Judging Info Session

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club

Info@FlagpolePhotographers.com

Who We Are

- Founded in 1985 in Newtown, CT the Flagpole Photographers Camera Club is dedicated to fostering a community of photographers of all skill levels who are passionate about learning, growing, and sharing their expertise. We are a club where members connect, collaborate, and challenge themselves through monthly meetings, workshops, and events.

- We believe that photography is a powerful tool for capturing the beauty and wonder of the world around us, and we are committed to helping our members develop their skills and vision to create stunning and meaningful photos.

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club

Newtown, Connecticut

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.

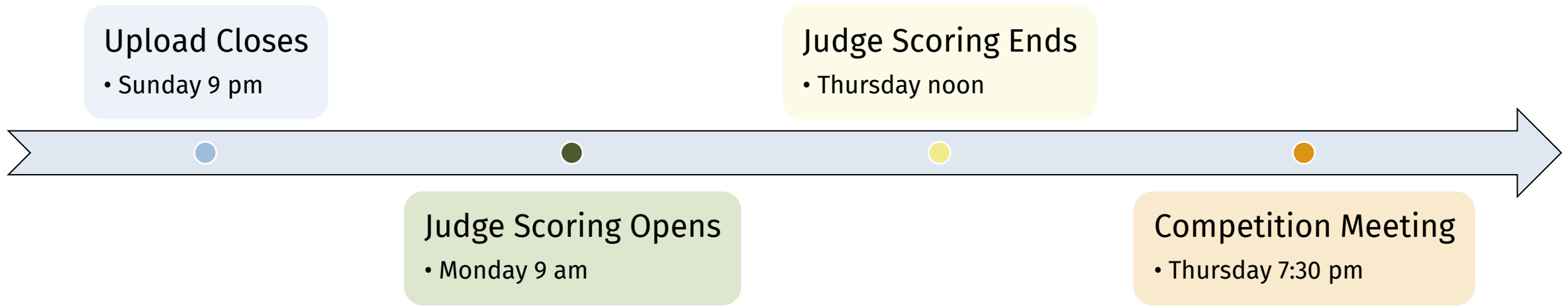Use the remote judging app to enter your scores.

Thursday

Finish scoring by noon.

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

Break ties and comment on photos.
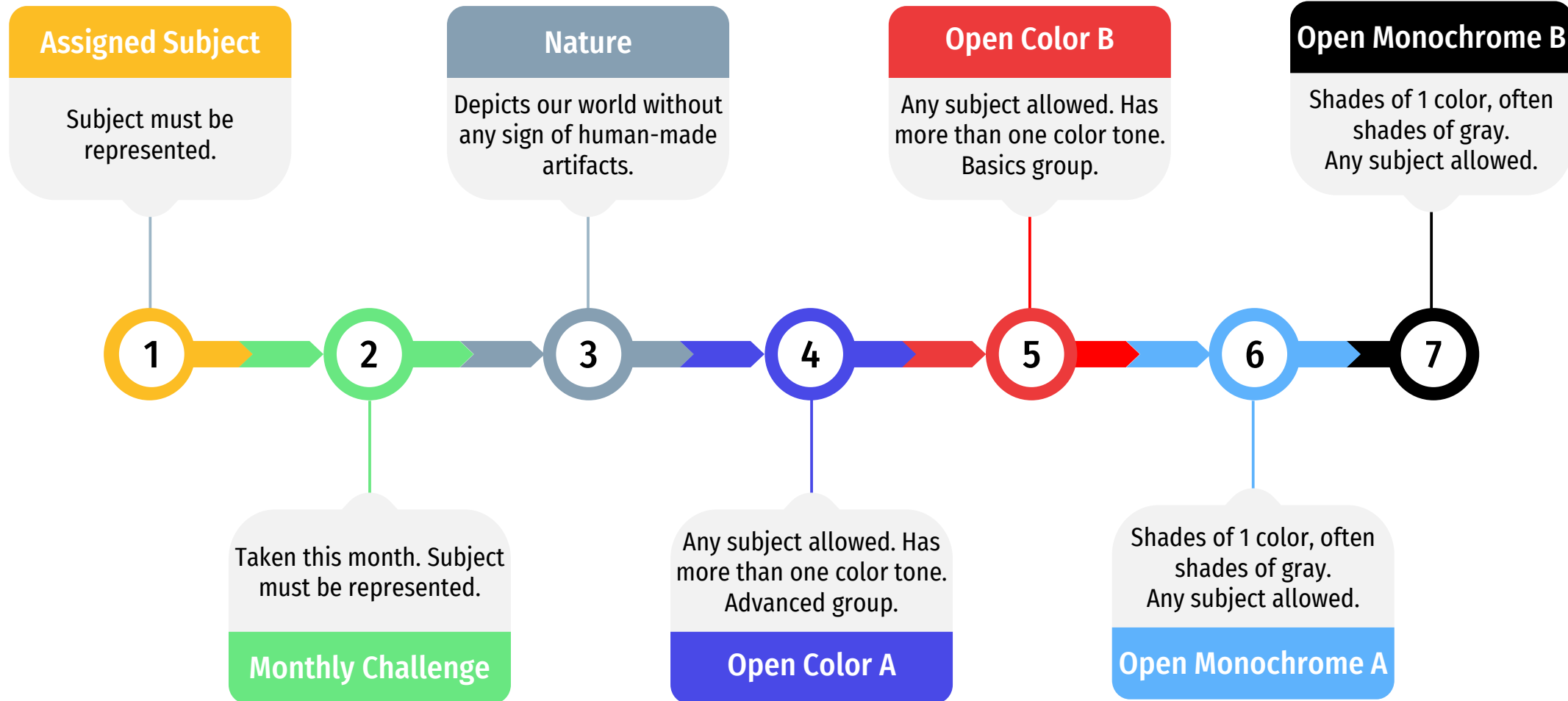
Scoring Photos Online Before Competition Night

Upload Closes
- Sunday 9 pm

Judge Scoring Opens
- Monday 9 am

Judge Scoring Ends
- Thursday noon

Competition Meeting
- Thursday 7:30 pm

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

7:00
Social "Half-Hour"

7:30
Club Business

7:40
Introduce Judges

Around 9:00
Finish

Photo Categories

Assigned Subject
Subject must be represented.

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

Open Color B
Any subject allowed. Has more than one color tone. Basics group.

Open Monochrome B
Shades of 1 color, often shades of gray. Any subject allowed.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7

Taken this month. Subject must be represented.
Monthly Challenge

Any subject allowed. Has more than one color tone. Advanced group.
Open Color A

Shades of 1 color, often shades of gray. Any subject allowed.
Open Monochrome A

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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.

Ties are broken in a live discussion on competition night.

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

FYI - Individual judge scores are not shown.

Scoring Ideas: Consistency and Range

Judge photos primarily against the other entries within the same category.

Establish a consistent internal standard for each category you judge.

Utilize the full scoring range available (6 to 10) to effectively differentiate between competent, good, and exceptional photos within the category.

Consider an '8' as representing a proficient, well-executed photo that meets the category criteria.

Reserve higher scores (9-10) for photos demonstrating exceptional qualities (e.g., impact from storytelling, creativity, composition & technical excellence).

Avoid comparing entries to 'all photos ever seen' or work outside the current competition category.

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.

FYI – Photos must be taken in the last 3 years.

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.
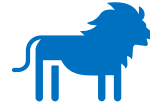
Nature

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.

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FYI – Photos must be taken in the last 3 years.

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

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

High technical standards are expected

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

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