



Sharing the **A**wareness of **N**ature through **P**hotography

Guidelines for Judges of SANP Photography

SANP recognizes that judging photography is subjective. In an effort to bring some objectivity into this process, we ask that you:

- Respectfully consider each photograph based on the criteria provided here.
- Give credit for what is done well and penalize for poor workmanship (e.g., bad exposure, out-of-focus subject, poor lighting, bad processing, poor print quality, untidy mounting, obvious retouching or manipulation, sloppy workmanship), but don't over-penalize for minor flaws.
- Look for balance between the subject matter and technique; neither should overpower the other.
- Reward a creative approach when it is effectively used and provides impact.
- Be as objective as possible, basing your evaluation on the elements explained below.

Impact: The image has immediate and lasting impact and evokes an emotional response. The photographer's intent is clear. The message is not weakened by competing ideas. Original and creative choices come from a solid technical foundation. Texture, shape, color, and tone contribute to the overall effect.

Technical Knowledge: The photograph demonstrates a high level of technical skill in both in-camera exposure and production of the photographic print. The photographer makes effective use of equipment and photographic principles to convey the intended message. Special techniques such as grain, soft focus, subtle lighting, film selection, limited depth of field, if used, enhance the image.

Design: Traditional elements of composition (line, form, shape, tone, color) work together to reinforce the photographer's statement. Creative deviations from traditional composition carry the message without being frivolous. The setting is optimum for the subject and the intent of the image.

Subject: The condition of the subject is in concert with the image's intended message. The chosen subject is evidence that the photographer found the best subject available in the given situation. The photograph expresses the subject's character and quality.

Presentation (of prints): The size and material of the mounting conform to contest rules. Mounting and matting support the image's message without attracting more visual attention than the image. Both workmanship and material are of high quality.

In general, as a judge, if you feel that a photograph does not conform to contest and category rules, it is appropriate to penalize or even disqualify the image, regardless of its overall quality.