

## ENTERING DIGITAL IMAGES IN N4C MONTHLY CONTEST

Interclub contests are held each month except June, July, August and December. Minnesota Valley Photo Club (MVPC) members wishing to enter images in N4C monthly digital contests must have their images uploaded to the MVPC club upload application by midnight of the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

The six digital contests open to MVPC members are as follows: Digital Nature, Digital Pictorial, Digital Altered Reality, Digital Travel, Digital Black & White and Digital Journalism. A definition for these categories is provided at the end of these directions. All contest entries must be the work of the entrant and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Our club can enter a total of 8 entries per contest per month for a total of 48. Each of our MVPC members can enter 1 image per category per month.

Your entries must be all your own work. The rule is: "All contest entries must be the work of the entrant and must be made by the entrant either on photographic emulsion or by digital means. All images must be original work. The use of brushes and textures made by others is allowed in the Altered Reality, Pictorial, and B&W categories; otherwise, images may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Copies of copyrighted material or the creative work of others is not acceptable." For more information on the ethics, please see the official N4C contest rules at <http://n4c.us/competition.htm> by clicking the blue "N4C Contest Rules" button.

Do not enter versions of the same image in multiple contests. For example, do not enter both a color & B&W version in the same month. If both win, one will be withdrawn. The rule is: "Any entry which receives a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM award in a monthly competition may not be re-entered in the same year or later years, in the same or any other category, regardless of variations or changes made." Exception: Previous winning images may be modified for entry in Altered Reality contests.

Image files must be in jpg file format and the sRGB color space standard is recommended for consistent color under the projection conditions used for judging the contest.

Image Size: The longest side is to be no more than 1920 pixels.

File Size: N4C has constrained the file size to no more than 750KB.

Images not meeting these size requirements will not be entered.

Naming The Image Files: There is no need for you to rename your image file. This will be done by the image upload application accessed in the For Our Members section of the club website.

### How to Upload Your Images for N4C Contests

Access the club web page: <https://minnesotavalleyphotoclub.org/>

Log in with your user name and password

Select the Exhibitions menu -> Upload Images

Under Salon/Event select "N4C" from the pull-down list.

Proceed to select and upload images.

Image Title: You supply the image title in the box provided.

Use only these characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9 plus dash, underscore, period and comma.

**Important:** Be sure to include the location in the Travel image title.

Select the N4C category for each image from the Category pull-down list

The upload images application will provide an indication of a successful upload and error indications as necessary.

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### Judging

Judging and points will be awarded on the basis of technique, composition, and interest. Journalism is an exception where special Journalism rules apply. (See N4C handbook for further information. To find the handbook, go to the N4C link on the Minnesota Valley Photo Club website.)

- Technique: Focus, lighting, color rendition, exposure  
Composition: Arrangement of all elements within the picture area so the subject matter is presented as a harmonious, well-balanced photograph.  
Interest: Originality, imagination, interpretation, subject, impact, mood, humor etc.

Three judges will be used and each will score the work. At the end of the contest season all photographs awarded first, second, third, or honorable mention will be eligible for N4C's annual competition.

### Scores

N4C has implemented alternative scoring methods. Refer to the scoring paragraph under Judging Club Rules in the official N4C contest rules for details. The N4C scoring paragraph is copied from the rules and reproduced below:

Scoring: Entries will be judged on a point system. The jury will consist of three (3) judges, each of whom will score the work using one of the following methods:

#### **Method 1: Score each, Technique - Composition - Interest with one (1) to five (5) points**

Each judge will score the work between one (1) and five (5) points in each of the three (3) categories of technique, composition, and interest. The total score for each submitted photograph will range from nine (9) to forty-five (45) points. Use the T, C, & I columns for each judge when using the judging software. Clubs are encouraged to pay special attention by providing constructive comments for any image which scores under 27 points

#### **Method 2: Score each, with a single score of two (2) to nine (9) points.**

Each judge will score the work with a single score between two (2) and nine (9) points giving overall consideration of the three categories of technique, composition, and interest. The total score for each submitted photograph will range from six (6) to twenty-seven (27) points. Use only the T column for each judge when using the judging software. Clubs are encouraged to pay special attention by providing constructive comments for any image which scores under 12 points

Guidelines: For the one score (2 – 9 points) methods the following scoring guideline would be used:

1 reserved for DISQUALIFIED images

2, 3 or 4 image weaker than most other entries

5 or 6 marginally acceptable image, preferably not for Merit award

7 good acceptable image, worthy of consideration for a Merit award

8 possible consideration for an Honorable Mention or higher award

9 worthy of consideration for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award

(Note: Ideally at least one-third of the entries will be scored 7 to 9. To reduce the need for tie-breaking, scores should be spread across the full range, preferably with less than one-third scored below 5.)

#### **Method 3 Always for Journalism: Score each, with a single score of one (2) to nine (9) points.**

The titles or captions of the submitted works will be read at least for the first round of judging. If subsequent rounds are required, it is not necessary to repeat the title or caption.

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Similar to Method 2 scoring. The three (3) jury members shall vote a score of between two (2) and nine (9) points. Separate voting for technique, composition, and interest will NOT be made, but will be considered only in connection with the suitability of the work for Journalism competition as described in the Definition Section of the Rules. The total score for each submitted photograph will range from six (6) to twenty-seven (27) points. Clubs are encouraged to pay special attention by providing constructive comments for any image which scores under 12 points

### Definitions:

The following subject category definitions are presented as a guide to persons entering the monthly N4C digital contest. To some extent, their interpretations are subjective and remember, all judges have some personal biases.

### **Pictorial**

In pictorial photography, the artistic quality of the presentation is emphasized. The subject itself is not restricted: All subjects qualify. Pictorialism emphasizes beauty of subject matter, tonality, and composition as opposed to documentation. Thus, there is more freedom for artistic interpretation in pictorial photography than there is in Journalism, Nature, or Travel photography. Limited use of brushes and textures is allowed in Pictorial. Still, there is a clear effort to represent reality; this distinguishes the Pictorial category from Altered Reality.

1. The Pictorial category is well-suited for use of modern digital techniques, including HDR, exposure blending, focus stacking, stitching, and related techniques that combine more than one image.
2. At the time of writing, computational photography is emerging as a rapidly growing field. The Pictorial category is receptive to the use of modern photographic techniques and innovations, provided the intent of the photograph is to present an artistic interpretation of recognizably real subjects.
3. Photos submitted in the pictorial category should be in color. Black & white photos that are pictorial in quality should be submitted in the Black & White category.

### **Black & White**

The Black & White category is similar in character to Pictorial, except that the Black & White category is for monochrome images. Images are limited to monochromatic hues or shades of gray, although filters may be applied to give a hue or tint. Different photographic processes and toners give a different hue to a black & white photograph, for example, selenium, sepia and split toning (duo-toning). No fraction of the image shall be given a special color treatment.

1. Black & White prints and digital images may be created from
  - a. black & white film,
  - b. digital black & white captures, or
  - c. digital color images converted to black & white.
2. The use of HDR, exposure blending, focus stacking, stitching, and related techniques that combine more than one image is acceptable.

### **Nature**

Nature Photography is the recording of our natural world by some photographic means. Included are all branches of nature except Archeology and Anthropology.

1. No photograph is worth distress or injury to any wild creature.
2. Nature photographs may be either black & white or color.

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3. The hand of man shall not be present in any nature entry except where wild animals have adapted to the built environment (e.g., fence posts and other man-made objects freely adapted for use by wild creatures).
4. Banding or tagging on nature subjects is acceptable. Photographs at bird feeders are not acceptable if any part of a man-made feeder is shown in the photograph.
5. Photographs taken in zoos, animal farms, or game farms are acceptable if the hand of man is not visible.
6. Domestic animals, and pets are not acceptable.
7. Adjustments must look natural. The use of HDR, exposure blending, focus stacking, stitching, and related techniques that combine more than one image is acceptable, provided the resulting image is natural in appearance.

### Journalism

Journalism Photography depicts some event or activity; story telling is emphasized, as in a newspaper or magazine photograph. An element of human interest is a fundamental quality for a journalism photograph.

1. A Journalism entry can be a single image or a sequence of related images arranged for presentation as a single entry.
2. Only minimal digital editing is allowed. In the interest of credibility, photographs that misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters may be added or applied.
3. The three (3) jury members shall vote a score of between two (2) and nine (9) points. Separate voting for technique, composition, and interest will NOT be made, but will be considered only in connection with the suitability of the work for Journalism competition. The total score for each submitted photograph will range from six (6) to twenty-seven (27)points.
4. The titles or captions of the submitted works will be read at least for the first round of judging. If subsequent rounds are required, it is not necessary to repeat the title or caption.

### Travel

Travel implies going to some place other than one's customary environment; travel photography suggests the photographic depiction of that new environment or the means used to get there. There is no restriction of how far away that environment must be to qualify as "travel" or how different that new environment must be. A strong travel photo is an image that expresses the feeling of a time and place; portrays a land, its people, or a culture in its natural state; and has no geographical limitations. Emphasize the location's qualities that make the place unique.

1. The location of the photography MUST be included in the title. **IF THE LOCATION IS IN THE UNITED STATES, LIST THE STATE IN THE TITLE; IF FOREIGN, LIST THE COUNTRY IN THE TITLE.**
2. Adjustments must look natural and must accurately portray the scene.

### Altered Reality

The primary distinction for the Altered Reality category is that the maker intends (and the viewer easily recognizes) that the image is not a representation of reality. The Altered Reality image must

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have a photographic base of the maker's own creation. Manipulation of the basic image or images can be done in camera and/or in computer. The use of brushes and textures made by others is allowed in Altered Reality, as is the use of software to create unusual effects. The makers of Altered Reality images should feel free to use a wide range of tools and resources, limited only by imagination.

### Additional Information

For further info check the N4C web site at <http://n4c.us/competition.htm> by clicking the blue "N4C Contest Rules" button.

All images entered in any N4C contest remain the property of the entrant.

### Change History:

Rev #	Revision Date	Revision
	2022-09-18	First Issue
1	2023-09-26	Updated MVPC website link, other minor typographical changes
2	2024-01-26	Update How to "Upload Your Images..." for new website and new upload app