



© Robyn Abrams - Houston, We Have Lift Off!



© Sherry Anderson - A Man's Eye View



© Mark Ashbolt - Hudson Yards



© Michelle Sakure - Home Reminders Under the Milky Way



© Frank Ballatore - Channeling My Inner Ansel



© Charlie Batchelder - Figs, Grapes, Peaches, and Pears



© Doug Bilinski - Sunset Squall



© Jon Gordon - Columbine



© Kasia Gury - I love music

Judging Info Session



© Linda Lubinsky - Intertwined



© Adam Meyers - As the lights go out in the city, freedom still shines

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club

Info@FlagpolePhotographers.com



© Lynn Meyers - Orange Splash



© John Munno - Refiner's Fire



© Hannah Munroe - Aerie



© Dave Ober - Avon Fishing Pier



© Danley O'Donoghue - Simplicity, Angles & Curves



© Lauren Parnagli - For the love of color



© Patricia Powers - Green Heron in the Mirror



© Sandy Schil - Night Watchman



© Sue Thompson - Cuddles the Red Panda



© Rick Tyniec - Foggy Daybreak



© Paul Wuto - Where did my salmon go?



© Ken Walsh - Sleeping Beauty



© Michelle Williams - Cosmos

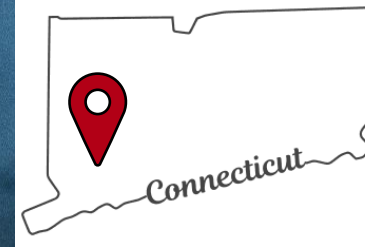


Who We Are

- The Flagpole Photographers' mission is to enable members to share their photos and expertise, to learn and grow in their photography, and to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow photographers.
- We come from diverse backgrounds, with photographic skills ranging from beginners to professional photographers.
- Founded in 1985 in Newtown, Connecticut.



Flagpole Photographers Camera Club



Newtown, Connecticut

Meetings Are Recorded

The competition night meeting will be recorded and posted on FlagpolePhotographers.com

Judging Journey



One week before
competition night.

Thursday 4 pm

Judges' info session
using Zoom.



Monday 9 am

Judge scoring starts.

Use the remote judging
app to enter your scores.



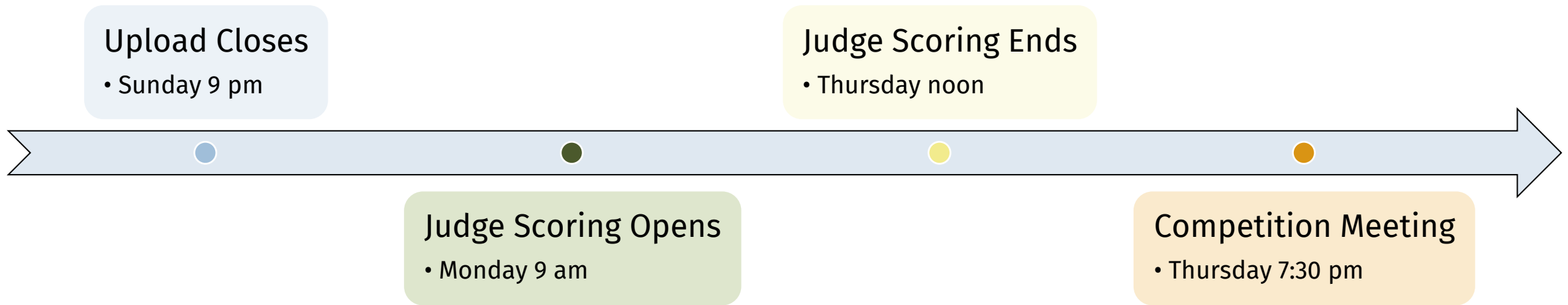
Thursday

Finish scoring by noon.

By 7:20 pm join the
competition night
meeting using Zoom.

Break ties and comment
on photos.

Scoring Photos Online Before Competition Night



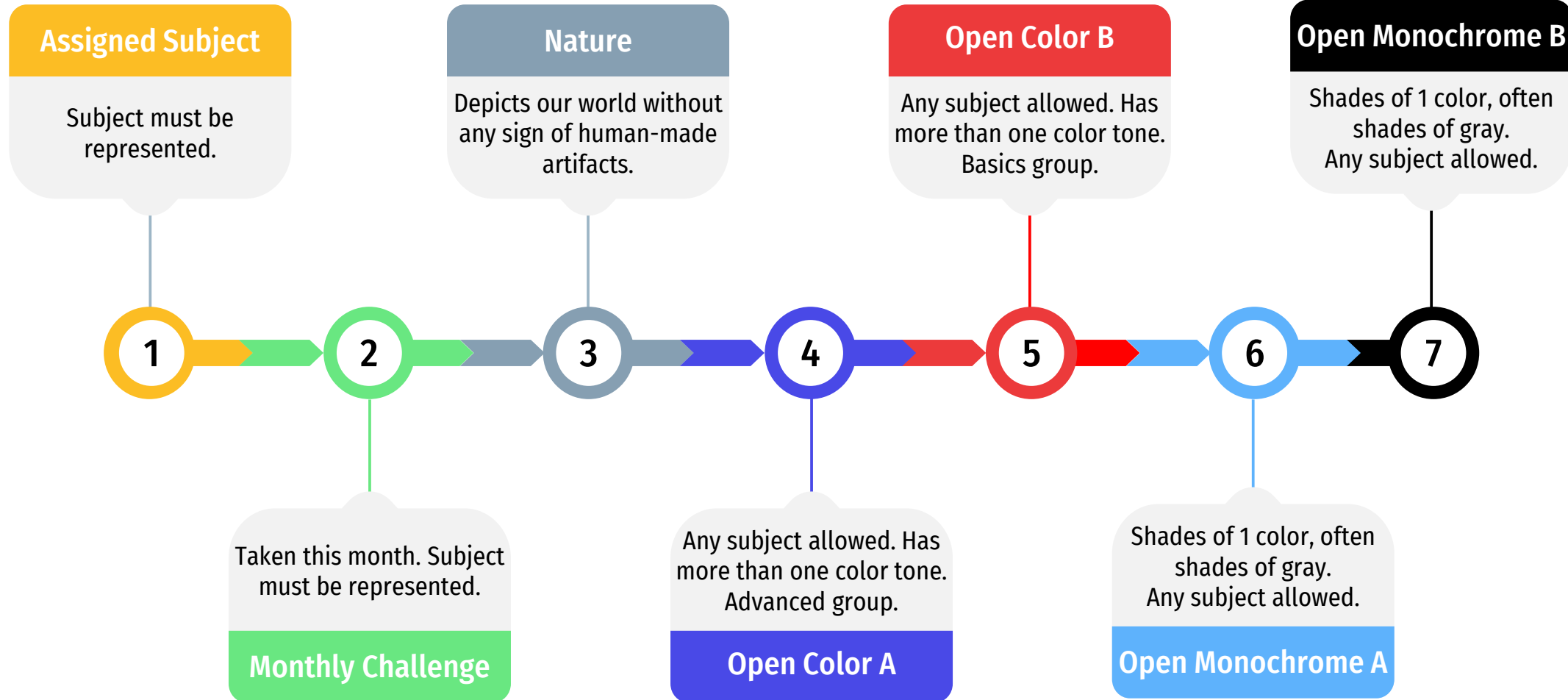
1. Sign in with provided username and password for either Judge 1, Judge 2 or Judge 3
 - <https://flagpolephotographers.com/wp-login.php>
 - After signing in the [Remote Judge](#) app automatically opens
2. Start scoring every photo in every category
 - Use the [Blue Help Button](#) in upper right corner to learn more
 - **Questions – Chane Cullens: call or text 203 512 8057 or email: Chane@CCullens.com**

Competition Night Activities

Timeline



Photo Categories



Competition Night Category Flow

1. View Photos

a) Show Photo b) Flagpole says Title & Score c) Judge Comments



2. Run-Through

No Run-Through

3. Score Photos

No Scoring (already scored)

4. Assign Awards

Break Any Ties

5. Show Winners

Winner's Discuss Their Photo

Finding a Category's Top 3 Photos

Judge's scores are key for ranking photos.

Scoring range is: 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10.

In every category, consider using a large range of scores to separate great photos from those truly exceptional.

Ties are broken in a live discussion on competition night.

We'll rotate which judge starts the tie-breaking discussion.

Competition Categories



Assigned Subject

The subject must be represented in the photo in some way.

The photo may be in color or monochrome.



Monthly Challenge

The subject must be represented in the photo in some way.

The photo may be in color or monochrome.

The photo must be taken in the last month.



Nature

Depicts our world without any sign of human-made artifacts.

Editing must maintain a natural look, and adding elements is not allowed. Also, borders are not allowed.

Banded or tagged animals are allowed. However, tame or wild domesticated animals are not allowed.

Entries may be color or monochrome.



Open Color – Class A & B

Any subject is allowed.

The photo must contain more than one color tone.



Open Monochrome – Class A & B

Any subject is allowed.

A photo is considered monochrome if it is either grayscale or has been toned in one color throughout.

A photo is not considered monochrome if it has been modified by partial toning, multi-toning, or spot coloring.

Annual Competition Categories



Landscape, Cityscape, Waterscapes

Focuses on capturing the natural beauty of the world around us. The photos frequently capture sweeping vistas. The photo may be in color or monochrome.



Creative

A fresh expression of a scene is a new and unique way of seeing and capturing a moment. It can convey an idea or message in a way that is both visually striking and thought-provoking. The photo may be in color or monochrome.



Nature

Depicts our world without any sign of human-made artifacts. Editing must maintain a natural look, and adding elements is not allowed. Also, borders are not allowed. Banded or tagged animals are allowed. However, tame or wild domesticated animals are not allowed. Entries may be color or monochrome shades of gray.



Open Color

Any subject is allowed. The photo must contain more than one color tone.



Open Monochrome

Any subject is allowed. A photo is considered monochrome if it is either grayscale or has been toned in one color throughout. A photo is not considered monochrome if it has been modified by partial toning, multi-toning, or spot coloring.

PSA Comments on Nature Images

Nature Images Must Tell a Story

The Levels of storytelling described below are intended only as a guide to help judges distinguish between weak and strong nature stories

High technical standards are expected

Level 1

- **Descriptive stories**
- These are images that are limited to descriptive information about the subject - shape, color, size and so on - often with the subject in a static position.



Level 2

- **Behaviour and life cycle stories**
- Tell a story about part of its life cycle - flying, stages of life cycle, food gathering



Level 3

- **Same species interactions**
- Same species (mates, parents/offspring, group members, and so on) interact



Level 4

- **Different species interactions**
- The nature story is often more complex because it involves more than one species.



Photographer Effort is not Part of Scoring



It is a slippery slope to include effort when evaluating a photo because *assumptions* must be made.

There is no way to know the actual capture effort

- Effort is highly dependent on photographer, technique & luck
- Maybe it's a composite
- Maybe it's a controlled environment (photo ops, zoo)

Plus, effort also happens outside of photo capture

- Hiking all night uphill to capture the sunrise?
- Using Photoshop for 20 hours?
- Planning and learning for three weeks?



Was this a lot of effort? What effort?

- Two weeks of wondering what is a great 'bricks' photo?
- Reading the camera manual to learn what is possible?
- Waiting for afternoon shade?

How did I capture this?

- Using video mode on my camera.
- One take, one brick destroyed, one video frame used.
- Effort was a lot less than you think!

The best choice is to evaluate on the photographic principles that you see.

Formulating an Educational Comment – Tone Examples

Be Specific

- What and Why

Be Positive

- Suggest improvements, not faults

Aligned to Score

- Unless a perfect score, the judge has improvement ideas



Imagine a photo where the snow is 100% white


Poor – *“It’s all blown out in the snow!”*

The audience can already see this and not much advice on how to improve or why an issue.

Better – *“To make the snow look more natural, you might want to adjust the exposure to capture more detail.”*

What to Say

Start with a positive comment
“I like the photo” needs a “Why” linked to photographic principles



Suggest an improvement for before the shutter was clicked
The subject, composition, exposure, perspective, story ...



If needed, suggest a simple improvement done in post processing
Crop, brightness, contrast, shadow, color, remove ...



Improvement ideas are suggestions, not rules
Use words like Maybe, Might, Consider ...

Consider Evaluating Using Many Photographic Principles

Impact

Impactful photos evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion.



Think of **Impact** as a stool supported by these four legs.

With 4 legs: Hard to knock over
With 3 legs: Still very strong.
With 2 legs: Hard to stand up.
With 1 leg: Easily falls over.
With 0 legs: It's a snapshot.

[Click for more info](#)

Storytelling

The photo's ability to evoke imagination in the viewer's mind

Creativity

A fresh expression of a scene conveying an idea or message.

Composition

Bringing all the visual elements together to express the purpose

Technical Excellence

The quality of the photo itself as it is presented for viewing