

COMPETITION RULES OF THE UPPER MERION CAMERA CLUB

1. To enter any UMCC competition, a person must be a paid member of the club.
2. Competition Types – The club organizes three types of competitions: Regular Competitions, the Slide and Print of the Year Competition, and Special Competitions (including “Assigned Subject” competitions.)
 1. Regular Competitions
 - i. There shall be two divisions, namely the Slide Division and the Print Division. See the Division Specifications for further details.
 - ii. Within each division, there shall be three categories, namely Photojournalism, Nature, and Pictorial, for a total of six categories. See the Category Specifications for further details.
 - iii. Competitions are held monthly at the last meeting of each month, except May.
 - iv. Entries must be taken by the club member submitting the image for competition.
 - v. Entries must be entered on an official entry form, not later than 7:30 PM on the night of competition. Images submitted later than 7:30 PM may be rejected.
 - vi. Each member shall be entitled to enter up to two (2) images per category, up to a limit of six (6) images total, in each regular competition.
 - vii. If a person is absent on competition night, that person may double his or her slide and/or print entries at the next competition only. The member need not be present at a competition to enter and may submit entries earlier by delivering them to the competition chairperson, or by sending them to the competition with another individual. Under these circumstances, it is the entrant’s responsibility to make sure that the images are marked correctly for the competition so that they are entered in the proper category.
 - viii. Images entered in regular competitions during one camera club year shall be ineligible for entry in regular competitions during future camera club years.
 - ix. Images in each category shall be judged on a scale of 3 to 9. Honor Images shall be the highest-scoring 30% (rounded to the next higher number) of the total entries in each category. In case of any ties, the judge(s) must determine the honors awarded within the group of images where the tie occurs.
 - x. A print and slide of the same photograph cannot be entered in competition in the same club year. However, the slide can be entered one year and the print of the same photograph can be entered in a different year. The Upper Merion Camera Club relies on the integrity of the photographer to refrain from submitting identical or nearly identical images in the same club year.
 2. Slide and Print of the Year Competition
 - i. There shall be two divisions, namely the Slide Division and the Print Division.
 - ii. Within each division, there shall be three categories, namely Photojournalism, Nature, and Pictorial.
 - iii. The Print and Slide of the Year Competition is held annually, at the last meeting in May.
 - iv. Entries include only honor slides and prints from regular competitions during the current year.
 - v. No entry forms are required for this competition.
 - vi. Each member may enter up to six honor slides or prints, with no limit on the number of images per category.
 - vii. First place images will be selected for each category in each division, along with the Slide of the Year and Print of the Year.
 - viii. A print and slide of the same photograph cannot be entered in competition in the same club year. However, the slide can be entered one year and the print of the same

photograph can be entered in a different year. The Upper Merion Camera Club relies on the integrity of the photographer to refrain from submitting identical or nearly identical images in the same club year.

3. Special Competitions

- i. Rules for any **Special Competition**, including (but not limited to) Assigned Subject competitions and photo essays, will be established as required.
- ii. Slides and prints are not scored separately in special competitions, unless specifically stated.
- iii. Images entered in any special competition(s) will remain eligible for regular club competitions and other special competition(s).
- iv. Special Competitions will be announced beforehand, generally in the club's schedule of events.
- v. Special Competitions shall be judged 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, with suitable awards being given at the end of the camera club year.

3. Division Specifications

1. To qualify for entry in the **Slide Division**, each slide must be:
 - i. Identified, showing the maker's name, image title, and category, as shown in the attached SAMPLE OF A SLIDE MARKED FOR COMPETITION.
 - ii. Marked with a spot indicating the correct orientation of the slide in the projector. This spot should be in the upper right corner of the slide, as it would be placed in the carousel. See the attached SAMPLE OF A SLIDE MARKED FOR COMPETITION for an illustration of the correct orientation.
2. To qualify for entry in the **Print Division**, each print must be:
 - i. Identified, showing the maker's name, image title, and category in the upper left hand corner on the back of the print.
 - ii. Matted or mounted, but not framed.
 - iii. Submitted no smaller than 8 X 10, and no larger than 16 X 24 (including any matting or mounting.)

4. Category Specifications

1. Manipulated images (whether digitally or otherwise manipulated) are not permitted in the Photojournalism categories or Nature categories in any regular competition or in the Slide and Print of the Year competition.
 2. **Photojournalism** images, in any division, will be judged based on the UMCC DEFINITION for PJ.
 3. **Nature** images, in any division, will be judged based on the UMCC DEFINITION for NATURE. Images that are incorrectly entered in Nature will receive only 3 points. If an image is thought to be incorrect for Nature, the slide will be scored first, and then the maker will be notified as to the decision. The final decision on whether an image is "out of category" for **Nature** will be made by the competition chairperson, with the advice of a knowledgeable nature photographer.
 4. **Pictorial** images will not be restricted with regard to subject matter.
 5. If a member enters slides or prints in a competition and is then asked to serve on the panel of judges, that member must abstain from scoring his or her own entries. An average of the scores given by the other two judges will be used as the score for these images.
5. Awards - At the end of the camera club year, suitable awards will be given as follows:

1. Total points in each category in Regular Competitions:

- i. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in total points in each category, within each division.
- ii. In compiling each person's total points for each category within each division, all images entered in that category will be counted, whether or not they were honor slides/honor prints, or not.
- iii. Competitions will be scored on total points, based on 8 regular competitions.

2. Photographer of the Year Award:

- i. The Photographer of the Year Award is a single award, presented to the member who earns the highest number of total points from honor images in all categories during the camera club year.
- ii. In compiling each person's total points for purposes of determining the winner of the Memorial Award, only those points earned by honor images will be counted.

3. Slide and Print of the Year:

- i. Awards will be given as follows:
 1. The first place image in each category will receive a suitable award.
 2. From among the first place images in each print category, the judges will select one print as **Print of the Year**.
 3. From among the first place images in each slide category, the judges will select one slide as **Slide of the Year**.
- ii. In the event that there is a tie for any placing, the judges will conduct a tiebreaker to determine the winner.

4. The Board of Directors will decide the type of awards to be given.
5. If more than one, or all of the awards, are won by the same person, then that person may receive all awards so accredited.

UMCC DEFINITIONS

NATURE IMAGES (SLIDES and PRINTS)

The Nature Photography category is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history except Anthropology and Archeology in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify to its honest presentation. Hand of man elements shall not be present unless on the rare occasion where these elements enhance the nature story and are unobtrusive. Photographs of artificially produced plants or animals, mounted specimens, obviously set arrangements, derivations, or any forms of photographic manipulation that alter the truth of the photographic statement are ineligible, with the exception of detailed macro or micro photograph and scientific banding on wild animals.

PHOTOJOURNALISM IMAGES (SLIDES and PRINTS)

Subject matter must be photojournalism. It must consist of story telling pictures such as seen in the news media, including human interest, documentary, and spot news. In the interest of actual representation, artificially produced situations or photographic manipulations that alter the truth should not be submitted. The story telling value of the photograph shall be weighed more than the technical photographic quality.

NON-MANIPULATED IMAGES

Images submitted for the nature or photojournalism categories (prints or slides) must be unmanipulated. This means that the images should be the result of a single exposure (not composites, multiple exposures, sandwiches, or stitched panoramic images) and should not involve the use of tools or accessories that alter the accurate reproduction of what was seen at the time the photograph was created. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of lens filters, airbrushing of negatives or prints, and the use of blurring, perspective-correction, or other artistic features of Adobe Photoshop, or of similar programs to alter the image that was captured. Contrast adjustments and color balance adjustments may be made in enlargement and printing, scanning software, image editing software, etc, as may selective darkening or lightening of areas of the photograph (dodging and burning). But these should not be so extreme as to render the image an inaccurate or unrealistic representation of what the photographer saw. The emphasis should be on truth and realism and the result should be as true to the original as practical. Sharpening tools are permissible. No use of blurring tools is allowed. Cloning and/or airbrushing tools may only be used to remove miniscule processing artifacts, such as produced by dust, not to add features that were not captured by the camera or to move or remove unwanted features that were captured. Cropping of images is permissible if the effect is to focus attention on the major subject. Images created by processing film through non-standard chemistry such as "cross processing" are manipulated images. Colorizing a black and white image is not permissible, but desaturating a color image to make it black and white is allowed, provided the desaturation is complete and not selective.

UPPER MERION CAMERA CLUB

Identification of images submitted for competition

Information on all images should be neatly printed.



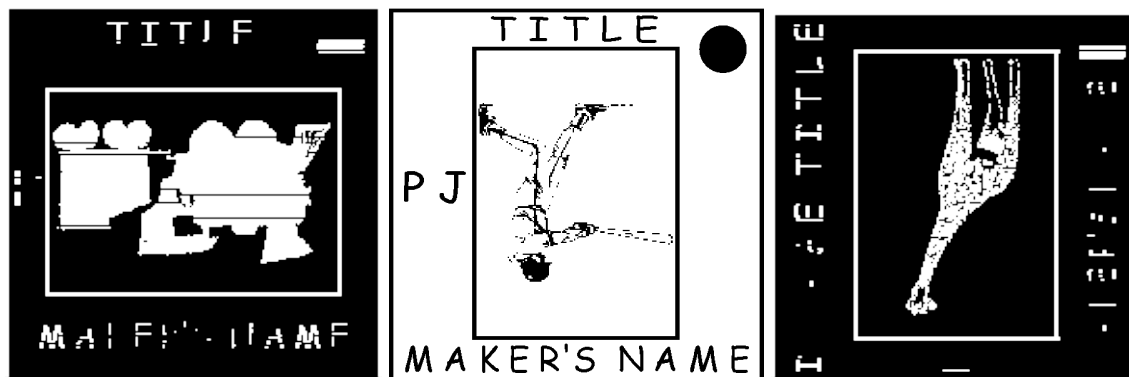
Identification of Slide Images

Slides should be held as they would be viewed on the screen, then rotated 180 degrees (upside-down) and spotted on the upper right-hand corner. This ensures that they are properly inserted into the carousel for projection.

Slides should also be labeled as shown, with the maker's name, image title, and category.

Vertical slides may be titled and have the maker's name along the sides of the image if there is not adequate space at the top and bottom.

- Photojournalism slides are to be marked **PJ**.
- Nature slides are to be marked **N**.
- Pictorial slides are to be marked **P**.



Horizontal Slide

Vertical Slide

**Vertical Slide
(alternative labeling)**



Identification of Print Images

Prints should have the maker's name, category, and image title printed on the back of the image or mounting, in the upper left corner. This information should be printed neatly, with the tops of the letters being oriented toward the top of the image. If the information is printed in another orientation by accident, or for any other reason, the word "**TOP**" should be printed at the top edge of the print in large letters, to aid in the correct display of images. Any image may be so marked if the maker desires to do so.

- Photojournalism prints are to be marked **PJ**.
- Nature prints are to be marked **N**.
- Pictorial prints are to be marked **P**.