

Competition Rules and Process – Atlanta Photographic Society

Updated: 2023-02-04 Jim Harrison & Darryl Neill

Competition Rules

All members in good standing who have paid their annual dues may enter APS competitions. All images entered (prints or digital) must be exposed and manipulated (if applicable) by the entrant. Professional processing, printing and mounting are acceptable. Previously entered images in regular competitions are allowed in subsequent regular competitions provided they have not previously received a ribbon in any category (*subject to the limits described below*).

All entries in regular competitions are critiqued by a judge in 3 distinct categories:

Monochrome Prints, Color Prints & Digital. Members may enter up to 3 images per category (*subject to the limits described below*). The entry fee is \$2.00 per category (or \$30 per year - includes all 10 regular competitions).

The number of entries per member for each monthly competition are limited as follows:

- **Open Competitions - 6 images maximum** per member (3 images maximum per category (Mono, Color or Digital)).
- **Theme Competitions - 6 images maximum** per member (3 images maximum per category (Mono, Color or Digital)).

The number of times a particular image can be entered are limited as follows:

- Images which win a ribbon in any category are not eligible for entry again in any category.
- The same image cannot be entered in consecutive months.
- The same image can be entered no more than 2 times per year.

Print entries must be mounted but not framed or glassed. Matting is optional. Mounts must not exceed 16" x 20" (or 320 sq. in.) x 3/8" thick. The minimum mount size is 11" x 14" (or 154 sq. in.); the minimum image size is 6" x 10" (or 60 sq. in.). **All prints must carry a title, the photographer's name, and an arrow pointing to the top of the image on the back of the mount** (preferably in the lower left-hand corner). No writing or decoration is allowed on the front of the entry except the title of the image, if desired. Print entries may be conventional prints from film or digital ink prints.

Panoramas are eligible and encouraged for regular competitions (theme and open): Max size including mat – 13x38 (or ~ 494 sq in). (Note: Standard panorama paper sizes include 8.5x25 and 13x38 inches).

Digital Entry Specifications (and Digital Version of Print Entries)- 1920 pixels max (wide or tall), resolution of 300 dpi, and be in the jpg format with a #8 compression. The digital entries' file name must include the title and the photographer's name (Example: Flower by John Doe) and are to be submitted ahead of time via the Member's Page of the APS Website. The deadline for submissions is 12 midnight the Monday before competition day. Please note that a digital version of all print entries is required to be submitted before the deadline.

Any entry may be disqualified when, in the opinion of the competition chairperson or the judge, the image is not in good taste, does not conform to the rules or does not fit the theme (in a theme competition).

Approximately 20% of the entries will receive a ribbon. There will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HM ribbons depending on the number of entries per category.

APS ribbon points are awarded as follows:

- 1st Place – 20 pts.
- 2nd Place – 15 pts.
- 3rd Place – 10 pts.
- Honorable Mention (HM) – 5 pts
- Member's Choice* – 5 pts

Masters Competition points are as follows:

- 1st Place – 25 pts.
- 2nd Place – 20 pts.
- 3rd Place – 15 pts.
- Honorable Mention (HM) – 10 pts.

Competition Process:

- All members in good standing who wish to take part in the monthly competition must submit their entries online before 12 midnight the Monday before competition day using the link provided: <https://form.jotform.com/atlantaphotographicsociety/monthly-competition>
- A digital version (adhering to the same specifications as mentioned above) for the print images must also be submitted using the link above. If you plan to enter images in multiple categories, submit the same form again and select the appropriate category (color/mono/digital).
- Based on the entries received, a list of images will be printed for the judge which will have the title of the images.
- Only prints which have an accompanying on-line digital version submission can be entered.
- Judge will review all print entries for the mono category. During this time, members will not be allowed to engage and communicate with the judge. Judge will give comments on each entry and will decide if s/he would like to consider it for a ribbon. All such entries will be considered as shortlisted entries.
- The process will be repeated for color entries.
- During the break, the judge will decide on ribbon winners. Members during this time can socialize but will not be allowed to engage and communicate with the judge while the judging is in progress.
- Once the judge finishes reviewing, winners will be announced. After the winners are selected, members can engage with the judge and ask questions or have a discussion.