



© Robyn Abrams - Houston, We Have Lift Off!



© Sherry Anderson - A Man's Eye View



© Mark Ashbolt - Hudson Yards



© Michelle Bellini - Home Sweet Home under the Milky Way



© Frank Ballatore - Channeling My Inner Ansel



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



© Doug Bilinski - Sunset Squall



© Thomas Bricker - Knock and Bored



© Chane Cullens - Lovers, Sharing Food in The Rain



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



© 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](mailto: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 Walsh - 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

# Competition Meetings Are Recorded

The meeting will be recorded and posted on [FlagpolePhotographers.com](http://FlagpolePhotographers.com)



# Agenda

What we are covering today

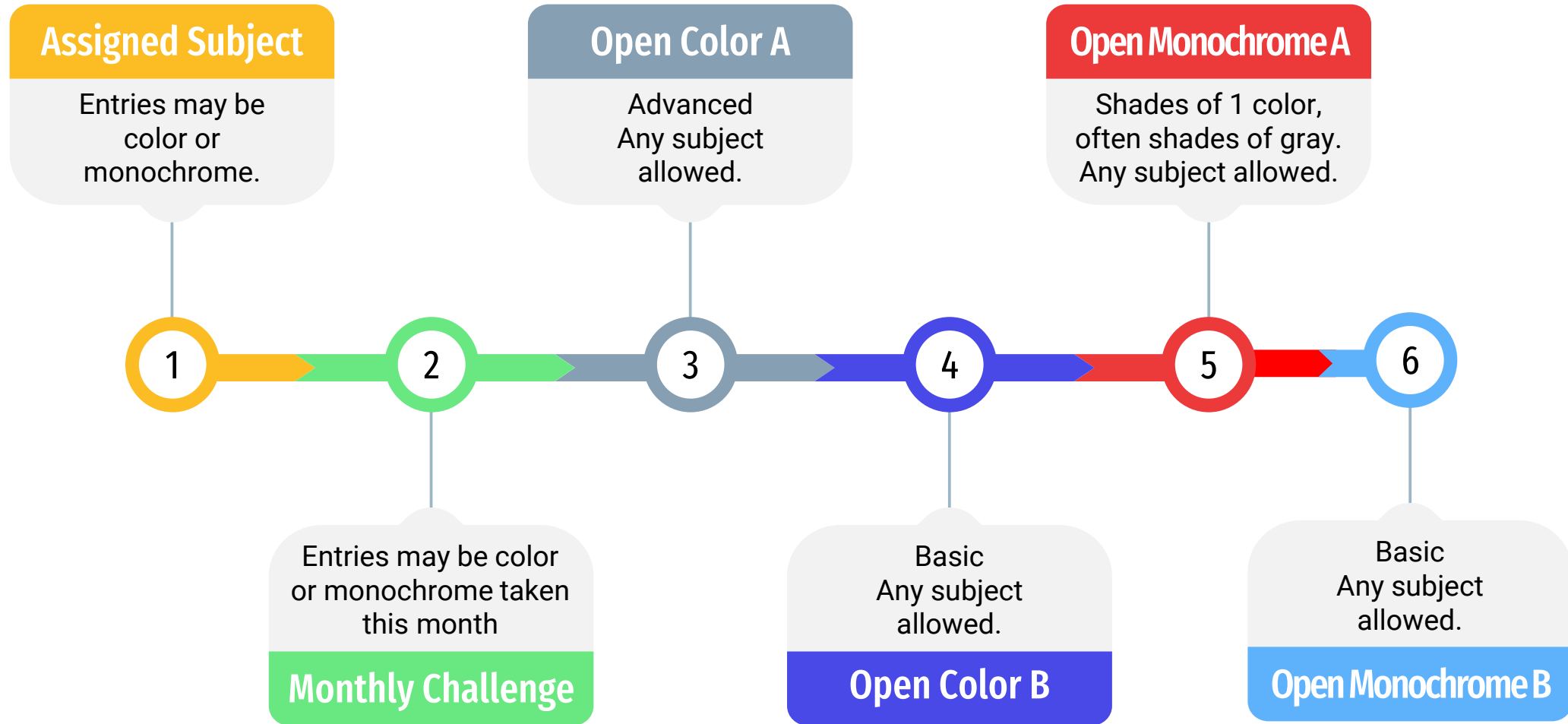
- 1. Competition Night**
2. Judging Setup
3. Judging Software

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

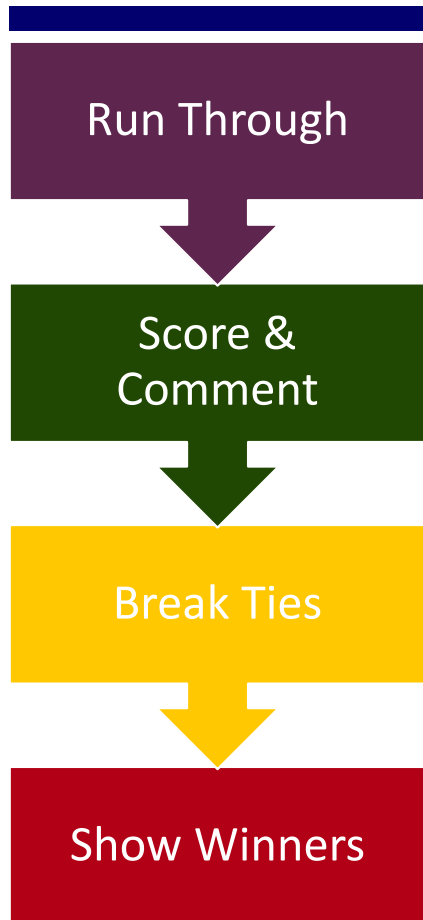
## Timeline



## Photo Categories



# Competition Summary



## Scoring Range

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

## Comments on every photo

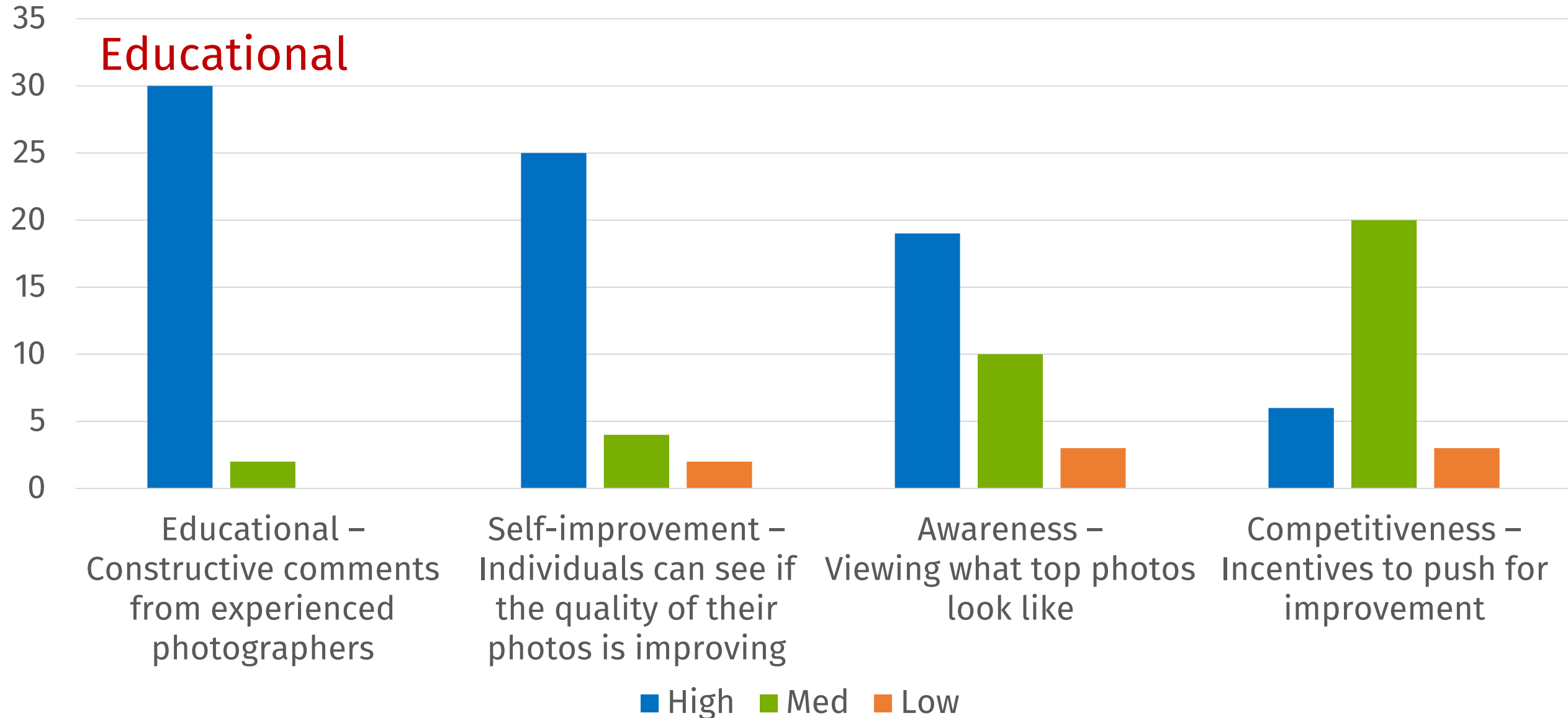
- Rotating judge for the next photo

## Deciding on the top 3 photos

- Breaking ties, talk among yourselves
- Rotating who starts the conversation

# Why Do Camera Clubs Have Competitions?

Source: 34 NECCC clubs,  
November 2021



# Formulating an Educational Comment

## Be Specific

- What and Why

## Be Positive

- Suggest improvements,  
**not faults**


## Aligned to Score

- Unless a top score, the judge has comments for improvement




# Comments – What to Say

Start with a positive comment  
“I like the photo” must have a “Why”



Think about improvements before the shutter clicks.  
The subject, composition, lighting, perspective, story ...  
Please never mention the name of a post processing tool



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

# Comments – What to Avoid & Removing Personal Bias




Avoid words like Always, Never, Must ...  
Comments are suggestions not rules




Remove personal bias **by not saying** ...  
I've seen this photo before, I know the location, I love cat photos, I don't do abstract ...



Avoid complex post-processing suggestions  
Since they exclude half of the audience



Don't simply describe a photo back to the audience  
There is no value since everyone can already see the photo



Rarely should more than one judge comment on a photo  
Avoid confusing the audience and avoid judge squabbling

# Previewing Photos to Enhance Comments

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

We provide early access to the photos to help.

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

Scoring and Comments are live on Thursday night



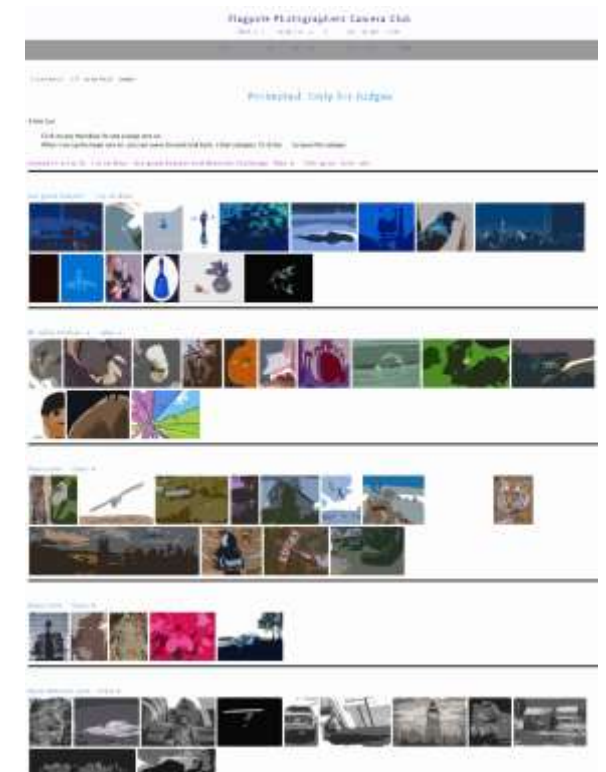
View the photos at <https://www.flagpolephotographers.com/judge-view>



Password is in your email. It is 4 digits.



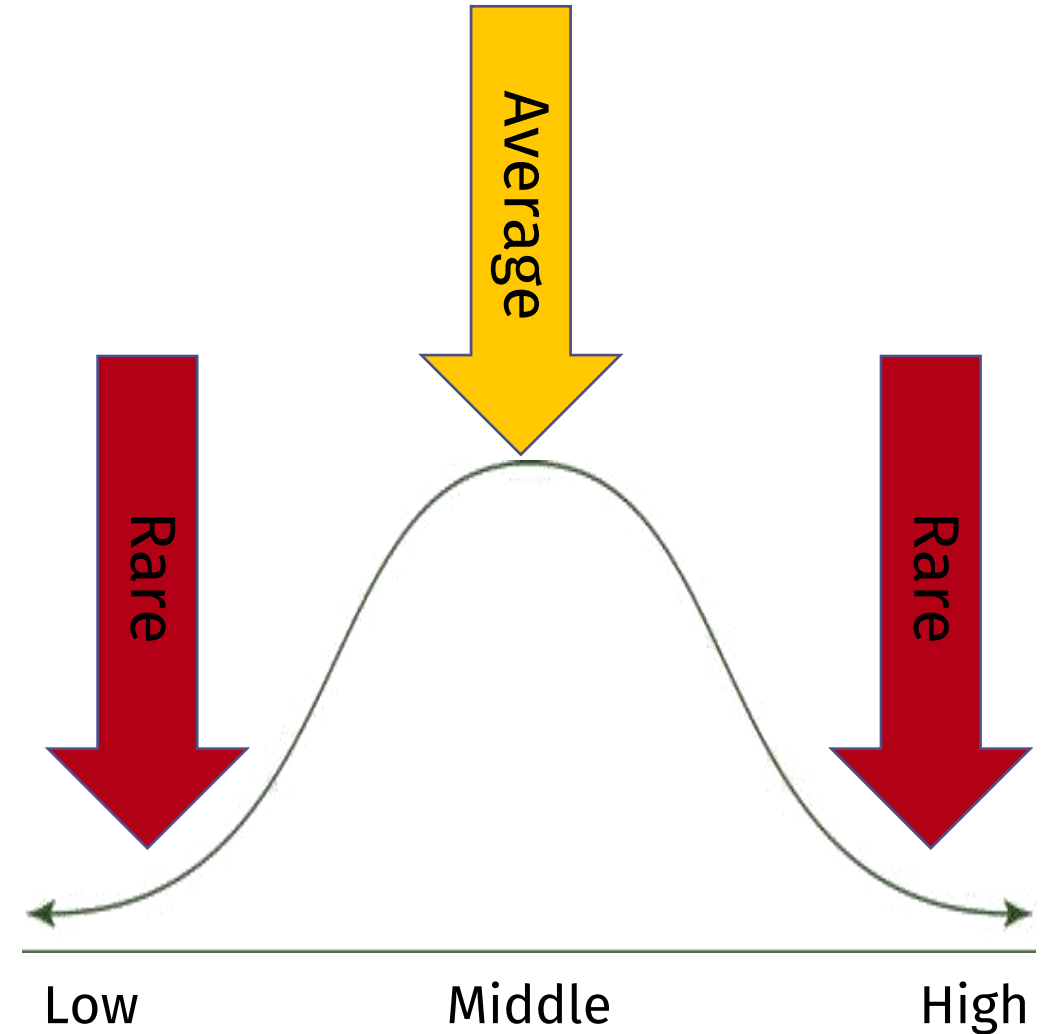
Available starting the **Monday** before competition



# What Is the Role of a Photo's Score?

Scoring  
– Is independent of category

- In a 6 to 10 range, the average is 8
- There is little value is differentiated between a 6.0, 6.5 and 7.0. Just use 7.0
- Average is 8. You'll probably have half of your scores in the 7.5, 8.0 and 8.5 range
- Scoring allows awarding the top three photos



# 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  
Provides the ranking order



Understand the category's requirements  
Nature, monochrome, assigned subject ...

# Using a Photo's Impact to Influence Commenting & Scoring



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

With 4 legs: Very strong.  
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

## Creativity

The 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



# Agenda

What we are covering next

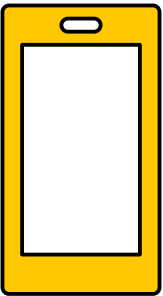
1. Competition Night
- 2. Judging Setup**
3. Judging Software

# Judge Setup Requires Two Screens

## Most common setup

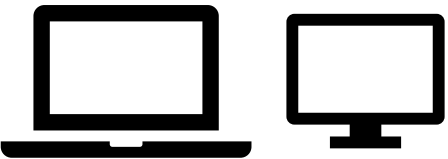


**Camera and mic  
1920 x 1080  
resolution or higher**

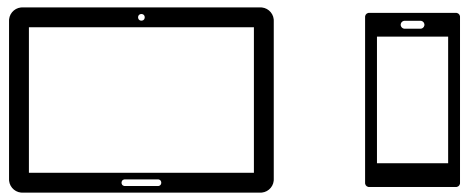


**Phone or  
Tablet for  
scorepad**  
  
No software to  
install. Uses web  
browser

## 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 #

Runs in a browser

Judge #

Judging Scorepad Judge 1 Chane Cullens

6 6½ 7 7½ 8

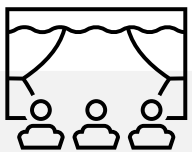
8½ 9 9½ 10

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

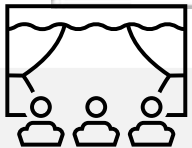
2. SCORE PHOTOS

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

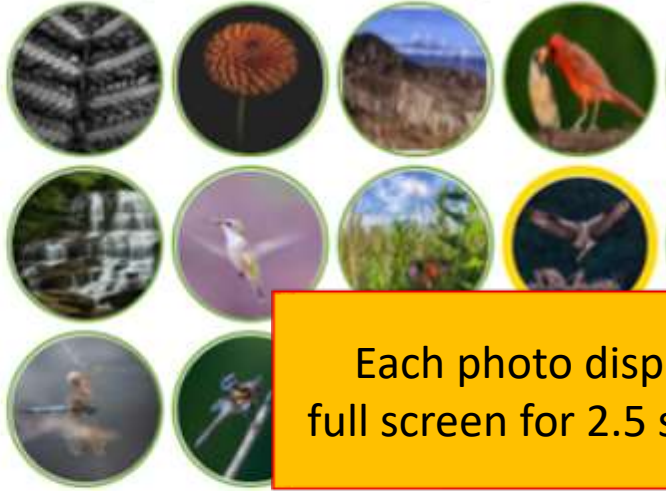
1. RUN-THOUGH

2. SCORE PHOTOS


3. RESOLVE TIES

4. SHOW WINNERS

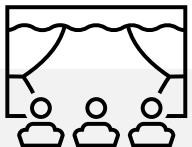
Number of photos **24** — Scored photos **24**



Each photo displayed full screen for 2.5 seconds

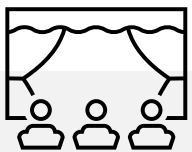


3 of 36



# Score photos live using judge's scorepad

The screenshot shows a web interface for the "2020 TOPS in CT Competition". The main heading is "Judges Demo for 2020 TOPS in Connecticut - Nov 1, 2020". Below this, there are category tabs: "Cityscape", "Creative", "Landscape", "Monochrome", and "Nature". On the left, a vertical menu contains four blue buttons: "1. RUN-THROUGH" (checked), "2. SCORE PHOTOS" (checked), "3. RESOLVE DISPUTES", and "4. SHOW WINNERS". A large yellow arrow points from the "2. SCORE PHOTOS" button towards the center. In the center, a grid of 12 circular photo thumbnails is displayed, with a purple badge above it indicating "Number of photos 36". A large yellow arrow points from the text "Each photo displayed full screen while scoring" to a full-screen view 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

Competition with "Nature" As

Assigned Subject "Nature"



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

3RD

2. SCORE PHOTOS

3. RESOLVE TIES

4. SHOW WINNERS



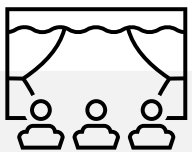
Bad Luck

I Need An Umbrella!

If needed, all tied photos displayed

Option to show full screen

Option to remove photo



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

