

St. Vrain Photographic Society
Longmont, Colorado

Guidelines for Judging

Anyone who is confident enough in their own photographic skills to feel that they can assess the quality of the shown images can be a judge.

A judge - provides feedback that is helpful
 assesses an image on its own merit in an unbiased way
 assesses skill, craft and artistry
 strives to apply his/her assessment in a consistent manner

For each judge, scoring is from 1 to 9. Generally scores run from 5 to 9. Anything below 5 is used in rare cases when the image is so far off the mark that it had to be pointed out. Here are some scoring guidelines:

Score of 5: An image with one or more significant flaws.

- Out of focus (unless intentionally)
- Over- or under-exposed
- Not relevant to the theme (if entered in a ‘theme’ category)
- Distracting elements
- Easily avoided or corrected flaws.

In general, not an impressive photograph

Score of 6: No significant flaws; no significant strengths.

- Technically correct (focus, exposure, etc.)
- Good color (or tone) for the subject and background
- Relevant to the theme (if entered in a ‘theme’ category)
- No attributes that are eye catching or impressive

In general, like a snapshot or a photograph that is just OK.

Score of 7 to 8: Solid to very strong image – Tells a story or creates a mood; high impact to the viewer

- Technically correct with all elements: lighting, composition, color, contrast, etc.
- Is creative and elicits emotion
- Exemplifies the theme (if entered in a ‘theme’ category)
- An image that members should strive for

In general, follows photographic guidelines and yet breaks them if deemed appropriate.

Score of 9: Exceptionally strong image - Technically correct in all respects.

- “Knocks your socks off” quality of image
- High impact to the viewer and technically flawless
- Outstanding composition; tells a story or creates a mood for the viewer

In general, this is certainly one of the best with all elements working together to make this a winner. Outstanding in every way.