



GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, USA

## MEMBERSHIP MANUAL

## THE GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB

The Grand Rapids Camera Club is the oldest camera club in the United States in continuous and uninterrupted existence. It was organized in 1898 as an outgrowth of the Valley City Photographic Society.

The 1<sup>st</sup> meetings were held in the old Auditorium Building, which was located at the corner of Fountain Street and Ionia Avenue. The club has met at many different sites since then, including the Art Gallery and the Public Museum.

Club members held their first exhibition in the spring of 1899. Subsequent salons were held at the art gallery, public museum, The Ryerson Library, bank lobbies, photographic studios, galleries, camera stores, shopping malls, hotel lobbies and many other more obscure places.

The club is an active member of the Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs (SWMCCC), which sponsors an annual photography school and two competitions each year.

The continued success of the Grand Rapids Camera Club lies in its many unique facets. With the growing popularity of digital photography in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the GRCC serves the needs of photographers whose interest lies in digital reproduction or in traditional photography. Our members offer a wealth of information, many of them internationally and locally recognized photographers.

# **THE GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB**

## **MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION**

### **ESTABLISHED 1965/REVISED JANUARY 2011**

The Grand Rapids Camera Club's digital and print competitions are meant to provide the photographic experience and stimulation necessary to raise an individual above the "point and shoot" stage to that of a qualified and creative photographer. Participating members find that the unprejudiced judging of their work is very helpful in making them see good pictures. In addition, they view the pictures that are selected as the best and can discern for themselves what makes those pictures good. Club competitions have been credited for being the best training for photographers. Club competitions are also the showplace for your work, the results of many hours of making images. A photographer does not take pictures for just his or her own viewing, but to show others how he sees the world. It expresses his ideas and emotions as an individual.

The club holds monthly judgments in two divisions - Digital and Print. Each division has 6 Categories: (A) Assigned Subject; (C) Creative; (J) Photojournalism; (N) Nature; (O) Open; (P) Portraiture.

## **I. NUMBER OF ENTRIES**

A TOTAL OF FOUR (4) ENTRIES ARE ALLOWED IN EACH DIVISION. Three entries in any combination in Open, Creative, Nature, Portraiture and Photojournalism, and one entry in the Assigned category. If a member chooses not to enter an image in the Assigned category, only 3 images may be entered.

One digital image or print *per entry* is allowed in the Assigned, Open, Creative, Portraiture and Nature categories. A sequence of up to four (4) images is allowed in the photojournalism category and can be submitted as one entry.

A member may enter in both divisions, Digital and Print. If a member enters in both divisions following the afore-mentioned rules, a total of 8 entries will be allowed provided that one (1) in each division is entered in the assigned category.

## **II. CATEGORY DEFINITIONS**

**ASSIGNED:** The Grand Rapids Camera Club board members select a subject for each month of the competition year as the "assigned" subject. The assigned category is designed to challenge your photographic skills and to encourage you to photograph images that you may not have normally. Give a lot of thought to them. Be creative. The applicable subject may be one or many, but remember that the subject must be the dominant feature. If entering 4 images in a division, one (1) of them **MUST** be of the assigned subject. Only 3 images may be entered if choosing not to enter an assigned subject. All possible digital manipulations are permitted unless the assigned subject specifically calls for the image to be captured and submitted as a nature or photojournalism image within the assigned category.

**CREATIVE:** The creative category is for manipulated and enhanced images and those where the maker's creativity comes into view in the final image. Images entered should be unique and different, perhaps out of the ordinary. A photographer's creativity can either be in how the photo is taken or that the final image is created using Photoshop or other image editing software.

**OPEN:** All images, regardless of the subject matter or technique are eligible in the Open category. All digital enhancements and manipulations are permitted in this category.

**NATURE:** Any image that is presented in a manner that does NOT depict the influence of human habitation (the hand of man). This category includes such subjects as botany, zoology, geology, archaeology, etc. Subjects that do NOT qualify include domestic animals, horticultural varieties of plants or hybrid plants. Computer manipulation with the exception of minor adjustments is *not* allowed. Enhancement of digital images should not call into question the integrity of an image. Visibly manipulated images must be entered in the Open or Creative category.

**PHOTOJOURNALISM:** This type of picture or series of pictures tells or illustrates a story, such as those used in the news media and periodicals. This includes subject matter such as spot news, contemporary life, human interest, sporting events, documentaries etc. An entry in the photojournalism category must tell or illustrate a story. A member can enter from one to 4 images. If entering one image it must stand alone and tell the story in its own right. When entering a series of images, the story should be presented in chronological order. A judge's 1<sup>st</sup> consideration should be in how well its story is presented to its viewers. Any technique or digital manipulation that tends to deprive the picture of its spontaneity should be avoided.

**PORTRAITURE:** This category is for *human* portraiture. Any photograph of a male or female, regardless of age, could be considered. Although it would usually be a head and shoulders or an above the waist photograph, the entire human form can be included. The definition of portrait in the dictionary is "an image of a person in which the face and its expression are predominant."

### **III.SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION**

**TITLES:** The title must be unique for each image entered and is limited to 28 characters, including underscores and spaces. The same EXACT title must be used on the entry and on all forms involved. A digital image and a print of the same image must share the same title. Each print or digital image entered in competition must be able to be identified by title and therefore CANNOT have the SAME title as any entry entered by the same maker previously. Doing so may result in the entry being disqualified. If the maker cannot think of another title of an image of the same or similar subject, numbers are allowed for instance, "Rose #3" or "Balloon #4" etc.

# PRINT ENTRY GUIDELINES

Prints must be given to the Print Coordinator by 7:10 PM the evening of the competition to be eligible to compete. The back of the print must include duplicate entry labels, one which can be removed easily. See illustrations below.

Color and black & white prints must be of images taken by the member. Commercially or otherwise prepared images are allowed in the monthly competition, as well as prints made on a member's personal computer and printer. All prints must be mounted on 16 x 20 inch or smaller mounts. For PJ sequences, the full sequence of up to four images must be mounted on one mount, with the maker's name, entry title and category on the upper back. The top of the print shall be indicated. Entries may be matted, but may not be framed.

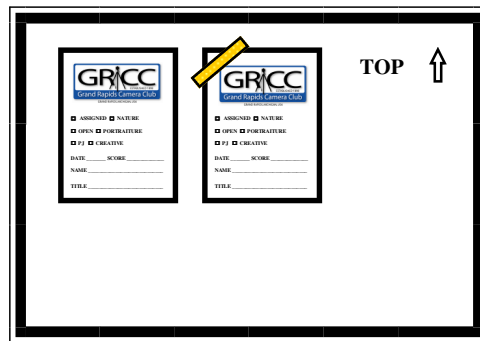
Prints will be judged in a light box to provide equal illumination for each entry. Both color prints and black & white prints will be judged together in one division. The prints will be separated by the size of the image and judged accordingly. No more than 4 may be entered in the print division. When entering 4, one must be in the assigned category, but not more than one.

**GRICC**  
Grand Rapids Camera Club  
ESTABLISHED 1898  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, USA

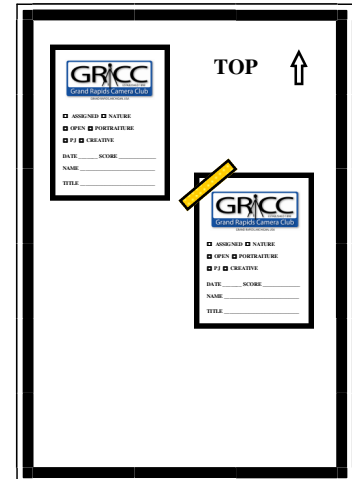
ASSIGNED  NATURE  
 OPEN  PORTRAITURE  
 PJ  CREATIVE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SCORE \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT LABEL



THE BACK OF YOUR PRINT SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS



- Securely attach a completed print label to the upper left back of your print.
- **Loosely** attach a duplicate print label to be removed before the competition for scoring purposes.
- Label the top of your print.

# DIGITAL ENTRY GUIDELINES

Digital entries are to be submitted by e-mail to the Digital Coordinator at [digital@grcameraclub.org](mailto:digital@grcameraclub.org) according to the guidelines defined below. The deadline to submit images for any monthly competition is always the Sunday preceding the competition at 12:00 midnight. Slides may be scanned with the scanned image being emailed or scanned to a CD and mailed to the Digital Coordinator by the deadline above. The Digital Coordinator will acknowledge all entries.



## **SIZING YOUR IMAGE:**

- The resolution is not critical and can be set to whatever you desire.
- Resize the image to fit the maximum dimensions allowed by the LCD projector (1024 x 1024 pixels). The height cannot exceed 1024 pixels; the width cannot exceed 1024 pixels.

## **SETTING YOUR COLOR PROFILE:**

- It is recommended you set your color profile to sRGB. If your camera is already set to take images in the sRGB profile, this step will not be necessary.

## **NAMING YOUR IMAGE FILE:**

- The image file name should contain the following information in the following order: A capital letter for the category code; an underscore ( \_ ); the image title (capitalizing each word (no spaces); an underscore ( \_ ); your name (use your first initial and last name) Title length is limited to 28 characters.
- EXAMPLE OF A CORRECTLY SUBMITTED IMAGE FILE NAME:  
N\_WildflowerOnThePrairie\_JDoe.jpg
- In Photojournalism, up to 4 images per entry may be submitted. To identify the image presentation order and total number of the images submitted, The images should be named as follows: After the image title, add an underscore ( \_ ); a character for the image order and a character for the total number of images submitted. Example: J\_FamilyFun\_12\_JDoe.jpg; J\_FamilyFun\_22\_JDoe if 2 images were submitted.
- **CATEGORY CODES:** (A) Assigned; (C ) Creative; (J) Photojournalism; (N) Nature; (O) Open; (P) Portraiture.

## **SAVING YOUR IMAGE:**

- When saving, select jpeg quality level of 12 if you have an internet broadband connection (cable or DSL). If you have a slower dial-up phone modem, select a quality level of 8 to avoid long transmission times. All images submitted for competition must be saved in jpeg format (.jpg)

Send images as email attachments to the Digital Coordinator,  
[digital@grcameraclub.org](mailto:digital@grcameraclub.org)

# MANIPULATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF DIGITAL IMAGES

- 1) Processing, manipulation or enhancement of an image must be performed by the photographer who created the image.
- 2) Conversion of RAW digital images is considered processing an image.
- 3) Enhancement is defined as “to make greater”. Use of enhancement functions to improve the natural appearance of the image is allowed in all categories. Some enhancement functions are levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, saturation, color balance and cropping.
- 4) Manipulation is defined as changing an image. Use of all possible manipulation functions to change the natural appearance of the image is allowed in Portraiture, Open and Creative categories.
- 5) Judges may disqualify any image in the Photojournalism and Nature categories for obvious and substantial manipulations that call into question the integrity of the image. Images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified at the sole discretion of the judges and are, therefore, best entered in another category.
- 6) The use of clip art or any other image component or element not created by the photographer cannot be added to an image, except in the creative category. This rule can be suspended for assigned subjects which specifically allow their use.
- 7) In the Portraiture, Open and Creative categories all possible manipulations are permitted.
- 8) The use of Photoshop Plug-ins, HDR (High Dynamic Range), filters, textures, designs and other tools provided in editing programs are permitted.

## IV. MONTHLY COMPETITION AND JUDGING

**COMPETITION CHAIRPERSON:** The monthly competition and the selection of the judges are the responsibility of the Competition Chairperson. The Board fills this position for a two-year term and he or she becomes a member of the board with full voting privileges.

**JUDGES:** Judging will be done by 3 club members who have each attained a minimum of 400 merit points, at least 15 honors in club competition and has been trained by the Competition Chairperson. A different set of judges will be chosen for each competition month.

**SCORING:** Scoring shall be accomplished on a point system using a scoring machine that shows the score given by each of the three judges and the sum of the judges scores. Each judge shall use a vote spread of 1 to 5 points. The sum of the judges scores shall be used to rank the entry. A judge shall vote a zero if the image is recognized as his own image. The zero score will then be replaced by the average of the additional two scores. If there is more than a 2 point difference between any two judges, the scorer will ask that the image be rejudged and the resulting score will replace the original. A judge should vote a 9 if he feels the image does not meet the criteria for the category. The scorer will then call for a discussion among the judges. The image will then be rejudged. If any two (2) judges vote a 9 the image will be disqualified. It can then be reentered in a future competition if desired.

The point system is as follows: 3-6 not accepted; 7-11 accepted; 12-14 honor; 15 top honor. Scores will be recorded by the score keepers on the print entry form or on the digital scoring sheet.

**TITLES:** Titles shall be read *before* the picture is judged, as the maker's creativity in choosing a title is part of his/her overall presentation. *After* it is judged, the maker's name and score shall be read.

### SCORING CRITERIA

**5)** A judge's highest score. A five is an image of highest quality in all technical and compositional respects, with impact. Impact is exhibited when a photograph is striking and has an *immediate* and *strong* effect on those viewing it.

**4)** An above average image. An image is excellently lighted and superbly composed with no noticeable technical flaws in such things as focus, color, slanted horizon, distracting backgrounds, or empty foregrounds. All elements of the image work together.

**3)** An average image. This image is properly exposed, correctly focused and has good composition. It is acceptable, but does not generate any special interest or stir emotions. Technical flaws are not immediately obvious.

**2)** Below average image. The image exhibits technical flaws in such areas as exposure, focus and composition.

**1)** Well below average image. Exhibits *several* technical flaws.

## V. AWARDS

**MERIT POINTS:** Merit points are earned for acceptances and honors in Grand Rapids Camera Club competition. Members are credited with the score given to their entries by the judges at the monthly meetings. These totals will be added to the members' total accumulated merit points. Merit points continue to accumulate as long as he/she is a dues paying member of the GRCC.

**YEAR TO DATE SCORES:** In addition to the member's total lifetime merit points, the scores earned in the current calendar year are calculated for each division and as a whole for purposes of determining the photographer of the year and the division award winners.

**MERIT AWARD LEVELS:** The Merit Award System is a method of recognizing the acquired talent and skills of each photographer. As merit points are accumulated over the years of membership, the following awards are presented to the member when the goal is reached.

200	CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
600	MASTERS AWARD
1,500	SENIOR MASTERS AWARD
3,000	GRAND MASTERS AWARD
5,000	STAR MASTERS AWARD
7,000	DIAMOND MASTERS AWARD
10,000	FIRST GALAXY AWARD
14,000	SECOND GALAXY AWARD
19,000	THIRD GALAXY AWARD
25,000	DIAMOND GALAXY AWARD



*All rules applying to the division you are entering and rules applying to titles must be followed to avoid possible disqualification. Once a projected image or print is accepted or accepted with honors, it cannot be entered in GRCC monthly competition again. Only non-accepted and disqualified entries may be re-entered at a future judging. Any entries unintentionally missed in a given month will be entered in the next regular competition and all scores and merit points will be honored.*

# THE GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB

## YEAR-END PHOTO COMPETITION

### ESTABLISHED 1965/REVISED 2010

The Grand Rapids Camera Club holds its year-end photo competition the last Saturday in January. Contrary to the monthly judging, the year-end competition gives members the opportunity to enter print and digital images to compete with one another for 1st, 2nd, and third place, honorable mention and other special awards. The awards are presented at the annual banquet which is held the 3rd Wednesday in February.

## I. ELIGIBILITY

Accepted and honor images entered in the preceding competition year (January through December) are eligible in the Year-end Competition.

**ENTRIES:** Entries must be entered in the same category as the one in which they were accepted during the monthly competition, except the assigned subject. An image entered in the assigned category shall be entered in the appropriate category: Nature, Open, Portraiture, Photojournalism or Creative. An assigned entry being placed in the nature category must conform to all the rules governing nature entries. Members may designate in which category they wish their assigned images to be entered. If a member does not specify a preference, assigned images will be automatically entered in the open category.

**DEADLINES:** Digital images and prints must be submitted by the deadline determined by the Competition Coordinator and the Board in order to be eligible. A maker must notify the Digital Coordinator and Competition Chairperson of their intention to enter his/her images in the competition by the date mentioned above. **Digital images will not automatically be entered in year-end competition.**

**LIMITS:** The number of entries allowed in each category will be determined by the Competition Chairman and the Board on a yearly basis. You will be notified of such prior to the competition entry deadlines.

## II. JUDGES

Three judges from outside current club membership are selected by the Board, or a committee appointed by the Board. Members of other camera clubs or photographers of reputation may be considered for judging the Year-End Competition as long as they or a member of their immediate family, has not been a member of the GRCC for two years prior to the competition

### III. COMPETITION CLASS

There are two classes in the Open and Nature categories, and one class each in the Creative, Photojournalism and Portraiture categories. All divisions and all categories are eligible for trophies, certificates and ribbons mentioned below. Classes will be divided as follows:

At the close of the competition year, the Competition Chairperson prepares a list (without names) showing the average scores in each category (Nature and Open) for each competitor. The Board then determines a division point between Class A and Star Class based on the grouping of the average scores, allowing a minimum average score of 6 and a maximum average score of 15 in each category. A member must have entered a minimum of 6 nature images, and a minimum of 12 combined open and assigned images to be eligible for star class. All members will compete as one class in the Creative, Portraiture and Photojournalism categories.



**CLASS A:** Those members whose average score falls below the decided division point will compete in Class A.



**STAR CLASS:** Those members whose average score falls above the decided division point will compete in Star Class.

### IV. EXCEPTIONS

The following exceptions will apply when necessary:

**PHOTOJOURNALISM, CREATIVE, PORTRAITURE:** If there are insufficient entries in any of these categories, they will be combined with open entries in the appropriate class for the competitor. A minimum of four entrants is required for a separate competition to be held. Rules for open judging apply.

**CLASSES:** If there is not a minimum of four (4) entrants in any one category that qualify to compete in Star Class or Class A, the two classes will be combined and will compete as Class A only.

### V. PROCEDURES

**TIME OF JUDGING:** The judging shall be held in one day beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until finished, with a one hour lunch break near the noon hour. The Grand Rapids Camera Club will provide lunch for the judges and judging workers.

**MINIMUM WORKERS:** Year end competition is a closed competition and not open to members. A minimum of workers are required and include: Competition Chairman to oversee the judging; Score-keeper to handle the judging machine; Digital Coordinator to operate the computer and digital projector; an entry handler to handle prints and sort in/out results; a record keeper to record honorable mentions and places. The results of the competition are to be kept confidential by all present until awards are presented at the February awards ceremony.



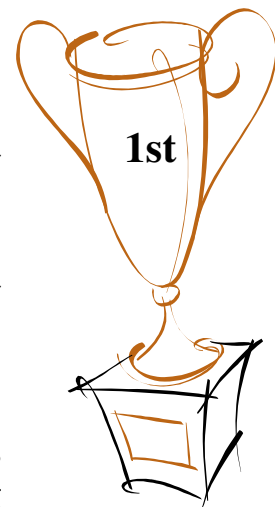
## VI. AWARDS

Awards for winners of year end competitions are the trophies, ribbons and certificates presented at the annual awards ceremonies held the 3rd Wednesday in February. This awards presentation is in place of the regular meeting. Members will be asked in advance to specify their preference to receive a certificate or a trophy. Awards will be presented in accordance with those preferences, or as specified by the board if necessary. Ribbons are awarded to all honorable mention winners.

**PLACE AWARDS:** At least four (4) entrants are required in each category for a first place award and a competition to be held. A minimum of six (6) entrants are required in a category to award both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. A minimum of eight (8) entrants are required in a category to award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**DIVISION AWARDS:** Division winners will be determined by the total year-to-date scores. One award will be given to the top scorer in each division.

**PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR:** The Photographer of the year is the one individual who has attained the highest average score overall in all divisions. To be eligible he/she must have entered a minimum of forty (40) entries. The average score will be determined by dividing the sum of the scores by the number of entries. In the case of a tie, the Photographer of the Year will be determined by the Board of Directors. Criteria to be considered will be a members overall contributions to the club, participation in club activities & involvement in SWMCCC competitions, among other factors.



## VII. DIGITAL MINI PROGRAM COMPETITION

A mini-program is a program put together by a member consisting of a group of images most commonly applying to a particular theme. The program can be instructional, documentary or entertainment. The program may or may not contain music. The mini program competition is held at the same time as the Year-end competition when practical. The awards are presented to the recipients during the Awards Ceremony.

**MINIMUM ENTRIES:** There must be a minimum of 3 entrants to hold a competition. Members must let the Competition Coordinator know of their intent to enter the competition prior to the entry deadline. If less than 3 members enter, no mini program competition will be held. Programs must be presented on a CD or Thumb Drive. It is not necessary to have shown the program at a previous meeting to enter. Any program will be accepted for competition.

**LENGTH:** A mini program *must* not exceed 20 minutes. The number of images is up to the maker. A ten-minute program will average 100 images, with 90-135 being typical.

**JUDGING:** The mini program judging is a closed judging . The results will be kept confidential. The 1st place program will be presented at the awards ceremony.

**JUDGES:** The Board will select three judges from *outside* current club members. Members of other camera clubs or photographers of reputation may be considered for judging the mini-program competition as long as they or their immediate families are not current members of the GRCC. The judges are to consider photographic technique, story telling or instructional technique, interest and showmanship, titles, narration, music and programming technique in selecting the winners.

**LIMITATIONS:** All competitors will be awarded at least Honorable Mention. At least 3 entrants are required to hold a competition and award first place. Four (4) entrants are required for both 1st and 2nd place awards. Five (5) entrants are required to award 1st, 2nd and 3rd.



# **SWMCCC**

## **SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS**

THE SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUB'S (SWMCCC) purpose is the education and promotion of photography. The Council includes about 14 clubs in Michigan and Northern Indiana who have joined together for increased benefit to their members. Every member of a member club is a member of SWMCCC. (pronounced swimsee). Each club is represented by a Club Delegate. These Delegates form the governing board of the Council and select the Officers. The Delegates and Officers operate according to the Constitution and By-laws.

**COMPETITION:** SWMCCC sponsors two competitions each year, Spring and Fall. All Grand Rapids Camera Club members are eligible and encouraged to enter. At SWMCCC competitions you will be competing against members of other SWMCCC clubs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards, along with acceptances and honors in respective categories.

### **ENTERING SWMCCC COMPETITIONS**

**CATEGORIES:** Categories for entry are: Portrait Prints, Nature Prints, Open Prints; Creative Prints, Portrait Digital, Open Digital, Nature Digital and Creative Digital.

**ENTRIES:** GRCC members may submit up to four entries in each category. There is a nominal charge of \$1 for each image entered. Entering in multiple categories provides greater opportunities for awards. Select the category for each entry to your advantage. The only other requirement is to label your prints in duplicate according to SWMCCC procedures for proper identification. Digital entries can be e-mailed to the Competition Chairperson.

### **SWMCCC SUMMER WEEKEND OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Each July SWMCCC sponsors the Summer Weekend of Photography held in Holland, Michigan. It is one of the major photography activities in the Midwest and draws participants from all neighboring states and Canada. Photo opportunities, lectures, photography related entertainment and hospitality are offered during the three day weekend.

