



© Robyn Abrams - Houston, We Have Lift Off!



© Sherry Anderson - A Man's Eye View



© Mark Ashbolt - Hudson Yards



© Michelle Bahash - Home Sweet Home under the Milky Way



© Frank Ballatore - Channeling My Inner Ansel



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



© Doug Bilinski - Sunset Squall



© Barbara Bickler - Knock and Boom!



© Chane Cullens - Lovers, Sharing Food in The Rain



© Rhonda Cullens - If life gives you lemons, take their photos!



© Sharon Eason - Big old wheels



© Bernie Favreau - Chilling



© Jon Gordon - Columbine



© Kasia Gazy - I love music!



© Darrell Harrington - Bow Bridge Reflections



© Ph...

Judges Training

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club - Info@FlagpolePhotographers.com



© Lynn Rogers - Orange Juice



© John Munno - Refiner's Fire



© Hannah Munson - Aerie



© Dave Ober - Avon Fishing Pier



© Dancy O'Donoghue - Simplicity: Angles & Curves



© Lauren Pappas - For the Love of Color



© Patricia Powers - Green Heron in the Swamp



© Sandy Schill - Night Watchman



© Sue Thompson - Cuddles the Red Panda



© Rick Tyrans - Foggy Daybreak



© Paul Vito - Where did my salmon go?



© Ken Welch - Sleeping Beauty



© Michelle Williams - Cosmos



Founded in 1985 in Newtown, Connecticut. 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.



Flagpole Photographers Camera Club



Newtown,
Connecticut



Agenda

What we are covering today

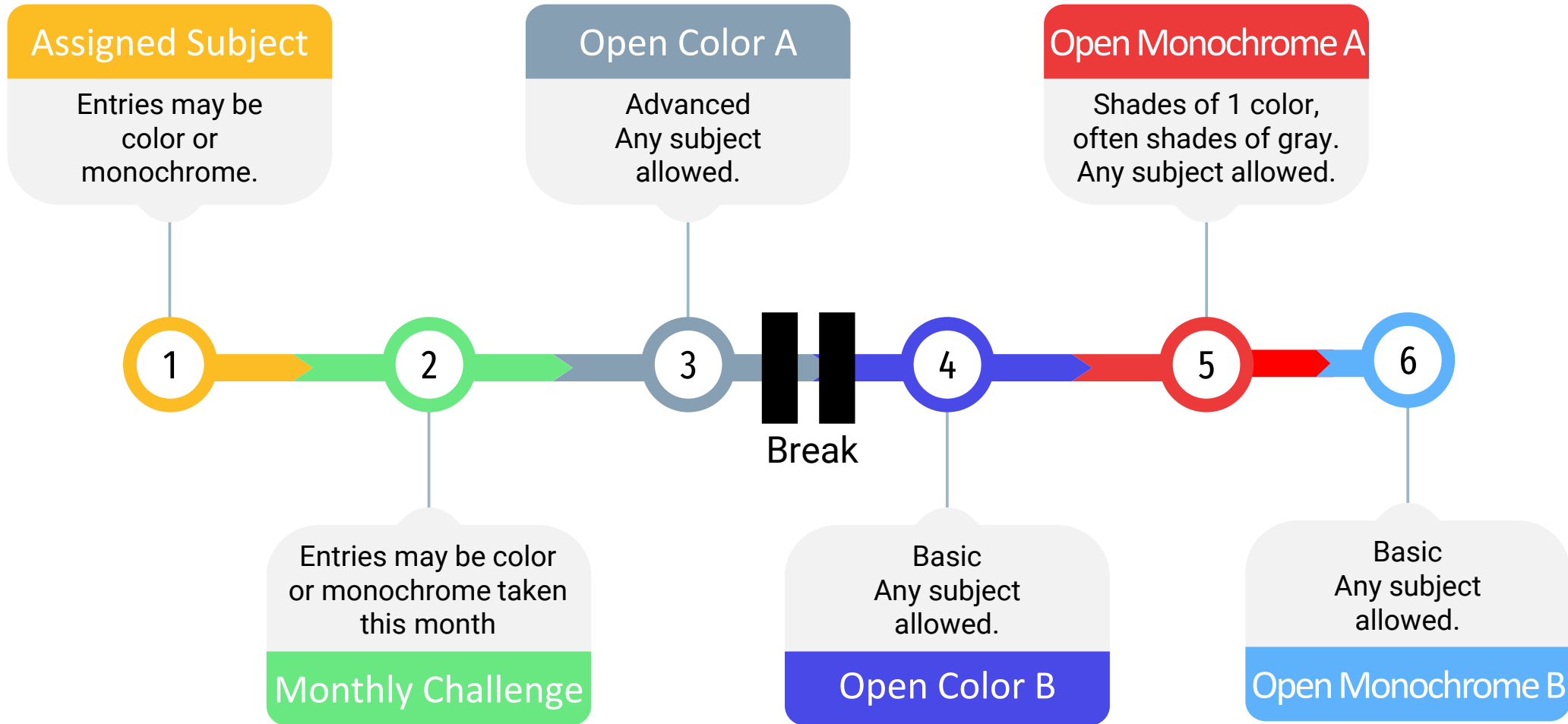
- 1. Competition Night**
2. Judging Setup
3. Judging Software

Thursday - starts at 7 pm eastern, generally finishes around 9 pm

Timeline



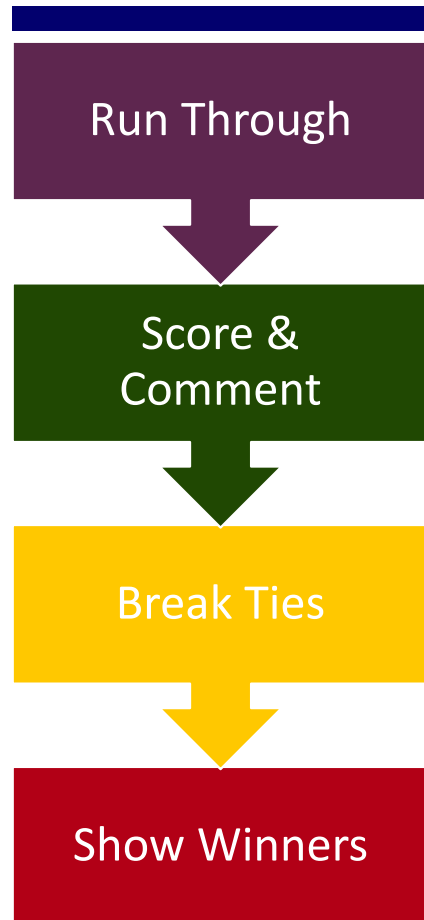
Photo Categories



Meetings Are Recorded

The meeting will be recorded and posted on FlagpolePhotographers.com

Competition Summary



Scoring Range

- 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10

Comments on every photo

- Rotating judge for the next photo

Deciding on the top 3 photos

- Breaking ties

Comments – What to Say


Start with a positive comment



Think about improvements before the shutter clicks.
The subject, framing, lighting, perspective, background ...



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



Be cautious of making assumptions about
the legitimacy of items in the photo

Comments – What to Avoid & Removing Personal Bias



Avoid words like Always, Never, Must ...



Avoid saying - I've seen this photo before, I've taken this photo, I know the location, I love cat photos ...



Avoid complex post-processing suggestions



Rarely should more than one judge comment on a photo



Don't simply describe a photo back to the audience

Previewing Photos to Enhance Comments

With only a few seconds after seeing the photo to provide a comment is hard.

We provide early access to the photos to help.

Watch for an email on what photos you provide verbal comments for.

Scoring is live Thursday night



View the photos at <https://www.flagpolephotographers.com/judge-view>



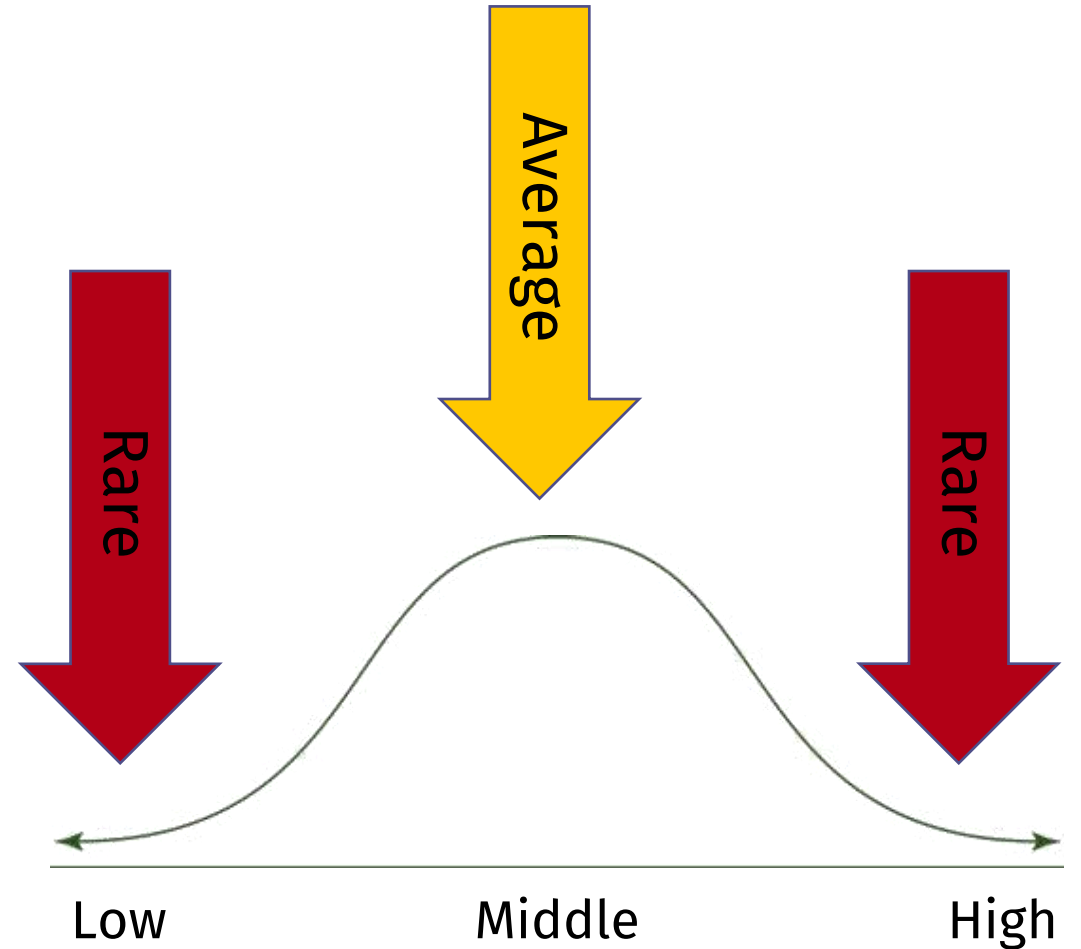
Password for March 2022 is **2974**



What Is the Role of a Photo's Score?

Ranking – First, Second, Third ...

- Score range does not matter – 6 to 10, 1 to 10, 10 to 30 ...
- Class does not matter – beginner, advanced, master ...



Deciding on a Score

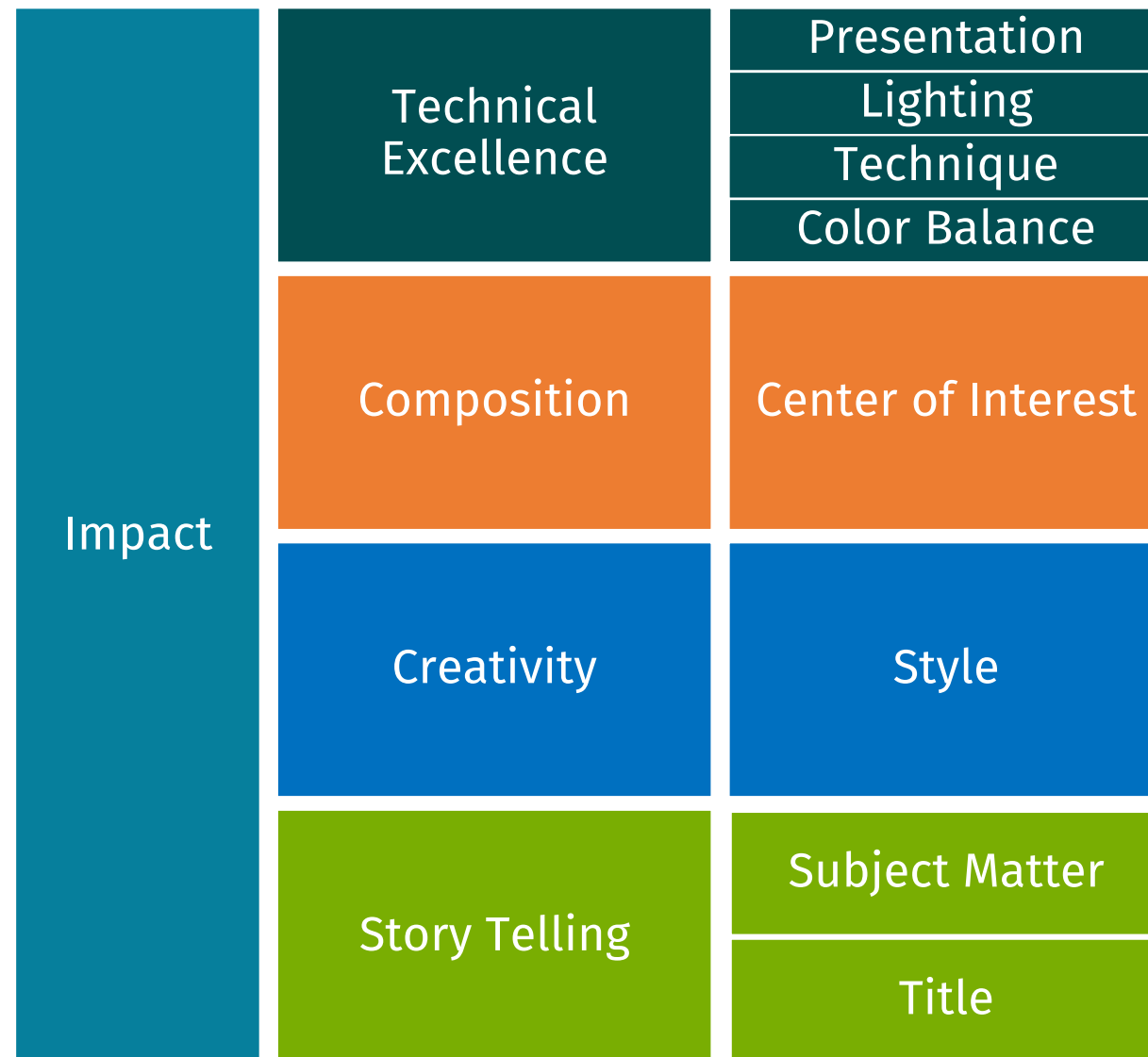


Base the score on the merit of that individual photo. In this, and only this, single category.



Use consistent reasoning in evaluating photos.

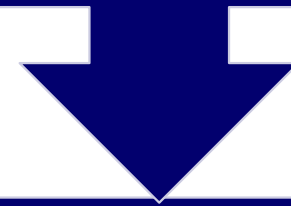
Consider **parts** of “The 12 Elements of a Merit Image” from Professional Photographers of America.



The Elements of an Excellent Photo - Summary

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|--|
| Impact | Technical Excellence | Presentation Lighting Technique Color Balance |
| | Composition | Center of Interest |
| | Creativity | Style |
| | Story Telling | Subject Matter Title |

Each Element is
important on its
own



The more Elements
you use, the
stronger your photo
becomes

Professional Photographer Association, The 12 Elements of a Merit photo – First 6

Impact - The sense one gets upon viewing a photo for the first time



- Impactful photos evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion
- There can be impact in any of these 12 elements
- This is the eye candy, the wow factor. It is the reason we love the photo. It moves us. We look inwards.

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



- Lighting, focus, exposure, camera motion, printing, mounting, color, retouching, manipulation ...
- The nuts and bolts of photography. Be wary of going too far with adjustments
- It's what makes you a pro. Lack of it can ruin a great scene.

Creativity - Fresh expression of imagination to convey an idea, message or thought



- It's looking at an ordinary subject and finding an extraordinary way to portray it
- In photographic competitions, you may get bonus points for creativity and originality
- There are classic photos we have all seen, use creativity to differentiate yourself

Style - A specific genre or recognizable characteristic to showcase an artist



- Has a positive impact when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other
- Your work can be anything from traditional to surreal, candid to abstract, hard or soft light
- Use light or color in a distinct way, a blue tone in monochrome, high saturation, consistent angle

Composition - Bringing all the visual elements together to express the photo's purpose



- Holds the viewer in the photo and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends
- Do you follow the standard rules of composition? When do you break them to enhance the photo?
- Don't break the rules just to be cool, only use it if it enhances the photo

Presentation - Affects a photo by giving it a finished look



- The mats and borders used should support and enhance the photo, not distract from it
- Applying digital borders, customized for each photo, can either make or break your photo
- Making sure there is no dust (digital or analog) or scratches showing on the photo

Professional Photographer Association, The 12 Elements of a Merit photo – Last 6

Color Balance - Color tones working together enhance the emotional appeal



- Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect
- Are your colors and corrections pleasing to the eye? Do they look like they belong together?
- Color balance can be used to supply a structure to a photo

Center of Interest - The point or points where the viewer should stop as they view the photo



- Can be subtle or strong, regardless, they allow the eyes to pause in preconceived areas
- Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest (scene is the center)
- Or there may be two, primary and secondary. Two primary centers of interests may confuse the viewer.

Lighting - Defines dimension, shape and roundness in a photo



- The strength of your subjects should be portrayed by the strong lighting choices you utilize
- Whether the light applied is artificial, natural or added in post-processing, proper use enhances a photo
- Light also impacts the color of a photo because in low light human perception switches to monochrome

Subject Matter – Should always be appropriate to the story being told in a photo



- Keep it interesting and appropriate. Pretty doesn't mean it's right.
- Subject matter is sometimes linked to the competition category or photo title
- Not everyone will inherently understand your subject, use additional elements to help the viewer

Technique - The approach or perspective used to create the photo



- Focus, posing, angle, capture ... are part of the technique applied to a photo
- Including filters, lens choice, a certain style such as forced perspective
- Move, change your perspective, learn new ways to control what you capture

Storytelling - The photo's ability to evoke imagination



- Take a step back to see what kind of stories your photos can create
- One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might create their own message or story
- Take a step back and look at the photo as if it is your first time, find the story and make it noticeable



Agenda

What we are covering next

1. Competition Night
- 2. Judging Setup**
3. Judging Software

Judge Setup Requires Two Screens

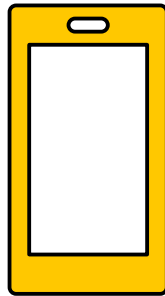
Most common setup



PC for **web meeting** to view photos & talk.

Camera and mic
1920 x 1080 resolution or ↑

Install web meeting software from <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>



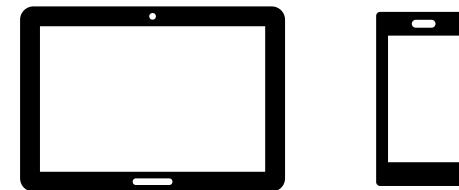
Phone or Tablet for **scorepad**

No software to install. Uses browser

Alternate setups



Computer with two screens



Large tablet plus a phone

Judge Training Example - Sep 26, 2020

Assigned Subject "Nature"

Monthly Challenge is "Barns"

Open Color - Class A

Number of photos **14**

Scored photos **0**



1. RUN-THOUGH

2. SCORE PHOTOS

3. RESOLVE TIES

4. SHOW WINNERS

Live Training

Fire up your scorepad and let's score some photos and break some ties!



Agenda

What we are covering next

1. Competition Night
2. Judging Setup
- 3. Judging Software**

Scorepad page is used to send scores to the live competition

Runs in a browser

Judge #

Judging Scorepad Judge 1 Chane Cullens

6 6½ 7 7½ 8

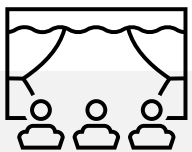
8½ 9 9½ 10

SKIP

8½

Make a typo,
just ask to
score again

Acknowledgement
visible for 10 seconds



Home page of competition web app

Flagpole Photographers Competition [Event](#) [Scoring Role](#)

Judge Training Example - Sep 26, 2020

Assigned Subject "Nature" Monthly Challenge is "Barns" Open Color - Class A Open Color - Class B Open Monochrome - Class A Open Monochrome - Class B

Number of photos **25** --- Scored photos **22**

1. RUN-THOUGH

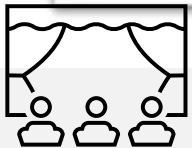
2. SCORE PHOTOS

3. RESOLVE TIES

4. SHOW WINNERS

Categories

Four steps for each category



Quick run-through to preview all photos

Flagpole Photographers Competition [Event](#) [Scoring Role](#)

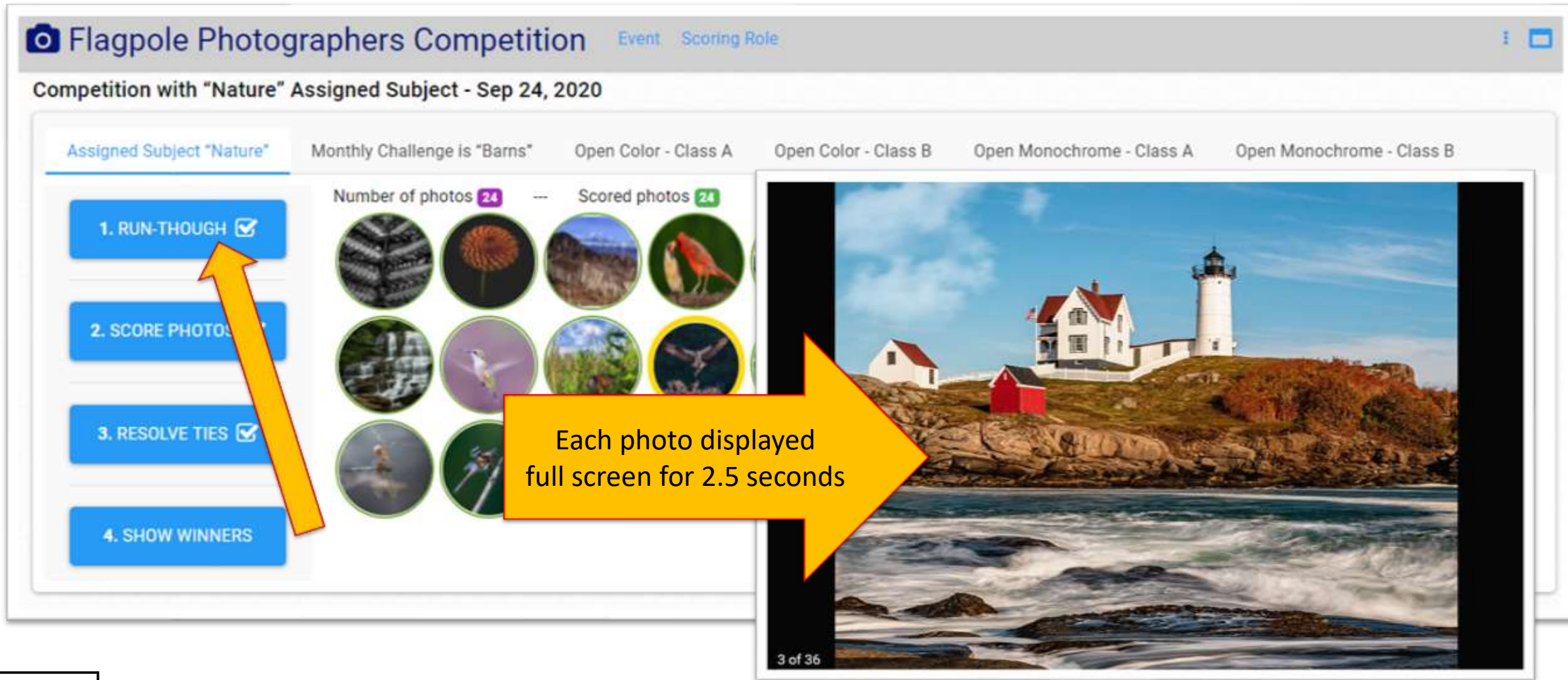
Competition with "Nature" Assigned Subject - Sep 24, 2020

Assigned Subject "Nature" Monthly Challenge is "Barns" Open Color - Class A Open Color - Class B Open Monochrome - Class A Open Monochrome - Class B

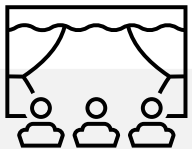
Number of photos **24** — Scored photos **24**

1. RUN-THOUGH
2. SCORE PHOTOS
3. RESOLVE TIES
4. SHOW WINNERS

Each photo displayed full screen for 2.5 seconds

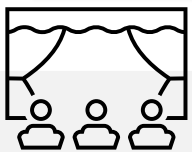


The screenshot shows the competition interface. On the left, there are four blue buttons: '1. RUN-THOUGH' (checked), '2. SCORE PHOTOS', '3. RESOLVE TIES' (checked), and '4. SHOW WINNERS'. In the center, there is a grid of 24 circular photo thumbnails. A yellow arrow points from the '1. RUN-THOUGH' button to the grid. To the right, a large yellow arrow points from the grid to a full-screen preview of a photo showing a lighthouse on a rocky shore with waves. The preview includes a '3 of 36' indicator at the bottom left.



Score photos live using judge's scorepad

The screenshot shows a web interface for a photo competition. At the top, it says "2020 TOPS in CT Competition" with sub-links for "Event", "Scoring Role", and "Contest". Below that is "Judges Demo for 2020 TOPS in Connecticut - Nov 1, 2020". There are category tabs: "Cityscape", "Creative", "Landscape", "Monochrome", and "Nature". On the left, a vertical menu has four blue buttons: "1. RUN-THROUGH" (checked), "2. SCORE PHOTOS" (checked), "3. RESOLVE DISPUTES", and "4. SHOW WINNERS". A large yellow arrow points from "2. SCORE PHOTOS" towards the main interface. The main area shows a grid of 36 small circular photo thumbnails. A large yellow arrow points from the text "Each photo displayed full screen while scoring" to a large, full-screen preview of a lighthouse on a cliff. A smaller yellow arrow points from the text "Scores arrived blue indicator" to a small blue vertical bar on the left side of the full-screen photo.



Break ties with a live discussion

Flagpole Photographers

Choose 1 photo for third place. Need to break a 2 way tie for third place.

Competition with "Nature" As

Assigned Subject "Nature"

2. SCORE PHOTOS

3. RESOLVE TIES

4. SHOW WINNERS

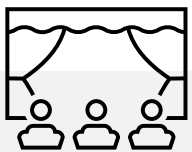
Bad Luck

I Need An Umbrella!

If needed, all tied photos displayed

Option to show full screen

Option to remove photo



Display 3rd, 2nd and 1st places. Winners will discuss their photo.



Second - Rhonda Cullens - Driven to Ride

