

General Guidelines for Submitting Images

What applies in all categories:

- ▶ All submissions must originate with a photographic image that was created by the club member.
- ▶ Club members should strive to achieve these elements in their images; proper lighting, effective composition, and technical excellence both in-camera and post processing.
- ▶ Monochrome, black and white, and gray scale images.
- ▶ Multiple exposures of the same scene stacked for the purposes of HDR, increasing the depth-of-field, or stitching together several images to create a panoramic image.
- ▶ **Basic Adjustments** allowed in all categories include:
 - **Exposure** to adjust the brightness of an image.
 - **Contrast** to increase the difference between light and dark areas.
 - **Brightness** to affect the overall lightness or darkness of the image.
 - **White Balance** to adjust color temperature (warm/cool tones).
 - **Saturation and Vibrance** to modify the intensity of color.
 - **Sharpness** to enhance fine details to make the edges appear sharper.
 - **Clarity** to enhance sharpness and definition in the midtones
 - **Texture** to enhance surface texture and/or soften finer details.
 - **Dehaze** to remove atmospheric haze and boost color saturation.
 - **Cropping, Straightening, and Perspective Correction** to improve composition and alignment.
 - **Removal or Correction of Elements added by the Camera or Lens**, including dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
 - **Highlights & Shadows** to recover details in the brightest and darkest areas
 - **Dodging and Burning** to brighten or darken areas.
 - **Conversion** to grayscale, black and white, and monochrome.

Elements of an Image:

- ▶ All aspects of an image must be the photographer's own with one exception (noted in the bullet below)
- ▶ **Creative Category** allows elements that may not have been created by the club member but rather were generated by an AI function or by other means.
- ▶ Retain the **Exif/meta data** in the saved image.
- ▶ No copyrighted element can be used in an image without permission of the copyright holder.
- ▶ Do not include an image that was taken by another person.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Generated Elements:

- ▶ AI generated elements that are the result of a word prompt or similar means of generating or manipulating elements from applications such as Chat GPT, CoPilot, Gemini, etc. only allowed in the **Creative Category**.
- ▶ AI features in Photoshop, Lightroom, Topaz, and other similar applications are allowed for basic adjustments.

Basic Adjustments:

- ▶ Basic adjustments to digital images refer to the fundamental edits made to enhance an image's quality while maintaining its natural look. Basic adjustments improve the overall visual impact of an image by correcting exposure, color, sharpness, and composition.
- ▶ Adding or removing elements in the image are allowed only in the **Open** and **Creative Categories**.
- ▶ In the **Open Category**, sky replacement is allowed only if the sky used was created by the club member.
- ▶ **Modifications which create, add or remove elements are only allowed in the Creative Category.**

Image Size:

- ▶ All submitted images must be saved as jpg (jpeg) files.
- ▶ Horizontal (Landscape oriented) images must be sized at 1920 pixels wide.
- ▶ Vertical (Portrait oriented) images must be sized at 1080 pixels high.

File Name Syntax:

- ▶ The file name of the image **must** follow this format.
- ▶ Two-character alpha abbreviation of the category < hyphen> image title <hyphen> Photographer first name <space> Photographer last name. Example: Op-Summer on the Beach-John Doe
- ▶ The valid categories and 2-character abbreviations (any variation of capitalization and small font allowed) are:
 - Open: Op, OP, op
 - Creative: Cr, CR, cr
 - Travel: Tr, TR, tr
 - Nature: Na, NA, na
 - People: Pe, PE, pe
 - Landscape: La, LA, la
 - Photojournalism: Pj, PJ, pj
 - Assigned Subject: As, AS, as
 - Recent: Re, RE, re
- ▶ The title of the image cannot contain any hyphens.
- ▶ The file name has a 260-character limitation.