

Sweetwater Camera Club Contest Rules for 2017 & Beyond

Eligibility: Only Sweetwater Camera Club (SCC) members in good standing are eligible to compete. Member must be present to participate. If member must leave early; member is responsible for removing all entries prior to departing. (No refunds).

General Rules:

1. Only Sweetwater Camera Club (SCC) members in good standing are eligible to compete. Each member may enter up to three (3) entries in each of the following three categories:
 - A. **Theme - Color**
 - B. **Theme - Monochrome**
 - C. **Field Trip** (Color, Black & White or Monochrome) - images from any Field Trips that have taken place since last month's SCC meeting.
2. Entry fees: \$1.00 per picture for a maximum of three pictures per category or a maximum of \$9 for 9 entries.
3. Entries which have been awarded First, Second, or Third place prizes in any previous competition are not eligible for re-entry in any form. You may re-enter an honorable mention placed photo in a future contest within the two year time span.
4. Entries must have been created within the previous twenty-four months (2 years) from the date of the contest. The exception is December's tradition, when the theme is your favorite photo of the current year. The entry for this contest must be from the current calendar year and limited to one entry per person per category.
5. For judging to take place in any contest category, more than one entry must be entered in that category. However, all entries may be by the same photographer.
6. Altered image entries must begin with an original photograph.
7. The owner of any photos entered in the Contest must be present during photo review to be considered for a winning image.
8. Once an image has been entered and fees paid, no refunds are to be made. If member must leave early, member is responsible for removing all entries prior to departing and will not be considered for placement in the contest.
9. All entries must depict and/or represent the contest theme or the image in question will be disqualified at the discretion of the judge.

Considerations for image publication in the Chapel Hill News & Views monthly magazine:

Winning images from the monthly contest will be used for the first page (Contest Winners) of Chapel Hill News & Views SCC layout. There is no guarantee these images will be used because image selection is based upon page layout considerations and CHNV guidelines (such as no kissing, no nudes, etc.). Although 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners usually are featured on the first page, honorable mentions will be used only if space on the contest page is available, and again, will be placed at the discretion of the Publicity chairperson, who at this time is also the person performing electronic layout duties.

The second Page (Featured Members) of Chapel Hills & News SCC layout is used for members that do not enter the SCC Contest. The Featured Member page is dedicated to paid members who wish to show images illustrating their personal interests. Any images submitted that are obviously geared towards the current monthly contest will not be eligible for publication until a later month. This keeps the Contest page unconfused and the Featured Member page focused on the individual talents and interests of non-competing members.

No ownership marks: The author of all contest entries must remain anonymous to the critiquer and judge or the entry or entries will be disqualified from the contest – no signatures, hints or names can be visible on the image.

To clarify: submitted images cannot have any printed or written marks of ownership on the front of the prints or mattes. No “sticky notes,” tape, tabs, special mattes or other methods can be used to cover up ownership marks, signatures or brands. Submissions that are identifiable or that consistently distinguish one author’s work from another’s through physical or digital alterations will be automatically disqualified.

In addition, winning photos and featured member photos submitted for printed publications such as the Chapel Hill News & Views should be free of signatures, watermarks or brands because they do not reproduce well in printed publications.

The critiquer and/or judge may not ask any question that would divulge the author of the work.

Prints: Print size may not be smaller than 4"x 6" (24 in²) or larger than 16"x20" (320 in²), and must lay flat to show better on the projector screen. Prints may be mounted to a rigid surface with overlay matting not to exceed 320 in². Images do not have to be matted but if so, mat must be a single layer mat and should be of a neutral color such as black, grey, white or cream.

Frames, glass, plastic overwraps, etc. are not allowed. Each entry must be clearly labeled on the back with the following: Artist, title, and an arrow designating “top.”

Awards: The judge(s) will pick a First, Second, and Third place winning image in each category. All contest participants receive one point for entering the contest regardless of the

number of entries or the number of categories they enter. Points will be awarded on the following basis:

First Place 4 points

Second Place 3 points

Third Place 2 points

Honorable Mention 1 point

Entry in the Contest 1 point

When a judge is not available, voting will be handled by all club members in good standing in attendance, by ballot.

At the end of the year, the person with the most points will have his/her membership dues waived for the following year and will be designated as the “Photographer of the Year” for the year in which the points are awarded.

January, 2015

Supersedes all previous versions.