award	Camera Guild of Sun City	X	--
Creative Expression	Sun Lakes Camera Club	X	X
Best Nature Story	Photography West	X	X
Excellence in Landscape Photography	Phoenix Camera Club	X	X
Night Skies	Sun City Festival	--	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" awards are accumulated separately 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 are awarded based on point accumulations as follows:**

> 1 Star = 4 Points
>
> 2 Stars = 6 Points
>
> 3 Stars = 8 Points
>
> 4 Stars = 10 Points
>
> 5 Stars = 12 Points

- **Galaxy Awards 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.