SACKVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

SPC 2026 Photo Contest

Introduction:

Calling all Sackville Photography Club members—whether you've just picked up a camera or you've been shooting for years, our **Annual Photo Contest** is your chance to shine!

This friendly competition is all about sharing your creativity, challenging yourself, and celebrating the amazing talent in our club.
Submit your best shots and have them reviewed by an impartial panel of judges from the photography community.

No pressure—just inspiration, community, and a little healthy competition. Let's see what you've got!

SPC Photo Contest Categories:

There is a total of nine (9) categories to choose from in this contest. Participants may choose to enter a single image in any five (5) of the following categories:

01 – Landscape & Nature

02 –Wildlife

03 – People & Portraits

04 – Macro/Close Up

05 – Night & Astrophotography

06 – Architecture & Urban Scenes

07 – Creative/Altered Reality

08 – Black & White

09 – Flora & Gardens

Further detail and description for these categories will be available within the "Category Description" portion of this document located on page 4.

Contest Timeline:

Contest Open: 12:01 AM – Thursday, January 1st, 2026
Contest Deadline: 11:59 PM –Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

SPC Photo Contest – Official Rules & Guidelines

By submitting your images to this year's SPC Photo Contest, you acknowledge and agree to abide by the following rules:

1. **Submission Deadline:**
   All entries must be submitted digitally no later than **11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. **Digital Files Only:**
   Only electronic submissions will be accepted. **Prints will not be considered.**

3. **Follow Submission Guidelines:**
   Images must meet the technical and category-specific requirements outlined in the contest details. Files that do not conform may be disqualified.

4. **No Text or Watermarks:**
   Submitted images must be free of any added text, including **names, signatures, logos, or watermarks**.

5. **No Repeat Entries:**
   Photographs previously entered in **any past SPC Photo Contest** are not eligible and will be disqualified.

6. **One Entry per Category:**
   Participants may submit **only one image per category**.

7. **Maximum of Five Categories:**
   You may enter up to **five (5) different categories**, with one image per category.

8. **Single Category per Image:**
   Each image may only be entered into **one category**. Submitting the same photo to multiple categories is not allowed.

9. **Right to Reject:**
   The contest coordinator reserves the right to reject or remove any submission that does not comply with these rules or the general spirit of the contest.

10. **Content Restrictions:**
    All photos must be **appropriate for all audiences**. Images containing **nudity**, including **boudoir or fine art nudes**, will not be accepted.

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Submitting Images to the Contest (Submission Guidelines):

- All submissions must be digital files with a JPG extension. Print submissions will not be accepted.

- 1920 px (pixels) on the longest side for landscape orientation, or 1080 px on the longest side for portrait orientation

- Each image is to be labelled as follows:

          Format: Category Number – Image Title – Member Number
          Example: 01 – Beach Sunset - 585

- Images are to be submitted via email to the following address:

  contest@sackvillephotoclub.com

- Please include Your Full Name and your SPC membership number in your email.

  Your three-digit SPC membership number is located within all your SPC mailings.

  If you do not know your Membership Number or have not received the Membership Card via email, please contact membership@sackvillephotoclub.com or any member of the Executive.

You should receive an email response within 24-48 hours of submitting your photos that will include confirmation of the number of photos submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 48 hours of submission, please follow up by contacting the contest coordinator using the contact information found below.

**Note: By submitting your images to the contest, you are implying consent that they can be used by Sackville Photography Club for marketing purposes including but not limited to the website, YouTube, public-facing Facebook page and Instagram. If you do not wish to have your images posted online, then indicate this upon submission.

Contact Info:

Please contact the Contest Coordinator, via email, for any additional questions, to report any submission issues, or for future suggestions.

Shawn Wyrozub| email: contest@sackvillephotoclub.com

SPC Photo Contest 2026 Category Descriptions:

01 – Landscape & Nature
Showcase the beauty of the natural world—from wide-open vistas and dramatic coastlines to forests, mountains, and close-up nature details. Images can include weather, water, and plants, but should not focus on wildlife or human-made objects.

02 – Wildlife
Capture animals in their natural environment—whether it's birds in flight, deer in the woods, or insects in action. This category celebrates untamed moments in nature, showcasing wild creatures behaving naturally, without human interaction or interference.

03 – People & Portraits
This category celebrates the art of capturing people—and their beloved pets! From candid street shots and posed portraits to lifestyle moments and emotional connections, entries can feature individuals, groups, or humans with their animal companions.
Show us personality, connection, and the stories that make us who we are.

04 – Macro/Close Up
Discover the beauty in the details! This category focuses on images that reveal what we might miss at a glance—textures, patterns, and tiny subjects captured up close. Whether it's the delicate structure of a flower, the intricate design of an insect, or everyday objects seen in a new way, this is your chance to explore the world up close.

05 - Night & Astrophotography
From star-filled skies and moonlit landscapes to city lights and long exposures, this category celebrates the magic of low-light photography. Whether you're capturing the Milky Way, northern lights, or the glow of a quiet street at night, we want to see how you bring the darkness to life.

06 – Architecture & Urban Scenes
Explore the structures and spaces that shape our world. This category includes buildings, bridges, streetscapes, and city life—captured in creative, artistic, or documentary styles. From historic landmarks to modern design, quiet corners to bustling streets, show us the character of the built environment.
Find beauty in the lines, light, and rhythm of the city.

07 – Creative/Altered Reality
This category is all about imagination. Use editing, composites, special effects, or creative techniques to transform your image into something surreal, abstract, or fantastical. Whether it's dreamlike, conceptual, or just plain fun, let your creativity take the lead.

08 – Black & White
Celebrate the timeless power of monochrome. This category is for images where tone, contrast, light, and composition take center stage—without the distraction of colour. Any subject is welcome, as long as the final image is black and white.

09 – <u>Flora & Gardens</u>
From wildflowers in the forest to carefully cultivated blooms in a backyard garden, this category celebrates the beauty of plants in all their forms. Show us petals, leaves, trees, or entire garden scenes—captured with creativity, care, and an eye for natural detail.

Please use the category numbers above on your submission.
Questions on categories can be directed via email to the contest coordinator.

SPC Photo Contest Judges:

SPC Photo Contest – Judging Process
Judges for the SPC Annual Photo Contest are carefully selected by the contest coordinator. Each year, the coordinator invites **experienced and supportive members of the broader photographic community** to serve as impartial judges.
Please note that:
- **<u>Judges are not current members of the Sackville Photography Club (SPC)</u>.**
- They generously volunteer their time and expertise to evaluate submissions.
- Each judge will assess entries using a **numerical scoring system only**.
- **Individual feedback or commentary on submitted images will not be provided**.

This process ensures fair and unbiased evaluation while maintaining the integrity of the competition.

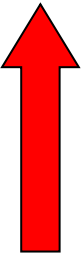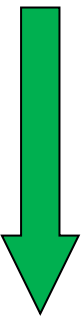## How your image submissions will be Judged:

Scoring Process

Each image begins with a default score of **5**. Judges will then adjust that score—raising or lowering it—based on four key criteria:

- **Impact**

- **Composition**

- **Technical Merit**

- **Relevance to the Category**

Each image is evaluated by a minimum of three judges. The combined total of their scores determines the image's **final score**. Rankings within each category are based on these final scores, with the highest score earning **1st Place**, followed by the **2nd** and **3rd** highest scores.

Below is a sample table that illustrates how judges may evaluate images during the contest:

	Score	Statement	Description
↑	1	Poor	The image may have significant technical defects or may fall short in image content as it relates to the category.
	2	Needs Improvement	The image may have a combination of technical or compositional flaws or content that is not well suited to the chosen category.
	3	Decent	Essentially a "Snapshot" that is capturing a scene. The image may not be strong enough for entry into competition.
	4	Average	Image is compositionally & technically acceptable but does not generate any significant interest for the viewer. The subject is interesting but not overly so.
START	5	Good	An image has a solid composition & content. No obvious technical flaws are present within the image. Image & Subject lack any "Wow" factor.
↓	6	Strong	An image has a solid composition and garners some interest. Technical aspects of the image and image content are competently handled.
	7	Very Strong	Image composition, content & technical considerations are all well-handled. The subject is interesting and "Grabs" attention.
	8	Excellent	An image is very strong and holds the viewer's attention. The image is deserving of contemplation by the viewer.
	9	Outstanding	Image composition, content & technical considerations are all expertly handled. The image is exciting to the viewer and provokes discussion.
	10	Exceptional	A top tier image that is of the highest quality. Outstanding in every respect and has a factor of "*je ne sais quoi*"

Remember … This contest is intended to be enjoyable, fun and even a little bit educational!