



# Competition Guide

Rules and Guidelines  
for the  
Peoria Camera Club

Revised 2025.08.20

See our Member Handbook for our directory, personnel, and history.

**For turn-in dates and competition handlers**, see PhotoChatter or go to the [PCC Website](#) > Login > 'members only' tab > Current Competitions.

For the Club schedule with competition turn-ins, see our website's News page for a download or scroll down for our Google calendar.

Guide can be printed on 8-1/2 x 11 paper.

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## Competition Overview

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Peoria Camera Club holds a variety of competitions for members. Judge's comments about each image are usually included when the competitions are shown at Club meetings. The details for each category are included in this guide.

When you choose to enter your first competition, you can request a number from the Competition Director. Use this number for all categories. Excel spreadsheets in our "Members Only" section track your entries for the club year.

### Standard Categories

#### Digital:

- Nature
- Creative
- Photojournalism
- Open

#### Print:

- Small Color
- Large Color
- Small Monochrome
- Large Monochrome

### Special Digital Categories

- The President's Special
- City Landscape
- Smartphone/tablet
- Theme 1 & Theme 2

### Common Rules

1. Turn-ins:
  - Digital categories have a turn-in range. Late entries may not be judged. Email your entries to the handler with the category in the subject line.
  - Print turn-in date will be an in-person member meeting. If you cannot attend, you can schedule a time with the handler to deliver your prints earlier.
  - The handlers are listed in the PhotoChatter and in the "Member Handbook". (Download from the 'Members Only' section on the PCC website.)
2. The submitted image file and any version of that image may be entered into multiple categories.
3. Sharpening, cropping, and resizing is acceptable.
4. Only family-friendly subject matter is eligible in our competitions.
5. Once a version of an image is judged "accepted" in a category, no version of that image may be re-entered in that category until the End of Year competition.
6. For the End of Year competition, only one previously entered version of an original image may be entered and in only one category.
7. It is left to the photographer's conscience and integrity to apply these rules.
8. See specific rules for each category within this Guide.
9. Turn-in and showing dates can be found in our "PCC Schedule" at our website's "News" page and in the PhotoChatter.

## Preparing image files

Three images may be entered in each standard digital competition. Five images are allowed for the President's Special, Smartphone/Tablet and digital EOY competitions which allow five images. Pay attention to the turn-in range on our schedule.

- File format: jpeg, sRGB color space, and not exceed 2MB
- Image dimensions: 1400 x 1050 pixels (maximum of 1400 pixels wide for landscape orientation and 1050 for portrait orientation)
- Signatures or watermarks are not allowed.
- Naming format: Title by maker's name member number.jpg  
Example: New York Reflection by Tom Trust 99.jpg
- Filenames of 32 spaces or less are encouraged.
- Send files by email to the appropriate image handler with the competition in the subject line. Digital images may be turned in by USB drive at a club meeting.

For turn-in dates and competition handlers, see PhotoChatter or go to the PCC Website > Login > 'members only' tab > Current Competitions – Click Enter > Select the competition of choice – Click Enter > Handler.

## Digital Competitions

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### Nature (N) Digital Competition

#### **Nature Definition**

The goal of nature images is to depict nature in its true and natural setting, without the presence and influence of humankind. Nature images must capture a natural subject in a way which would allow a well-informed person to identify the subject and be able to certify its honest presentation. A nature image is restricted to the depiction of fact or phenomena from all branches of the natural sciences (botany, zoology, geology, etc.). Images depicting museum habitats, domestic animals, cultivated plants, or other subjects in any form that alters the truth of natural subjects are not eligible. Human elements, if present, should be unobtrusive or part of the subject's natural habitat.

#### **Nature Manipulation Rules**

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- Combining parts of several images is not permitted.
- Use of Adjustment Layers: Levels, curves, color balance, hue/saturation, and other adjustments are acceptable to maintain a natural look.
- Use of HDR is permitted to maintain a true and natural image.
- Selective Editing: Adjustments can be made selectively to your photo. Cloning, dodging, burning, etc. to improve your photo or remove imperfections or minor distracting elements, etc. is acceptable. However, using any editing tools to duplicate, create, or move major elements of your photograph are not permitted.

## Creative (C) Digital Competition

### Creative Definition

An image in this category represents a creative expression of the maker's vision. The emphasis for this category is on creativity with no restrictions for enhancement of the image(s) used to create the final product.

### Creative Rules

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- Creative techniques such as, but not limited to, photo manipulation, creative lighting, and camera movement combined with long exposure (motion blurs, slap zooms) are permitted.
- The image must have a photographic base.
- All the significant photographic elements must have been taken by the maker.
- Combining parts from different images is allowed.
- Abstract and infrared images are appropriate for this category.
- Borders and vignettes are allowed.

## Photojournalism (PJ) Digital Competition

### Photojournalism Definition (*new definition in 2025*)

Photojournalism is the art of telling real stories through candid images. Strive to capture unscripted, authentic moments that reveal truth, emotion, and context—whether at local events, in everyday life, or during spontaneous scenes you encounter. Although technical skills are important in any photograph, in photojournalism the story-telling qualities are most important. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable.

### Photojournalism Rules

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- Selective Editing: Adjustments can be made selectively to your photo. Cloning, dodging, burning, etc., to improve your photo or remove imperfections or minor distracting elements, etc., is acceptable. However, using any editing tools to duplicate, create, or move major elements of your photograph are not permitted.
- Use of Adjustment Layers: Levels, curves, color balance, hue/saturation, and other adjustments may be used, if they maintain a natural look.
- Give a title that accurately reflects the content of the image.
- Not permitted is
  - combining parts of several images
  - the use of HDR (High Dynamic Range merged images)
  - borders

## Open (O) Digital Competition

### Open Definition

The emphasis for this category is on aesthetics and creating an image with great impact. Technical merit, impact and composition are critical in these images. Any image that meets the requirements of Nature, Creative, and Photojournalism may also be entered in our Open competitions.

### Open Manipulation Rules

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- The image should have a photographic base.
- Backgrounds and textures not created by the maker are acceptable if they are not a major part of the photo.
- Blending multiple exposures is allowed, including HDR, panoramas and focus stacking.
- Borders and vignettes are allowed.

## Smartphone/Tablet (SPT) Digital Competition

### Smartphone/Tablet Definition

This special digital competition is restricted to images taken by phone and tablet cameras. Any subject that meets the requirements of Open, Creative, Nature or Photojournalism categories may be entered.

These images should be more than a record of an object, person, event, or place. It should characterize, enhance, or distill the essence of what is being photographed. It can be used to convey an idea, to make a statement, or to tell a story. Lacking these qualities, the image becomes just another snapshot or record shot. Technical Merit, Impact and Composition are important.

### Smartphone/Tablet Rules

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- A member may submit up to five (5) digital images online at the PCC website.
- All post-processing techniques are allowed in this competition. Post processing may occur either on a phone/tablet, on a separate computer or on both. Backgrounds or textures not created by the maker are acceptable if they are not a major part of the photo. Combining parts from different images is also permissible.
- There are no club levels in this competition.
- Entries count toward the Kisner Award.
- Entries are not eligible for the End of Year competition.

### Smartphone/Tablet Website Judging Process

- Members will vote online for up to five of their favorite images.
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> are determined by number of votes.
- If there is a tie, all receive the award.

## Theme 1&2 (T1&T2) Digital Competitions

Theme digital competitions occur twice during the club year. The PCC board announces the theme and any special guidelines for each competition.

### Theme Rules

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- A member may submit up to three (3) digital images online at the PCC website.
- All post processing techniques are permitted in this competition providing the theme of the competition is maintained.
- Backgrounds and textures not created by the maker are acceptable if they are not a major part of the photo.
- Combining parts from different images is also permissible.
- All images compete as one level.
- Entries count toward the Kisner Award.
- Entries are not eligible for the End of Year competition.

### Theme Judging Process

- Members will vote online for up to five of their favorite images.
- Top 1/3rd is accepted. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places determined by number of votes.
- If there is a tie, all receive the award.

## City Landscape (CL) Digital Competition

### City Landscape Definition

This special digital competition is restricted to images from the city. City structures such as buildings, bus shelters, towers and fountains are some of the subjects for this category. Urban street scenes, crowds, reflections, and all shots with a city flavor are welcome. The challenge is making these obvious and common subjects interesting to the viewer or finding new and unique subjects that have been overlooked.

### City Landscape Rules

- Abide by the Common Rules on page 3.
- A member may enter three (3) digital images.
- Images may be altered according to the Digital Manipulation Rules for the Open 'O' Category in this booklet.
- There are no club levels in this competition.
- Entries count toward the Kisner Award.
- Entries are not eligible for the End of Year competition.

### City Landscape Judging Process

Top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is accepted. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places are chosen from the accepted images.

## President's Special (PS) Digital Competition

This special digital competition is near the end of the year. Entries should be turned in to the Competition Chairperson in the turn-in range specified in the PCC Schedule. The Competition Chairperson is listed in the Member Handbook and the PhotoChatter.

At the current years President's Special Competition, the incoming president for the new club year will announce his/her choice of topic for the upcoming year's topic.

### President's Special Rules

- A member may enter five (5) digital images.
- Email entries to the Competition Chairperson. Put 'Pres Special' in the subject line.
- There are no club levels in this competition.
- Entries count toward the Kisner Award.
- Entries are not eligible for the End of Year competition.
- Image must be taken after the topic is announced.

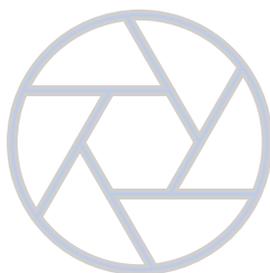
### President's Special Judging Process

Judged by three previous presidents (or club members) selected by the current president using electronic judging equipment to score the images. Judging can take place at a meeting in place of a program. No image critique.

- Alternate judging methods are allowed.

Previous President's Special Topics:

Macro	Low Key	Shadows
Monochrome	Natural Forms	Speed
New Captured with Old	Insects with the Hand of Man	Abstract



## Club Levels

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Members compete in Nature, Creative, Photojournalism, and Open digital competitions through point-based levels. New members begin in Regular and advance upward by accumulating lifetime points.

Open category move up to level:	Creative, Photojournalism and Nature categories move up to level:
Bronze with 15 points Silver with 30 points Gold with 60 points	Bronze with 10 points Silver with 25 points Gold with 50 points

In Prints and all other competition categories, members compete as one group.

### The Point System

A third of the entered images in each category are accepted. An acceptance means that the judge likes a photograph for its impact, technical achievement, presentation, composition, or other factors related to photographic performance.

From the accepted images a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place are chosen for each level.

Points are earned as follows:

- An acceptance earns one point.
- 3rd place earns one additional point.
- 2nd place earns two additional points.
- 1st place earns three additional points.

Competition Spreadsheets are viewable on our website’s “Members Only” page.

### Kisner Award

The Kisner Award was created to honor an excellent photographer, especially in nature photography, whose special quality was sharing. Thurl (Jack) Kisner was always willing to share his knowledge.

The Kisner Award is presented as a certificate to a club member who participates most and performs best overall in club competitions. The member with the highest points receives the Kisner Award Certificate at the End of Year Banquet.

Earning Kisner points:

- A point is given for each image and print entered.
- One additional point is given for each acceptance.
- Points are given for all standard and special digital categories. See the chart on page 12.
- Points are counted for the current Club year only.

## Print (P) Competitions

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Peoria Camera Club has three print competitions per year. Each has four Categories: Large color, small color, large monochrome, small monochrome.

### Monochrome Print Definition

A monochrome print is defined as a print in one color or different shades of one color. This includes black & white, toned images such as sepia (brownish) and cyanotype (bluish).

### Color Print Definition

If it doesn't meet the monochrome definition, then enter print in the Color category. Prints with color added to feature objects in an otherwise monochrome print must be entered in a Color category.

If you are uncertain which category to enter, contact the print handler.

### Print Rules

- All post-processing techniques are permitted in all print Categories.
- All significant parts of the print must be from the maker's original captures.
  - Backgrounds and textures not created by the maker are acceptable if they are not part of the major purpose of the photo.
  - Combining parts from different images is permissible.
- Printing may be done by commercial or home printing process.
- The maker's name may NOT appear on the front of the photo, mat, or mounting board.

### Mounting Prints

- Each print must be mounted on a rigid backing (foam core, mat board or similar) that can withstand the rigors of handling.
- Prints may be matted (not exceeding the size of mounting board).
- Not allowed: Frames, glass, prints on metal or stretched canvas

Category	Print size		Mounting Board size
	Minimum size	Maximum size	
Small	5 x 7	8 x 12	11 x 14
Large	Over 8 x 12	16 x 20	16 x 20

### Entering Print Competitions

- Three prints may be entered in each category.
- Prints should be turned in to the print handler as specified in the PCC Schedule. Late turn-ins are not eligible for that competition.
- Once a print is "Accepted," it can only be entered in the same category for the End of Year competition in the current club year.
- A non-accepted print may be entered in future competitions.

- All entries must be identified on the back of the mount, in the upper left corner using the following Entry Label.

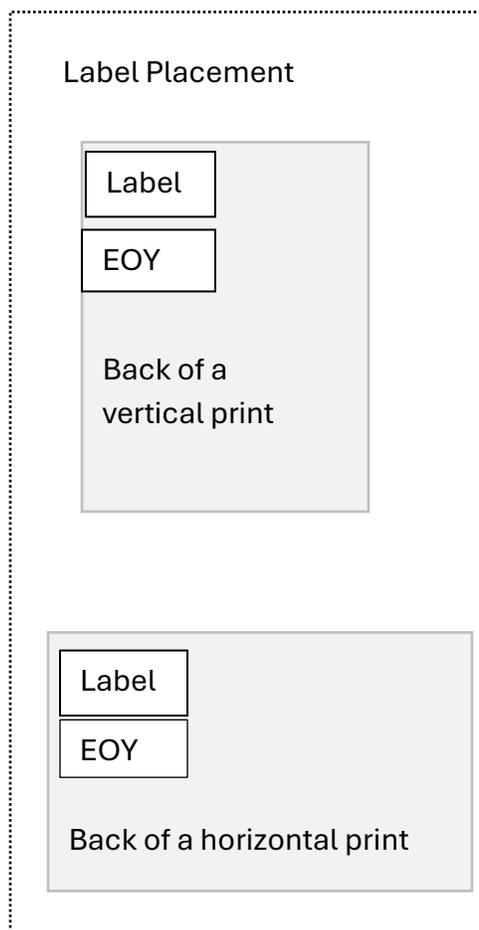
### Entry Label Instructions

- Labels can be downloaded from the PCC website or duplicated from this page.
- Fill in Print Title and circle appropriate Competition.
- Fill in Member Name and Member #.
- Check the Category box.
- Attach a Print Competition Label on the back side of mounting board on the upper left corner. See the diagram below.
- For the End of Year Competition, attach an End of Year Competition Label below the original competition label on the print.
- Labels are available on the PCC website “Members Only” page by clicking on “Club Documents” or from the Club Print Handler. The labels can be printed on an 8 1/2 x 11 paper or on Avery labels #8130.

Print Competition Label

<b>Peoria Camera Club Print Competition Label</b>					
<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">2</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">E</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	E
1	2	3	E		
Print Title	Competition				
<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>				
Member Name	Member #				
Category	Award (Entered by handler)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Color <input type="checkbox"/> Small Monochrome <input type="checkbox"/> Large Color <input type="checkbox"/> Large Monochrome					

Label Placement



End of Year Print Competition Label

<b>EOY Print Competition</b>	
SCORE	AWARD

## Competition Chart

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Category	Maximum entries	'Club' levels	Eligible for Kisner	Eligible for EOY	Submitted to	Judging
Nature	3	yes	yes	yes	handler	1 judge w/comments
Creative	3	yes	yes	yes	handler	1 judge w/comments
Photojournalism	3	yes	yes	yes	handler	1 judge w/comments
Open	3	yes	yes	yes	handler	1 judge w/comments
Prints – Sm color, Lg color, Sm mono, Lg mono	3 per category	no	yes	yes	handler	1 judge w/comments
Theme 1 & 2	3	no	yes	no	website	Member votes online
City Landscape	3	no	yes	no	handler	1 judge w/comments
President's Special	5	no	yes	no	handler	President(s), comments optional
Smartphone/tablet	5	no	yes	no	website	Member votes online
End of Year – digital N,C,PJ,O	5 per category	no	no	Doesn't apply	handler	3 judges, no comments
End of Year – print 4 categories	5 per category	no	no	Doesn't apply	handler	3 judges, no comments

### Judging PCC Competitions (excluding End of Year)

In all PCC competitions, an external judge or an experienced Peoria Camera Club member(s) will judge each competition.

Digital - Nature, Creative, Photojournalism, and Open

- Select the best 1/3 of the images in each level as “accepted.”
- From all the accepted images, select 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

Print – large color, small color, large monochrome, small monochrome

- Select the best 1/3 of the prints in each category as “accepted”.
- Select 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each print category.

President's Special and City Landscape

- Select the best 1/3 of all the images as “accepted.”
- From all accepted, select a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Themes 1 & 2 and Smartphone/Tablet

- Members will vote online for up to five of their favorite images.
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> determined by votes.
- Ties are allowed.

## End of Year (EOY) Competition

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An End of Year competition is conducted prior to the end of our Club year. The results are shown at our annual End of Year banquet. This is an opportunity to re-enter prints and digital images from competitions during the current year. New entries are not permitted.

Competitions are conducted in the following 8 categories:

Standard digital categories are Nature, Creative, Photojournalism and Open.

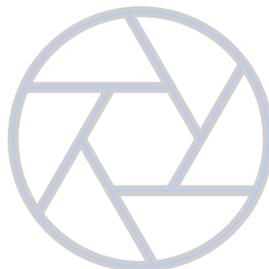
Print categories are Small Color, Large Color, Small Monochrome and Large Monochrome.

### Entry Rules – EOY

1. Both accepted and non-accepted images from the current year's competitions may be entered.
2. Five (5) images may be entered in each digital category – Open, Nature, PJ, Creative. Images should be emailed to the Competition Chairperson during the turn-in range on the PCC Schedule on our website. Include the category in the email subject line.
3. Five (5) prints may be entered in each print category – Sm Color, Lg Color, Sm B&W, Lg B&W. Turn-in at the designated meeting or arrange an early delivery with the handler.
4. Submit entries in the same category with the original title and image from the current club year.
5. Only one version of an image may be entered in only one category regardless of how many categories or versions of it were entered.
6. Images from the City Landscapes, President's Special, Smartphone/Tablet and Themes are not eligible for the End of Year competition.

### Judging – EOY

- Levels are not used in End of Year competitions.
- Three people from other camera clubs or individuals of known expertise will judge.
- No judge's comments are given.
- 1/3 of the images in each category are Accepted images. A third of the Accepted images will be selected as Honor images and one of the Honor images will be selected as Best of Show.
- Best of Show is awarded in each of the 8 categories.
- Each Best of Show image receives a plaque presented the following September.
- Entries in this competition do not count toward the Kisner Award.



## Image Usage Rights and Responsibilities

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Each submitter warrants and represents that each submitted image was made by the submitter; the submitter is the sole and exclusive copyright owner of the image, and the submitted image will not infringe on the rights of third parties. This includes image parts that make up the final image.

Each submitter agrees to release and hold harmless the Peoria Camera Club (PCC) and its members, officers and directors from all liability, damages, expenses of any kind which may occur in connection with any claims concerning the publicity rights, defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright infringement, trademark infringement, or any intellectual property related causes of action.

Each submitter permits PCC to use their images at meetings, for educational or promotional purposes in their publications and on the PCC website.

The submitter retains all legal ownership rights to the image copyright. The use of images by organizations other than PCC will require the consent of the submitter.

## CICCA Competitions

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CICCA – Central Illinois Camera Clubs Association

CICCA is made up of 7 central Illinois camera clubs including ours. CICCA holds a Fall Salon and a Spring Salon managed by member clubs.

Carefully follow Salon instructions as they differ from our Club.

Visit [www.ciccaclubs.com](http://www.ciccaclubs.com).

## Photographic Society of America

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Our Club is no longer a member of PSA but there are many benefits to you joining PSA as an individual. You get access to many classes and webinars as well as a subscription to their impressive magazine, PSA Journal. Live and recorded webinars cover topics such as Software, Travel, Techniques, Urban, and other miscellaneous topics.

If viewing online: [Click to see list.](#)

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Visit <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/>