



GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, USA

**Grand Rapids Camera Club
Membership Manual September 2023**

The Grand Rapids Camera Club was officially organized February 20, 1899 as reported by the Grand Rapids Herald. The 1st meetings were held at Gillett's Photo Gallery over Morse's Department Store located on Monroe Avenue at Spring Street. The Grand Rapids Camera Club is one of the oldest in the United States of continuous and uninterrupted existence.

Club members held their 1st exhibition February 22 & 23, 1899 at the studio of O. A. Gillette. Subsequent exhibitions were held at the Grand Rapids Art Gallery, The Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Grand Rapids Ryerson Library. The club continues to display member's photographic prints at libraries, coffee shops, shopping malls, hotel lobbies and other venues in the area. GRCC photographers are recognized throughout the state and around the country for their fine art and creative photography.

The Grand Rapids Camera Club is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) which offers conferences, competitions between clubs of similar skill across the US and abroad, as well as international exhibitions for its individual members. The Grand Rapids Camera Club is also a member of the Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs (SWMCCC) which sponsors an annual photography school each year.

The Club's continued success lies in its many unique facets. Grand Rapids Camera Club serves the needs of photographers whose interests lie in digital reproduction or in traditional photography. The Grand Rapids Camera Club is the only club in our area that offers workshops, two competitive divisions competing monthly in prints and digital, with 8 categories in each division.

The club has many internationally and locally recognized photographers who possess a wealth of information who are ready and willing to aid the aspiring photographer.

Monthly Photo Competition

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 images. In addition, a member can 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 one of the best ways for photographers to learn and improve. Club competitions are also a showplace for your work, the results of many hours of making and editing images. A photographer does not take pictures just for his or her own viewing, but to show others how he sees the world. It expresses his ideas and emotions as an individual.

Entries and Submissions

QUALIFICATIONS: Those entering GRCC monthly photo competitions must be a member of the Grand Rapids Camera Club. Yearly dues must be paid and up to date at the time of entry to be eligible for competitions. Dues are payable January 1 of each year. If dues have not been paid by the general meeting held in March, he/she will be removed from the membership list and his/her entries will be ineligible for competition.

IMAGES: All images must be the maker's own work. Submissions must originate as photographs. Photographs are defined as image captures of objects shot via light sensitive cameras. They must be created by the entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally within a camera.

COPYRIGHTS: By submitting an entry the entrant certifies the work as his own and permits the Grand Rapids Camera Club to reproduce entered images, without additional notice, on the GRCC website or GRCC Social Media sites. The above uses include GRCC Facebook and Instagram pages as well as submissions into PSA Interclub competitions and will be

used solely for the promotion and advancement of the club. The member will retain all copyrights to the image. Recognition will be given when at all possible.

DIVISIONS: The club holds competitions in two divisions. A Division is defined as the type of media, print or digital. Digital Competitions are held monthly. Print competitions are held 4 times yearly. Each division has 8 categories: (A) Assigned; (C) Creative; (J) Photojournalism; (M) Monochrome; (N) Nature; (O) Open; (P) Portraiture; and (S) Scapes.

DIGITAL: Four (4) entries are allowed in any combination in any category; however one must be in Assigned. If a member chooses not to enter an image in the Assigned category, only three (3) images may be entered.

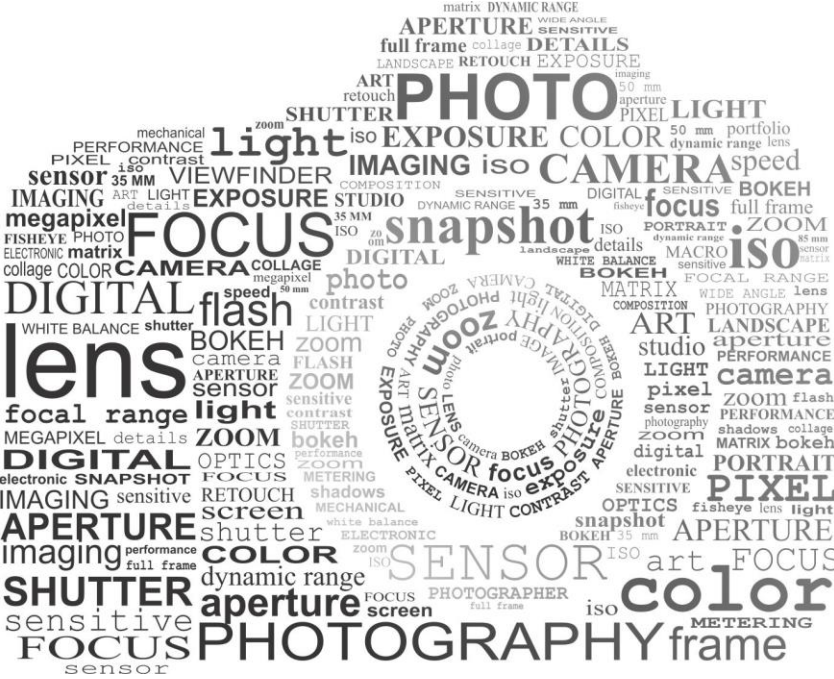
PRINTS: Six (6) entries are allowed in any combination in any category. Entering an assigned subject is not a requirement in the print division. (See page 12 Print Entry Guidelines). An entry consists of one image and not be a series of multiple images.

NAMING YOUR IMAGES: You must provide a title for each of your entries. A title is defined as the name you give your image. The title must be unique for each image entered and is limited to 28 characters including spaces. The category code, underscores, your name and file format information are not a part of the 28-character limit. If the title is too long, we reserve the right to shorten it as necessary to fit in the allotted space within the competition records. The same exact title must be used on the entry and on all forms involved. In addition, if entering the same image in both divisions, print and digital, they must share the same title. Each print and digital entry must be able to be identified by its title and therefore cannot have the same title as any previously entered image in the same division. Doing so may result in the entry being disqualified.

RE-ENTRY OF IMAGES: An image can be entered once in the Print Division and once in the Digital Division. Once a digital image or print has been entered and scored (not disqualified) it cannot be entered in monthly competition again as long as you are a member of the club. Further, it cannot be renamed, changed or altered in some manner and reentered at a later date in another category. (Monochrome or Creative for instance.) Only disqualified images may be reentered. Images *may* be entered in the Year-End Competition and in competitions outside Grand Rapids Camera Club.

DISQUALIFICATION: All rules applying to your entry, the category in which you are entering, and rules applying to titles must be followed to avoid possible disqualification. If an image is disqualified in any given month, it may be reentered the following month in the correct category, as additional image, following the rules of competition in the chosen category.

- Entries must originate as photographs. Photographs are defined as images captured using light sensitive cameras.
- All entries must be the photographer’s own work.
- Entries may not be completely created within the computer and must be based on a photo taken by the maker.
- A photo of someone else’s artwork (for example a photo from a wall mural or an illustration from a book) is not acceptable.



Category Definitions

ASSIGNED: The Grand Rapids Camera Club selects 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 assigned subject must be the dominate feature in the image. If entering 4 images in the digital division, one of them must be of the assigned subject and entered in the assigned category. Only 3 images may be entered if choosing not to enter an assigned subject. A judge should base his vote on originality and how much creativity the photographer used in completing his or her assignment.

ASSIGNED SUBJECT

THE ASSIGNED SUBJECT MUST BE THE DOMINATE PART OF THE
IMAGE

BE CREATIVE AND ORIGINAL WHEN COMPLETING THE
'ASSIGNMENT'

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 be shown in either of these scenarios: 1) an exaggerated and skewed image created in the computer using special effects in Photoshop or other image editing software; 2) It can show a creative action taken by the photographer when capturing the image, such as intentional camera movement. A judge should base his score on how original and creative the image is. Remember, the original image must be your own captured within a camera. All images which incorporate any AI generative elements must be entered in this category. Definitions and rules pertaining to the use of AI and other elements are further explained beginning on page 10 – Manipulation and Enhancement.

CREATIVE

UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT

MANIPULATED AND CREATED IN THE COMPUTER USING SPECIAL EFFECTS

A CREATIVE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PHOTOGRAPHER WHEN CAPTURING THE IMAGE.

ALL IMAGES WHICH INCORPORATE ANY AI GENERATIVE ELEMENTS MUST BE ENTERED IN THIS CATEGORY.

MONOCHROME: Monochrome is defined as black and white or varying tones of only one color. 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 grey scale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. For example, Sepia, Red, Gold, etc. A grey scale of multicolored 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 must be entered in the open division, or risk being disqualified.

MONOCHROME

BLACK AND WHITE OR VARYING TONES OF ANY ONE COLOR

NATURE: Images entered in the nature category must be presented in a manner that does not depict the influence of human habitation, “the hand of man.” The most important part of a nature image is the nature story it tells. 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. This category includes such subjects as botany, geology and zoology, etc. The addition of an

element that portrays the subject's natural habit is acceptable if it is part of the nature story. Examples would include a shore bird on a piling, a robin in a lawn, or a barn swallow in a barn. Subjects that do NOT qualify include domestic animals, horticultural varieties of plants or hybrid plants. This definition does not limit nature photography to wildlife subjects. Landscapes and shots taken at the zoo or nature centers are also acceptable, keeping in mind that they may not show the hand of man. General enhancements are acceptable. Manipulation (adding or changing elements) is not allowed. Manipulated images should be entered in the Open, Creative, or Monochrome categories or risk being disqualified from nature.

NATURE

MAY NOT SHOW ANY EVIDENCE OF HUMAN HABITATION "THE HAND OF MAN"

GENERAL ENHANCEMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE

ADDING, REPLACING OR REMOVING ELEMENTS IN THE IMAGE IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE NATURE DIVISION

OPEN: All images regardless of the subject matter or technique are eligible in the open category, with the exception of the use and incorporation of AI generated images, which must be entered in the Creative Category.

OPEN

ALL IMAGES REGARDLESS OF SUBJECT MATTER

EXCEPTION: AI GENERATED IMAGES

PHOTOJOURNALISM: Photojournalism images are images with informative content and emotional impact depicting the human presence in our world. This would include documentaries, sporting events, spot news and human interest. Human interest images depict a person or persons in

an emotional, interactive, or unusual situation. An entry in the photojournalism category must tell or illustrate a story. The journalistic value of the image should be considered before pictorial quality, though a technically strong image is a plus. In the interest of credibility, photographs that misrepresent the truth such as those from events or situations arranged specifically for photography are not eligible in this category. General enhancements are acceptable. Manipulation (adding or changing elements) is not allowed and should be entered in the Open, Creative or Monochrome categories.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

- SPORTING EVENTS
- DOCUMENTARIES AND SPOT NEWS
- HUMAN INTEREST - HUMANS IN AN UNUSUAL, INTERACTIVE OR EMOTIONAL SITUATION
- MUST TELL A STORY WITHOUT SETTING UP OR POSING
- ADDING OR CHANGING ELEMENTS IS NOT ALLOWED

PORTRAITURE: Any picture of a person in which the face or its expression is predominant may be considered. Entries in this category can be a formal studio or an environmental portrait. Images showing the entire human body are welcome as well as those showing just the head and shoulders. This category is for human portraiture only.

PORTRAITURE

A PICTURE OF A PERSON IN WHICH THE FACE OR ITS EXPRESSION IS PREDOMINANT

FORMAL STUDIO SHOT OR ENVIRONMENTAL

SCAPES: A section or expanse of scenery, usually extensive, that can be viewed from a single viewpoint. It refers to all the visual elements of an area of land, often considered in terms of aesthetic appeal. Generally, there are two types of Scapes – landscapes and cityscapes, however you could go so far as to call your entry a seascape or a farmscape. Landscapes can be further described as a large area of countryside; A Cityscape can be described as an extensive view of a city. To be eligible for this category, they must be dominated by a broad landscape, cityscape or seascape. Images that just encompass a narrow part of a scape such as a cityscape dominated by a single building or a landscape showing just a couple of trees may be disqualified. Scapes are NOT meant to be a single building, lighthouse, bridge or waterfall, no matter how wide or tall they are. It is about the overall view. Think of it this way: If it is not showing a view of land, it is not a landscape. If is not showing an expanse of a city, it is not a cityscape. General enhancements are permitted. Manipulation (adding changing or removing elements) is not allowed in this category. Manipulated images must be entered in the Open, Creative, or Monochrome categories.

SCAPES

- A WIDE OR EXPANDED VIEW OF A SCENE OR SCENERY USUALLY EXTENSIVE
- A LARGE EXPANSE OF CITY OR COUNTRYSIDE
- CAN BE A LANDSCAPE OR A CITYSCAPE
- ADDING, CHANGING OR REMOVING ELEMENTS IS NOT PERMITTED

Manipulation & Enhancement

PROCESSING: Processing, manipulation, and enhancement of an image must be performed by the photographer who captured the image. Conversion of raw digital images is not considered processing an image.

ENHANCEMENT: Enhancement is defined as “to make greater.” It also can be known as “retouching.” Use of enhancement functions to improve the natural appearance of the image is allowed in all categories. Examples of enhancement functions are adjustments of colors, contrast, white balance, sharpness, noise, levels, brightness, curves, intensity, saturation or color balance, and cropping.

MANIPULATION: Photo manipulation is the process of editing a photographing such an extreme way that it takes on an entirely different look. Photo manipulation goes beyond mere enhancements or corrections. Manipulations are usually referring to moving or adding subjects to an image or adding more supernatural elements to a photo. It may involve replacing an object with a different one. When we manipulate an image, we become a ‘creator’ rather than simply an observer. The resulting image may have little or no resemblance to the original photo. Today, photo manipulation is widely accepted as an art form. Use of such manipulation functions to change the appearance of an image is allowed in the Portraiture, Open, Monochrome, Creative and Assigned categories. The use of manipulation in Nature, Photojournalism and Scapes is not permitted. Any post processing techniques used in these categories should not call into question the integrity of the image or risk being disqualified.

HDR: The use of HDR (High Dynamic Range) is permitted. However, extreme care should be taken when using HDR to enhance images to be entered in the Nature and Photojournalism categories. Photographs which are over processed, misrepresent the truth or situations which are set up and do not appear as natural are unacceptable in the Photojournalism and Nature categories.

IMAGE ELEMENTS NOT CREATED BY THE PHOTOGRAPHER: Use of graphics such as backgrounds and textures found in image editing software, purchased backgrounds and textures and elements obtained from other sources, not created by the photographer, can be added to an image in Creative, Open, Monochrome, Portrait and Assigned, as long as the original image you begin with is your own. That is, the image must be captured by the photographer using photographic emulsion or captured digitally within a camera. Use of these elements, as well as those created by you, are not allowed in the Nature, Photojournalism and Scapes categories.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): For Grand Rapids Camera club purposes, Artificial intelligence in photography is defined as *“An image generated by the use of an AI application or software, combining computer science and large databases which enables images to be created artificially, without the use of a light sensitive device”*. AI-based tools can also be used to enhance and augment photos which is available in most editing software. These tools that are used to refine your image, such as noise reduction, sharpening and to facilitate selections for editing masks are permitted in all categories. For this purpose, we are referring to the use of AI software, that CREATES or GENERATES images artificially based on keywords and/or other input, which we will refer to as **AI**. Staying true to our more than 100 year history, we are not an art association open to digital media produced by use of a computer program's interpretation or input. Therefore, the images submitted, even in creative/altered reality, must originate as photographs made by the submitting member. Images entirely created through AI generative software are digital art. They are not captured with a light sensitive device (camera) and therefore will not be accepted for competition in Grand Rapids Camera Club.

The Grand Rapids Camera Club's policy regarding AI generated images is as follows:

- The GRCC will accept submissions containing AI generated imagery in competition as long as the main subject of the finished image originated as a photograph (as defined on pages 2 and 4) made by the submitting member.
- Such competition submissions which contain AI generated imagery will be allowed **ONLY** in the Creative Category. Entry in other

categories (Assigned, Photojournalism, Monochrome, Open, Nature, Portraits or Scapes) will be subject to disqualification.

- Judges could call for an AI related discussion for two reasons 1) that an AI created images has been entered in a category other than creative or 2) that the main subject of an AI image submitted in creative does not appear to originate from a photograph (as defined above). The Vice President of Competition may request the competitor to provide the original image. This is to ensure that an image is not disqualified unfairly.
- The use of AI image refinement/enhancement tools to refine your image such as noise reduction, sharpening, masks, etc. shall be allowed.
- Images generated entirely with the use of AI software without the inclusion of your photographed image as its subject will not be accepted in GRCC Competition.

Digital Entry Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES: Digital entries are to be submitted by e-mail to the digital coordinator at images@grcameraclub.org according to the guidelines defined below. The deadline to submit images for any monthly competition is always 12:00 midnight on Wednesday two weeks prior the general meeting. Slides may be scanned, with the scanned images e-mailed as above. The digital coordinator will acknowledge the receipt of your entries by e-mail. No more than 4 images may be entered in the digital division, at least one being the assigned subject. (See Page 3)

SIZING YOUR IMAGE: The resolution is not critical and can be set to whatever best suits your workflow. Photograph width cannot be greater than 2160 pixels but may be less than 2160 pixels. Photograph height cannot be greater than 2160 pixels but may be less than 2160.

SETTING YOUR COLOR PROFILE: It is recommended that you submit your images with an sRGB color profile.

NAMING YOUR IMAGE FILES: The image file name should contain the following information in the following order. A capital letter indicating the category code; an underscore (_); the image title capitalizing the 1st letter of each word with no spaces; (limited to 28 characters) An underscore (_); and your name. Use your first and last name both capitalized with no spaces. An example of an entry in the nature category should appear as: N_BeeOnWildflower_MaryMember.jpg.

CATEGORY CODES: (A) Assigned; (C) Creative; (J) Photojournalism; (M) Monochrome; (N) Nature; (O) Open; (P) Portraiture; (S) Scapes.

SAVING YOUR IMAGE: All images submitted for competition must be saved in jpeg format. (.jpg) It is recommended that jpeg images are saved at reasonably high quality.

SENDING IMAGES: Send images as e-mail attachments to the digital coordinator. images@grcameraclub.org.

MISSED ENTRIES: Any digital images missed in error by the digital coordinator in a given month will be entered in the next regular competition. All scores will be applied to the appropriate month.

Print Entry Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES: All images entered as prints must have been photographed by the member. Commercially or otherwise printed images are allowed, as well as prints made on a member's personal printer/computer. Print Competitions will be held 4 times a year in the months of March, May, October and December. You may enter up to 6 images, in any category or in any combination that you choose. It is not necessary to enter one of the entries in the Assigned category to be eligible. Judging is held separately the week prior to the general meeting. The judging location and time is to be determined by the VP of Competition based on the availability of the judges. Prints must be in the hands of the judging committee by the deadline posted in advance of each competition month. They can be dropped at any of several locations prior to the

competition; or they can be brought to the general meeting the month preceding the competition. (i.e., May's prints brought to the April meeting)

LABELING YOUR PRINTS: The back of the print must include duplicate entry labels. Print entry labels can be printed directly from our website. One should be securely attached at the top left corner on the back of the print. The 2nd should be loosely attached to be removed by the print handlers during the competition. Label the top of the print in case there are questions about its orientation.

SIZING: Prints must be mounted on a rigid background such as mat board or foam core. The minimum size for the mounting shall be no less than 10 inches on its longest side, with its maximum size no longer than 20 inches on its longest side. The actual print can be any size as long as it fits within the mounting specifications mentioned here. Prints can be matted but are not required to be. Frames are not allowed. **Entries on paper or posterboard and those not following these guidelines will not be accepted.** Although the GRCC takes extreme care when handling your prints, we cannot be held responsible for any damage.

JUDGING: Prints will be judged in a light box to provide equal illumination for each entry. The proper color temperature for judging and viewing prints should be between 5000 Kelvin and 5500 Kelvin. Our print viewing box provides very accurate lighting for print evaluation. Bulbs are color balanced and color corrected. Florescent bulbs with a temperature of 5000 Kelvin and EV (exposure value) of 9.5 at the viewing surface are used per standard viewing guidelines.

Prints will be separated into categories, and then by the size of the print and judged accordingly. Images that are 12 inches or smaller on its longest side, will be judged as a small print and be judged at a distance of 5 feet. Those images measuring larger than 12 inches on the longest side will be judged as a large print and viewed at a distance of 7 feet. In competitions where we will be judging both large and small prints, the small prints will be judged first.



Judging and Scoring

GENERAL GUIDELINES: Both print and digital competition judging is generally held the week prior to the general meeting. The week after the judging, at the general meeting, entered digital images will be shown along with their scores. Prints will be displayed with names and scores attached for members to view and enjoy.

JUDGES: Judging will be done by 3 club members who are either photographers of reputation who have been approved by the Vice President of Competition or is a member who has attained a minimum of 400 merit points and at least 15 honors in club competition and has been trained by the VP of Competition. Ideally, a different set of judges will be chosen for each competition month.

SCORING: Digital judging shall be done remotely, the images being sent via Dropbox (or similar) and judged from each of the judges' homes and viewed on their personal computers. Each judge will return his scores to the VP of Competition within a few days of receiving the images. Judges shall use a scoring range of 6-15 points. The average of the judge's scores shall be used as the final score for the entry.

A judge shall not give a score if the image is recognized as his/her own or that of a family member. In this case, the zero score will be replaced by the average of the other two judge's scores.

A judge shall contact the VP of Competition if he feels the image does not meet the criteria for the category. The scorer will then call for a discussion among the judges, usually via email. The images will then be reevaluated. If the judges are in agreement, the image will be disqualified. It can then be re-entered the in the following month's competition in the appropriate category as a 5th entry. (See Page 4)

The VP of Competition will call for a re-judge and discussion and ask the judges to reevaluate their score if there is a three-point gap between the highest and lowest scores shown, avoiding a possible error. At that point the judges will re-score the image and the resulting score will replace the original.

TITLES: Titles shall be read before the image is judged. The maker's name remains unknown to the judges until the final scores are revealed at the club meeting.

SCORING CRITERIA: A score of 15 is recognized as a Top Honor. Scores 12-14 Honors; 6-11 Accepted. The basis on which the judge shall score an image is as follows:

15 EXCELLENT - A judges highest score. Strong impact and technical excellence. Dramatic composition. Impact is exhibited when a photograph is striking and has an immediate and strong effect on those viewing it.

12 -14 ABOVE AVERAGE – The image creates interest and is technically correct. It is excellently lighted and superbly composed with no noticeable technical flaws in such things as focus, color, slanted horizon, distracting backgrounds or empty foregrounds. Depth of Field is handled effectively. Any minor flaw is compensated by other elements in the image. All elements of the image work together.

9-11 AVERAGE – The image has no noticeable technical flaws but likewise has no significant strengths. It is acceptable but does not generate any special interest or stir emotions. It is the quality of an image that most hobbyists should be able to achieve as a minimum standard. It has the technical proficiency that modern auto-exposure cameras allow.

6-8 BELOW AVERAGE – The image is of a very low standard with significant technical flaws such as unintentional blur or major parts out of focus. Image may be noticeably over or under exposed. It is cluttered to the point of distraction or distracting elements are overwhelming.

SCORE	CRITERIA
15	Strong impact with technical excellence!
14	Excellentlly lighted and superbly composed - Well above average
13	Excellentlly lighted and superbly composed - Well Above average
12	Above average – all elements work together
11	Average
10	Average
9	Average – Acceptable with no noticeable flaws, yet no noticeable strengths as well
8	Out of focus or poorly exposed
7	Significant technical errors – distracting elements
6	Very low standards overall

AWARDS

MERIT POINTS: Merit points are earned for acceptances and honors in monthly competitions. Members are credited with the score given their entries. These totals will be added to the member's total accumulated LIFETIME MERIT POINTS. Merit points continue to accumulate as long as he/she is a dues paying member of the club.

MERIT AWARD LEVELS: The merit awards system is a method of recognizing the acquired talent and skills of each photographer. As merit points are accumulated the following awards are presented to the member when each goal is reached.

POINTS	AWARD
200	Certificate of Excellence
600	Masters Award
1500	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

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 division award winners and the Photographer of the Year Award.

PHOTOGRAPHY HALL OF FAME: The Photography Hall of Fame was introduced in 2001. The Hall of Fame award honors members who have made significant and outstanding contributions to the club. Honorees are recognized for their years of participation in club activities, competition, a willingness to share their photography knowledge and for promoting the advancement of the club. Any member can nominate someone who they feel meets the qualifications for this Hall of Fame Award. Guidelines, criteria, and a nomination form can be found on our website.

MEMBER'S GALLERY

GRCC GALLERY GUIDELINES: The Grand Rapids Camera Club maintains a gallery of member's images on its website for those who wish to participate. This gives you an opportunity to a show other members some of your work and it also attracts new members when they see our fine images. You can provide up to 15 images and can change them at any time. Review the complete guidelines and instructions for submitting your images on the website by clicking on "Gallery Guidelines" at grcameraclub.org/documents_forms. Please do not hesitate to contact our website administrator at webmaster@grcc.org to get answers to any questions you may have regarding the gallery.

OTHER COMPETITIONS: The Grand Rapids Camera Club often enters our member's images, with their permission, in competitions which are sponsored by other organizations, such as the PSA Interclub Competitions. When doing so, we must adhere to the competition rules of the sponsoring organization. Rules and guidelines for outside competitions that we enter are found on the Documents and Forms page of our website.

YEAR END COMPETITION

The Grand Rapids Camera Club holds its End of Year photo competition annually after the completion of the preceding years monthly competitions. Contrary to the monthly judging, the end of year competition gives members the opportunity to enter prints and digital images, competing with one another to win awards for the best of the year's images. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, honorable mentions and other special awards are presented to the winning members at the annual awards ceremony.

ELIGIBILITY: Images entered in the preceding competition year (January – December) are eligible in the Year End Competition as long as they were not disqualified. Entries must be entered in the same category in which they were originally entered. You are not allowed to move them to a different category. Only images entered in the preceding year's competition are eligible. The number of images entered in each category will be determined on a yearly basis. You will be notified of such prior to the competition deadlines, which are established each year by the Board of Directors.

ENTERING YOUR IMAGES: You do not need to resend your digital images, as the images are kept on file for the year. An entry form is required, sent to the VP of Competition, indicating both the category in which they were originally entered and the image titles. Prints can be brought to the general meeting or dropped off at the address provided before the established deadline.

ELIGIBILITY OF JUDGES: Three judges from outside the current club membership are selected by the VP of Competition and the Board of Directors. 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.

CLASS: There will be two classes, Class A and Star Class, in all categories with sufficient number of entrants and entries to support both classes.

At the close of the competition year, the VP of Competition will prepare a list without names, showing a member's average score. This will be computed based on a member's entries in the digital division the previous calendar year. The VP of Competition will present the information to a committee comprised of one or more board members, who then will determine a dividing point based on the grouping of the average scores.

CLASS A: Those members whose average score falls *below* the decided dividing point will compete in class A in all categories with a sufficient number of entrants and entries to support both classes.

STAR CLASS: Those members whose average score is *above* the decided dividing point will compete in Star Class in all categories with sufficient number of entrants and entries to support both classes.

EXCEPTIONS: If there is not a minimum of four (4) competitors in any one category, they will be combined with open entries in the appropriate class. All rules for the open category will apply. If there is not a minimum of four (4) competitors in any one class, Class A or Star Class, the two classes will be combined and and compete as one class.

PROCEDURES: The judging shall be held on a Saturday beginning in the morning and continuing until all images have been judged. The Grand Rapids Camera Club will provide lunch for the judges and the judging workers. The Year-End Competition is a closed competition and is not open to the general membership. If necessary, the competition may be held virtually, with the images sent via Dropbox (or similar) to the selected judges. Places will be chosen via Zoom. The results of the competition shall be kept confidential by all present until the awards are presented at the Awards Ceremony held early in the year. A minimum of workers is required and includes the president, VP of competition, the digital coordinator, a score keeper and print handler, as well as any additional workers the committee deems necessary to run the competition efficiently.

JUDGING THE IMAGES: All entries will be judged with an "in/out" system to reduce the number of entries to approximately 25% - 30% of the total

entries. Each judge shall vote 'in' or 'out' on each entry. An entry is eliminated from further competition if two of the judges vote out. The judges will continue to go through complete rounds of entries until the approximate % amount is reached. These remaining images will be deemed Honorable Mentions. If the judges have a difficult time reducing the images to the previously agreed upon number, the President or VP of Competition reserves the right to extend or reduce the number to be accepted as Honorable Mentions. Should it become necessary to hold the competition virtually, the judge will give each image a score using a scoring range of 1-5. The top scoring images will then become Honorable Mentions.

PLACE RANKINGS: When the judges have reached the Honorable Mention limit, those images will be displayed for the judges to view and discuss, thus deciding on the 1st place print or digital entry. The remaining honorable mention images entered by the 1st place winner will be automatically awarded honorable mentions but removed from further consideration. The procedure is repeated for 2nd place if it is to be awarded. Third place, if it is to be awarded, shall be selected in a like manner after both the 1st and 2nd place makers images have been removed. All remaining images are awarded Honorable Mentions. Judging will continue in this manner for all divisions and categories until all winners have been selected.

ORDER OF COMPETITION: Categories will be presented for judging in the following order: PRINTS AND DIGITAL: Creative, Photojournalism, Monochrome, Nature, Open, Portraiture, Scapes and Assigned. When the digital categories have been further divided into classes, all Class A categories shall be judged before the Star Class entries of the same category.

JUDGES CHOICE AWARDS: Each of the three judges will be asked to choose a favorite image, within any category, regardless of score or ranking. Each judge will choose one image in the Print division and one image in the Digital division. These will be presented as the "Judges Choice Awards."

END OF YEAR AWARDS: End of Year awards, which may include trophies, ribbons or certificates, will be presented at our Awards Celebration to be held annually, usually at our February general meeting.

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 1st and 2nd place. A minimum of eight (8) entrants are required in a category to award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

DIVISION AWARDS: Division winners in both Prints and Digital will be determined by the total year to date scores. An award will be presented to the top scorer in each division. In case of a tie, the tie will be broken by calculating the member's average score in their most entered category. After calculations are made, if a tie still exists, both members will be recognized.

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, within the competition year, he/she must have entered a minimum of 36 entries in either digital or prints or in any combination of the two divisions; enter a minimum of 5 Assigned Subjects; and enter images in 5 of the remaining categories across both divisions. The average score will be determined by dividing the sum of the members total scores by the number of entries in both divisions combined. In the case of a tie, the tie will be broken by calculating the members average score in their most entered category, excluding assigned. After calculations are made if a tie still exists Co-Photographers of the Year will be recognized.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR ELIGIBILITY

- ENTER A MINIMUM OF 36 ENTRIES IN DIGITAL, PRINTS OR IN ANY COMBINATION OF THE TWO.
- ENTER A MINIMUM OF five (5) ASSIGNED SUBJECT IMAGES
- ENTER IMAGES IN five (5) OF THE REMAINING 7 CATEGORIES