Judges Training

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club - Info@FlagpolePhotographers.com

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club

Newtown, Connecticut

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.

Agenda

1. Competition Night

2. Judging Setup

3. Judging Software

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

Timeline

7:00
Social "Half-Hour"

↓

7:30
Club Business

↓

7:45
Introduce Judges and Score Photos

Photo Categories

Assigned Subject
Entries may be color or monochrome.

Comments Only
No scoring. Judges only comment.

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

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Entries may be color or monochrome taken this month
Monthly Challenge

Any subject allowed.
Open Color
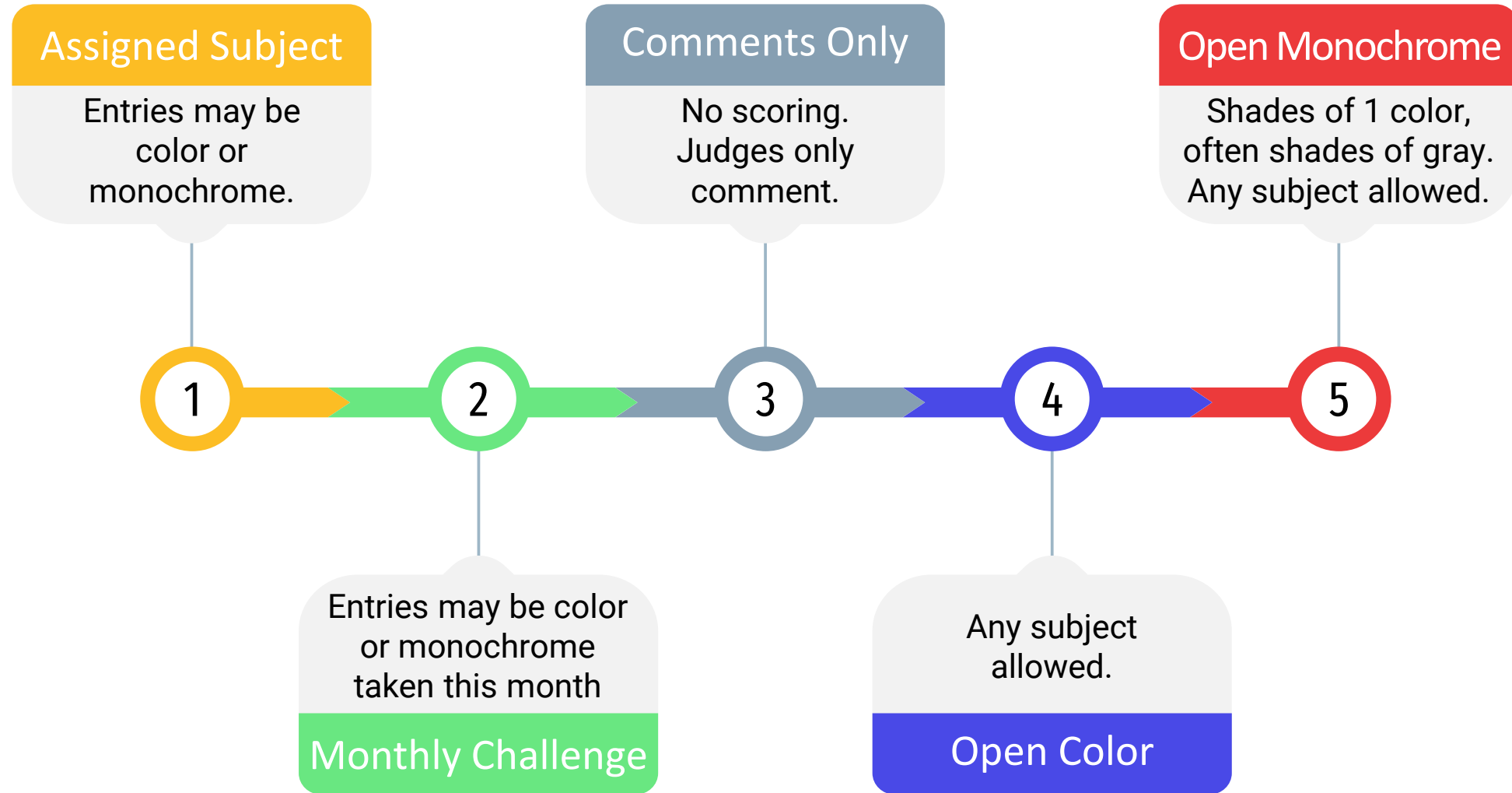
Meetings Are Recorded

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

Deciding on a Score

Strive to remove personal bias, such as, subject, specific technique, perceived difficulty or location knowledge.
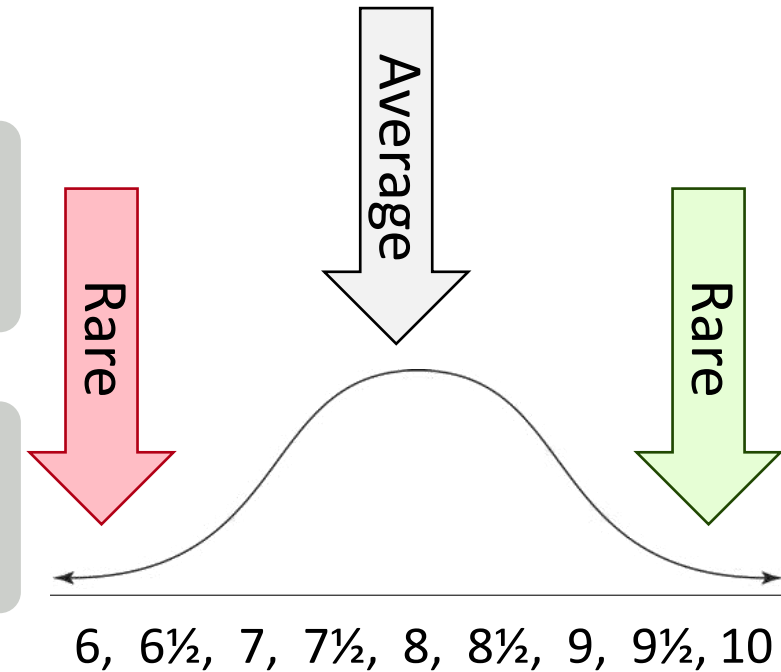
Use the entire scoring scale (6 to 10 by half points) effectively to differentiate photos.

Base the score on the merit of that individual photo.

Use consistent reasoning in evaluating photos. Consider *The 12 Elements of a Merit Image* from Professional Photographers of America.

Average

Rare

Rare

6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10

Impact, Technical Excellence, Creativity, Style, Composition, Presentation, Color Harmony, Center of Interest, Lighting, Subject Matter, Technique, Storytelling

Professional Photographer Association, The 12 Elements of a Merit Image – 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 image

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 Image – Last 6

Color Harmony - Color tones working together enhance the emotional appeal

- Color harmony 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 harmony 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

Commenting on a Photo (someone's pride and joy)

Overall

We ask for a short a positive comment on what makes it good, followed by a short suggestion how to strengthen it.

This is not about stating a fault, it is about finding improvement ideas.

Try to be consistent between your comments and your score. Not "love it" for a "6.5".

What to Say

Use words like May, Might, Consider …

Think about before the shutter click - perspective, framing, lighting, background …

Be cautious of making assumptions about the legitimacy of elements in the photo.

What to Avoid

Avoid works like Always, Never, Must, Should …

Very rarely should more than one judge comment on a photo.

Don't simply describe each photograph back to the audience.

Avoid saying – I've seen this photo before, I've taken this photo, I know the location, I love cats …

Please don't comment on the title's spelling, grammar or punctuation.

Try to avoid complex post-processing suggestions.

Agenda

What we are covering next

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

Typical Judge Setup

1. Laptop or Desktop
To view the meeting & photos
Plus, a camera & microphone
Resolution at least 1920 x 1080
Install Webex app

2. Phone or Tablet
For scoring photos
in device web browser
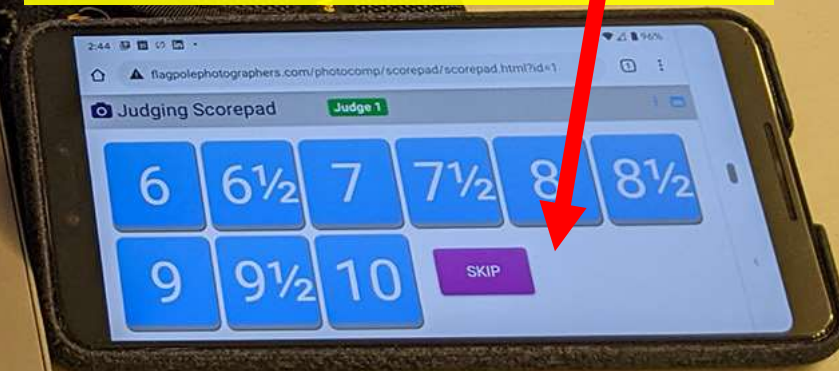
Judging Scorepad   Judge 1

6	6½	7	7½	8	8½
9	9½	10	SKIP		

FlagpolePhotographers.com

Live Training

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

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Scorepad page is used to send scores to the live competition

Runs in a browser

Judge #

Make a typo, just ask to score again

Judging Scorepad Judge 1 Chane Cullens

6	6½	7	7½	8
8½	9	9½	10	SKIP

8½

Acknowledgement visible for 10 seconds
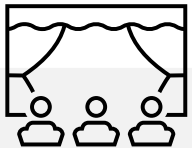
Home page of competition web app
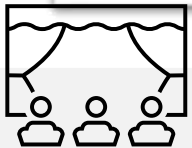
Quick run-through to preview all photos
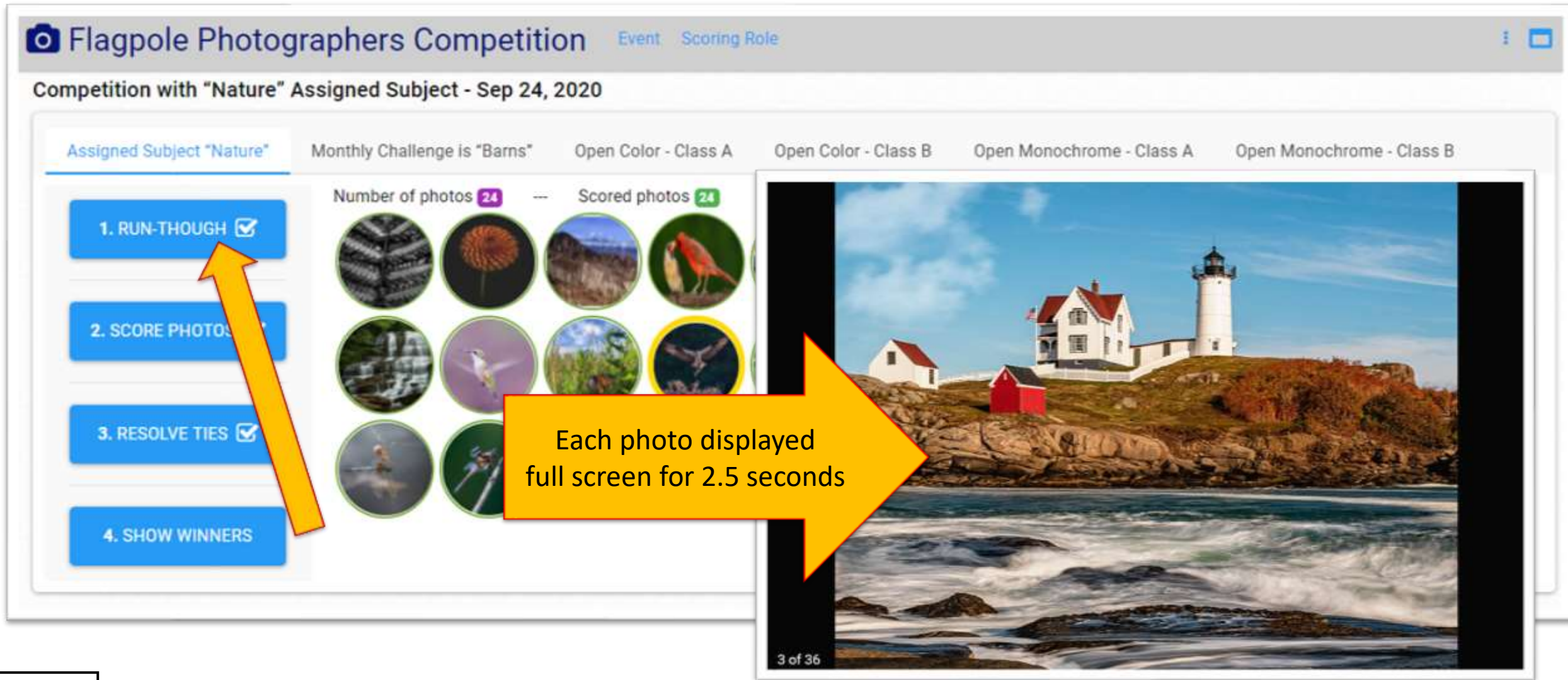
Each photo displayed
full screen for 2.5 seconds
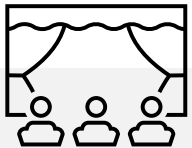
Score photos live using judge's scorepad

Each photo displayed full screen while scoring

Scores arrived blue indicator
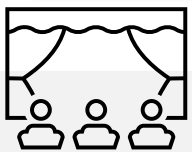
Break ties with a live discussion

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

Place, Name, Title