



Grand River Imaging & Photographic Society

2017-2018 Competition Manual

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Introduction

Overview

Competitions at GRIPS are a great way to improve your photography, to share your images with other members, and to get constructive feedback from the judges all in a friendly atmosphere. Judging of images is anonymous. We will only provide the title of the images during the competition.

All members are encouraged to submit images for competition.

GRIPS has 5 categories for competition

- Creative
- Nature
- Pictorial
- Theme
- Print

There is a lot of information to be communicated and documented. We have made every effort to make this manual as clear as possible; however, changes to the information may occur. In the bottom left corner of the document we have included a version number as well as the date the document was last approved. Any changes made to this document will be outlined in *Appendix II: Updates to Competitions Handbook*. We are always looking for ways to improve, so if you have any feedback you can contact the Competitions Chair (competitions@gripskw.ca).

What's New for Competitions in 2017-2018?

Dates for all of our competitions are outlined in Appendix I. For our Theme category the Competition Committee has chosen: abstract, night photography, and macro/close-up photography. More information about each category can be found in the Category Definitions section.

The 2017-2018 will have live judging in rounds 1 and 3 with round 2 leveraging online judging. We have opted to try online judging for round 2 as we have had challenges obtaining judges in the past and this will allow us widen the pool of available judges. For the round 2 on-line judges the maximum resolution will be 1920 x 1080 pixels. More information about on-line judging can be found in the Judging section.

We will also start participating in CAPA inter-club competitions. There are 6 rounds of CAPA competitions we will participate in. Details can be found in the CAPA Competitions section.

General Rules:

All current GRIPS members are eligible to submit images into all categories and competitions. GRIPS is an honor-based club and we do not want to police submissions. The following guidelines apply to all competitions submission.

- An image may only be submitted once for in-club competitions. Images must not be substantially similar to images that have been previously entered (e.g. images taken in burst mode can only have one image submitted from the sequence)
- All entries must have been created by the submitter.
- Any images or source material used to create your images (this is especially applicable to the Creative category) must be your own work. If found in violation of this rule your images will be automatically disqualified from the competitions. If the competition has already occurred your image will be given a new score of 0.
- All entries to GRIPS competitions must be family oriented and in good taste. Images may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Competitions Chair.
- GRIPS may use submissions to club competitions for promotional purposes. The member will retain the copyright of the images and will be given credit whenever possible. Uses of competitions entries may include, but are not limited to: GRIPS website, Social Media, brochure.
- GRIPS will make reasonable effort to safeguard your images. However, GRIPS assumes no liability for loss or damages to submitted files.

Categories Definitions

Nature

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

Scientific names are recommended in the image title, but common names are acceptable. "Cute" titles (e.g. "pretty in pink"), vague titles (e.g. "flower"), or generic titles (e.g. "untitled" or "nature 1") are not acceptable. "Common Mallow" or "Malva neglecta" are examples of appropriate titles. If you are unsure of common or scientific name of your subject talk to your fellow members or post a question on the GRIPS Facebook group.

Nature Competition Checklist

Subjects	
Birds, Animals, Insects, Landscapes, Geological formation, weather phenomena	Yes
Subjects in controlled conditions: zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums (providing any evidence of hand of man is limited).	Yes
Landscapes with minimal evidence of hand of man.	Yes
Marine subjects including fungi & algae – taken in the wild	Yes
Carcasses of extant species	Yes
Human elements should be minimal except where human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves are acceptable.	Yes
Scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals	Yes
Feral/domesticated/trained animals, cultivated plants, mounted specimens	No
Post Processing	
Cropping	Yes
Color converted to monochrome	Yes
Enhancements that do not alter the content of the original scene	Yes
Focus Stacking	Yes
Dodging/Burning	Yes
Remove of dust spots, digital noise, film scratches	Yes
HDR (natural looking)	Yes
Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement (all adjustments and manipulation must appear natural).	No
Add, relocate, replace or remove pictorial elements	No
Stitched Images	No

Images taken at locations such as, but not limited to, Canadian Raptor Conservancy are not permitted in the Nature category as these are classified as trained animals but can be submitted in Pictorial, Theme (if the image meets the criteria of the theme, or Print).

Pictorial

This is an open category. Images can be of any subject, type or style of photography. Images may be processed in the darkroom, on the computer or in the camera. Heavily processed images may be better suited in the Creative category.

Creative

These images are not meant to look like a regular photograph. Images must be heavily manipulated and **obviously** creatively enhanced including composites, creative filters etc.

- Image effects may be created in the camera (e.g. zooms, pans, multiple exposures), in the darkroom or through the use of digital processing.
- The intent is a transformation of the original subject for artistic effect and **the transformation should dominate the image** such that the viewer will easily recognize the creative effect.
- Characteristics of a creative entry include (but are not limited to) abstraction, camera movement, manipulation, impressionism, multiple exposure montages, collages, extreme HDR or tone-mapped effects, etc.
- All elements or components included in the image must be the original artwork of the maker. For example, images that contain stock photography or public domain images that have not been photographed or created by the maker are ineligible and will be removed from the competition.

An excellent document is published on the Photographic Society of America (PSA) website <http://www.pflicreative.com/uploads/3/4/2/2/34223986/judgingwhatiscreative.pdf>

Print

Round 1 – Color

An open category with no theme or topic. Image may be full colour, duotoned, etc. Prints must meet the print requirements noted below. Judging criteria will include quality of presentation and image content.

Round 2 –

There are no prints for Round 2 as judging will be done online.

Round 3 – Monochrome

An open category with no theme or topic. A monochrome image has a range of shades of a single colour or hue – black & white, sepia, etc.

Prints must meet the print requirements. Judging criteria will include quality of presentation and image content.

Theme

Round 1: Abstract

There is no standard definition for abstract photography. But generally, abstract photography concentrates on shape, form, colour, pattern and texture. The viewer is often unable to see the whole object. The subject of the photo is often only a small part of the idea of the image. Often the image will not be a literal view of the subject itself. The subject tends to come second to seeing. The impact of aspects of the subject become a form of expressing the point. The final image tends to accentuate some or all of the following:

• Lines	• Forms (3D)
• Patterns	• Curves
• Textures	• Symmetry
• Angles	• Geometry
• Proximity	• Layering and overlapping
• Color Variation	• Reflection
• Tonal Variation	• Highlights and darks
• Hard light rendering of the subject	• Focus and depth of field
• Soft light rendering of the subject	• Blur (Bokeh)
• Shape (2D)	• Movement, or expression of movement

Some examples of abstract images can be found [here](#).

Source of definition: <http://www.photokonnexion.com/abstract-photography-definition/>

Round 2: Night Photography

Night photography is the process of capturing images after dusk and before dawn. Light can be obtained from artificial sources or through long exposures.

Round 3: Macro\Close Up

Macro photography is extreme close-up photography, usually of small subjects in which the size of the subject in the photograph is greater than life size. Close up photography is the act of photographing objects in close range so the subject you are photographing fills the frame. The subject does not need to be small to be considered close up.

Category Placement

It is the responsibility of the member to ensure their images are entered into the appropriate category. The Competition Chair and committee does not generally review images prior to judging however, if we notice something that is obviously out of place we will contact the submitter.

If an image is considered by the judges as not relevant to a category the image will be scored and provide comments as to the category in which it was entered, which may result in a lower score. However, we do not instruct the judges to assess any penalties in such cases.

If a member notices their images were entered into the wrong category, prior to the image submission deadline, they may contact the Competition Chair who will remove ALL submitted images and ask that the member resubmit all images, as it is not practical to delete and resubmit single images. After the submission deadline members will not be able to make any changes to their images. If an extension for submission is required the member may contact the Competition Chair who will make a decision on a case by case basis.

Image Requirements

Digital Images

All images should be in the sRGB color space.

Live Judging (Round 1 and 3)

Images must be resized to a maximum of 1400 pixels wide and a maximum of 1050 pixels high. Images being presented in a vertical orientating must be resized to a maximum of 1050 pixels high and 1050 pixels wide.

Online Judging (Round 2)

Images must be resized to a maximum of 1920 pixels wide and a maximum of 1080 pixels high. Images being presented in a vertical orientating must be resized to a maximum of 1080 pixels high and 1080 pixels wide.

Requirements for all competition rounds

- All images must be presented in their proper orientation. Images will be shown as submitted. **They will not be resized, rotated, or adjusted.** If an image is cropped or sized in such a way that it does not fill the 1400x1050 projection area, the image will appear in the centre of the black background. The projector will have a black background so if your images contains black around the edges you can add a small border (e.g. 2 pixels) around the image.
- No identification is to be visible on the image (such as a watermark).

Image Submission Guidelines

File Naming

Nature	N_short title_yourname.jpg
Pictorial	P_short title_yourname.jpg
Creative	C_short title_yourname.jpg
Theme (Round 1)	T1_short title_yourname.jpg
Theme (Round 2)	T2_short title_yourname.jpg
Theme (Round 3)	T3_short title_yourname.jpg

Print (Round 1)	PR1_short title_yourname.jpg
Print (Round 3)	PR3_short title_yourname.jpg

For example if John Smith is submitting an image with a title of Grey Jay in the Nature category then the filename should have a title of:

N_Grey Jay_JohnSmith.jpg

As outlined in the Nature category section the title of your image should be either the scientific or common name of the species of the subject. Cute or funny names are not permitted.

It is recommended to submit your entries early. If you are uncertain if your images have formatted correctly you may contact the Competition Chair or a committee member.

Print requirements

A digital copy of printed images must be submitted with the online form. This is to be able to display the images on the projector for other members to see. Prints will be judged on presentation quality in addition to the image itself.

Mounting: Images must be on clean, firm board (such as white or black foam core), measuring exactly 16"x20". The front and back of the board must be free of any substance which may cause damage to other entries, such as glue, staples, tape, etc.

Print Size: Prints must be no smaller than 80 square inches (for example, 8x10 or 7x14 or 6x13, etc.) and no larger than 16"X20".

Mattes are optional, but must be 16"x20" also and a neutral colour (black, white, grey, cream) only.

Processing: Prints may be made from film (slides or negatives) or digital files and may be printed commercially or by the maker. However, all digital processing must be done by the entrant. No identification (e.g. watermark) is to be visible on the front of the image or matte.

Identification must be on the back of the mounted print in the upper left hand corner with title, name, competition and an arrow indicating the top of the print.



Title,
Name of Maker,
Competition Date

Replacing/Withdrawing Images

If a member has submitted images and they wish to replace or withdraw their image(s) they can contact the competitions chair and ask for their entries to be removed. The competition chair will delete ALL submissions and the member will be asked to resubmit all images as it is not practical to resubmit individual images and this will ensure only the submitted images are judged. Replacing images is permitted until the competition submission deadline.

Late Submissions

Late submissions are generally not permitted after the submission deadline has passed. If a member requires an extension then they must receive permission from the competition chair at least 24 hours before the submission deadline. Extensions are not guaranteed and the competition chair will evaluate requests on a case by case basis. The decision of the competition chair will be considered final.

Image Requirements Compliance

It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that their images are in compliance with all rules and guidelines. If an image is found to be non-compliant the Competition Chair will notify the submitter by email where the member will be given the option of replacing or withdrawing their images using the Replacing/Withdrawing Images process. If no response is received by the submission deadline then images will be withdrawn from the competition. **It is strongly recommended that members do not wait until the last minute to submit images.**

Judging

The competition committee secures 3 qualified judges. In front of the quiet audience of club members the judges examine the images and assign a score. Images will be judged by category, not levels. Each judge judges can each award each images a maximum 10 points for a maximum score of 30 points. Their judging follows criteria set out by the Canadian Association for Photographic Arts (CAPA) as shown below. Judges have also been provided a copy of GRIPS rules and category definitions and are asked to judge using those definitions. However, as judging is somewhat subjective each judge will use their knowledge and experience when deciding on their score. Judges are encouraged to use the full range of scores (1 - 10). Scores typically range from 5 to 8. Scores of 9 or 10 are less common as they are used to highlight exceptional quality in an image.

1 to 3	Extremely poor to poor, with serious faults
4 to 5	Fair, possible minor faults Out of focus (unless intentionally) Over- or under-exposed Not relevant to the theme (if entered in the "theme" category) Snapshot type of picture Little impact or imagination
6 to 7	Good- Displays average technical qualities and average impact Technically correct (focus, exposure, etc.) Good color for the subject and background Moderate impact or imagination Relevant to the theme (if entered in the "theme" category)
8	Excellent image –above average in technical qualities and impact Moderate to high impact to the viewer Technically correct – appropriate focus, exposure, etc. Good presentation Good composition Good pictorial treatment Tells a story or creates a mood Exemplifies the theme (if entered in the "theme" category)
9	Exceptionally good – very high technical qualities and high impact Technically correct in all respects Outstanding composition Tells a complete story or creates a mood for the viewer High impact to the viewer on first sight Exemplifies the theme (if entered in the "theme" category)
10	Demonstrated the 'wow' factor- outstanding impact and technical aspects

Each competitor is permitted during the initial submission to select one image for which they would like comments. Judges are encouraged to provide constructive critique and suggestions for areas of improvement.

Live Judging

When there is a spread of 2 or more points (for example 6, 6, 8), we will ask for the judges to discuss the images and to re-score the image. However, judges are not required to change their score. Should there remain a 2 or more point spread the scores will stand.

On-line judging

Each judge will independently review and score images. They will not be able to see any other judge's scores or comments. As we cannot see the judges scores there will be no rescoring of images should there be a 2 point spread.

Club members are welcome to attend the live judging. However, all members are required to remain silent during the judging. Any member who speaks while judging is occurring may be asked to leave the judging. Competition committee members will also not comment about the scores or comments made by judges during the competition. Any images where comments have been requested we will attempt to record the comments as accurately as possible.

Levels

We have three levels for In-club competition. The objective is to provide an opportunity for all levels:

- Members to compete with confidence by entering at a level suited to their experience.
- Scores are allocated for each 'achievement'. The sum of these scores will determine the level.

Level 1

- Has never entered a photography competition or may have competed but not received a ribbon, prize or other award. (This includes any photographic competition: GRIPS, CAPA, other club competition or photo contest)
- Has not sold or do not sell photographs or photography services
- Has not exhibited their photographs in a public arena (shows, exhibitions, etc.)
- Has not been published in a magazine or other publication

Level 2

- An intermediate level for photographers who might have some experience with competitions but hasn't won year-end trophies or awards;
- Members who may have competed elsewhere and/or might sell or show their work

Level 3

- Has competed extensively in GRIPS and elsewhere,
- Has achieved top score in any round,
- May have won year-end awards or trophies and
- Possibly sell or exhibit their work or have had their photos published

The competition entry form includes the following questions to help you and the Competition Committee assess your entry level:

- Have you competed in any photographic competition for which you received a ribbon, prize or award?
- Do you earn income from photography, or have you in the past?
- Have you ever exhibited your photographs in a show or salon, or published in a magazine, book or other publication

New members, or those entering GRIPS in-club competition for the first time, may compete at the level best suited to their experience as determined by that Member and the Competitions Committee. All levels are open to all members. However, once you have competed a higher level, you may not later compete at Level 1.

The Competition Committee will confirm your level upon reviewing the answers to these questions. You will be contacted for greater clarification if deemed necessary.

Any Competition	Any Award	Sell, Exhibit, or Publish	Previous GRIPS Competition	GRIPS Trophy In Any Category	Top Photographer	Total	Level
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
1	1	0	1	0	0	3	2
1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2
1	1	1	1	0	0	4	2
1	1	0	0	1	0	4	2
1	1	1	1	1	0	5	3
1	1	1	1	1	1	6	3

If you are unsure about which level to enter, please speak to any member of the Competitions Committee at a meeting or send an email to competitions@gripskw.ca

Ribbons and Awards

In each round, images which receive 23-30 points will earn a ribbon and a presentation card.

RIBBONS are titled:

- Award of Distinction: 28-30 points
- Award of Excellence: 26-27 points
- Award of Merit: 24-25 points
- Honourable Mention: 22-23 points

Medals will be presented at the final GRIPS meeting in June representing aggregates of scores from all 3 rounds

- Top Photographer, Creative Category
- Top Photographer, Nature Category
- Top Photographer, Pictorial Category
- Top Photographer, Portrait Category

The Joyce Brant Theme Award – accumulated scores of up to 3 theme images

- Abstract – 1 digital submission in Round 1
- Night Photography – 1 digital submission in Round 2
- Macro Close-up – 1 digital submission in Round 3

Top Photographer, Level One

Top Photographer, Level Two

Top Photographer, Level Three

Best Digital Photographer

- Accumulated scores of all digital image categories (Creative, Nature, Pictorial, Theme)

Best Print Photographer

- Accumulated scores for all prints entries

Photographer of the year

- Accumulated scores of all in-club entries AND must have entered one image in EVERY category. I.e. at least 1 nature, 1 pictorial, 1 landscape, 1 creative, 1 theme, 1 print (colour, monochrome).

Inter-Club Competitions

Grand Valley Image Battle (GVIB)

The Grand Valley Image Battle started in 1974 as the "Golden Triangle Slide Battle." During the first few years, clubs competed from Guelph, Kitchener, Fergus, Galt, and Brantford. Clubs from Stratford, Orangeville and Halton Hills joined in the early 2000's and by 2006 GRIPS, Maitland Valley and Woodstock clubs also joined. With the increased popularity of digital cameras, the prints and digital photos were added to the slides in 2007, when the competition was hosted by Highland Glen Camera Club. In 2008 the competition was renamed to the Grand Valley Image Battle. Slides were dropped in 2009 and entries are now print and digital photos.

Each of the clubs takes turns hosting the competition, with GRIPS hosting in 2010 and again in 2017. GRIPS has won the trophy three times since joining the group in 2009, 2011, and 2015.

Image Selection

Each club is allowed to submit 18 images into the general competition. GRIPS allows members to submit up to 2 images (digital or print) for consideration. After the submission deadline the competition committee meets to select the images that will represent GRIPS. The competition committee makes every effort to select image from everyone however so we encourage all members to submit images.

Image Requirements

Digital Requirements

- Files can have a maximum resolution of 1400 pixels wide and 1050 pixels high.
- Images must be save as JPEG (.jpg)
- Images must be saved using the sRGB color format.
- All images must be presented in their correct orientation

Print Requirements

- Prints must be no smaller than 80 square inches (for example, 8x10 or 7x14 or 6x13, etc.) and no larger than 16"x20".
- Images must be mounted on clean, firm board (such as white or black foam core), measuring more than 16"x20". Mats are optional, but must be white or black only, and if a mat is not used the image must be FIRMLY adhered to the mounting board.
- Prints may be made from film (slides or negatives) or digital files and may be commercially or maker printed. However, the entrant must do all digital processing.
- No identification is to be visible on the front of the image or mat.
- Identification must be on the back of the mounted print in the upper left hand corner with the following information:



Title,
Name of Maker,
Name of Club

EggBert

The Eggbert Competition, as its known today, is a revival of a competition between Brantford and the former Galt Camera Club, which later became the Cambridge Camera Club. Eggbert, the eggheaded trophy, affectionately referred to as "Eggy", was dusted off in 2006 and returned to his lofty position as the grand prize for the friendly rivalry between the Brant Camera Club and GRIPS. Each club takes turns organizing and hosting the event on alternating years.

30 digital photos from each club will be scored by 3 judges and the highest scoring club will have the honor of taking Eggy home, and bragging rights until next year.

Image Selection

Each club is allowed to submit 30 digital images into the competition. GRIPS allows members to submit up to 2 images for consideration. After the submission deadline the competition committee meets to select the images that will represent GRIPS. As this is a friendly competition and meant to showcase the wide talent of each club GRIPS, will use at least one entry from each person. In the event more than 30 individuals enter the competition, the Competition Committee will choose the images that will make up the club entry. In the event there are less than 30 individuals entering the competition, the entry will be made up of one image from each individual who enters and the balance of the entry will be chosen by the Competition Committee.

Image Requirements

- Files can have a maximum resolution of 1400 pixels wide and 1050 pixels high.
- Images must be save as JPEG (.jpg)
- Images must be saved using the sRGB color format.
- All images must be presented in their correct orientation

CAPA Competitions

Starting from 2017-2018, GRIPS will participate in CAPA club competitions. The competitions and approximate internal cutoff date for members submission are as follows:

- Nature - October 16, 2017
- Fine Art - October 16, 2017
- Black & White - January 16, 2017
- Creative Altered Reality - February 14, 2017
- Open - March 16, 2017
- Close-up - April 16, 2017

Image selection

Each club is allowed to submit 6 images from 6 different club members to each round of CAPA club competition. Members are encouraged to submit up to 2 images for each round. The competition committee will meet to select the images that will represent GRIPS.

Category definitions

Note that the CAPA definitions for each category (e.g. nature, fine art) are slightly different from the GRIPS definition earlier in this document. Members who are submitting images for consideration should refer to the CAPA competition rules at <https://capacanada.ca/capa-competitions/current-competitions/> and ensure that their images adhere to the CAPA requirements, in order to avoid entries getting disqualified.

Image Requirements

- Files can have a maximum resolution of 1400 pixels wide and 1050 pixels high. Note: One of the dimensions must be exactly the maximum allowed size and neither dimension may exceed the maximum pixels for that dimension
- Maximum filesize: 1.8 MB
- Images must be saved as JPEG (.jpg) in sRGB colour space."

Appendix I: Important Dates:

Competition	Dates	
Grand Valley Image Battle (GVIB)	Submission Deadline: Sunday, October 15, 2017 Date of Competition: Sunday, November 12, 2017 Location: Glencairn Mennonite Brethren Church	Members can submit up to 2 images, digital or print. There is no theme for this competition.
CAPA	Submission Deadline: Monday, October 16, 2017	Nature
CAPA	Submission Deadline: Monday, October 16, 2017	Fine Art
Round 1:	Submission Deadline: Monday, November 6, 2017 Prints Due: Monday, November 13, 2017 Date of Judging: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 Location: Glencairn Mennonite Brethren Church	Nature Creative Pictorial Theme – Abstract Print - Color
CAPA	Submission Deadline: January 16, 2018	Black & White
Round 2	Submission Deadline: Sunday, February 4, 2018 Date of Judging: February 2018	Nature Creative Pictorial Theme – Night Photography
CAPA	Submission Deadline: February 14, 2018	Creative (Altered Reality)
CAPA	Submission Deadline: March 16, 2018	Open
Round 3	Submission Deadline: Sunday, April 1, 2018 Prints Due: Monday, April 9, 2018 Date of Judging: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 Location: Glencairn Mennonite Brethren Church	Nature Creative Pictorial Theme – Macro/Close up Print – Black and White/Monochrome
CAPA	Submission Deadline: February 14, 2018	Close-up

EggBert	Submission Deadline: To Be Determined Date of Judging: To Be Determined Location: Brant Camera Club	Members can submit up to 2 digital images. There is no theme for this competition.
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Appendix II: Updates to the Competitions Manual