

DESERT CAMERA CLUB JUDGING STANDARDS: (Updated 11-6-06)

Digital slides and prints (images) should meet certain aesthetic criteria to be successful in Club competitions. The elements of a good photograph clearly stand out and speak to the viewer, creating a visual or emotional reaction. Some questions members may ask in prejudging their own images before submitting for competition are:

- **I** - *Interesting?* Does it have that “wow!” factor?
- **M** - *Movement?* Does your eye move through the composition?
- **P** - *Point of Interest?* What is the subject? Is it obvious?
- **A** - *Arrangement?* Is it balanced? Simple, no distractions?
- **C** - *Creative?* Does it have drama, lighting - that creative touch?
- **T** - *Technically correct?* Is it focused and exposed properly?

In more detail:

- *Does the image grab the viewer's Interest?* Does it pop? Does it have that WOW factor? Does it stand out?
- *Does the image incorporate Movement and good composition?* Does your eye travel through the use of leading lines or perspective? Are the lines, shapes, colors, forms or textures selectively placed to achieve harmonious arrangement? Is it balanced?
- *Does the image have a clear Point of Interest as the focal subject?* Is it simple, does it have one center or point of interest filling the frame without distractions? Are there distractions, especially in the background that distract from this point of interest? And is the point of interest dramatically placed away from the center of the image for dramatic effect? Is the image cropped to achieve the best result?
- *Is the image Creative?* Does it have drama, beautiful lighting, or that unusual creative element?
- *Is the image Technically Correct?* Is it in sharp focus or slightly soft? Is the image properly exposed, or is it too light or too dark?

Judges will score each image between 5 and 9. They will use the above “IMPACT” guidelines as criteria for assigning the scores as follows:

- 5: Photo is not technically correct whatever else the merits.
- 6: Photo is poorly-composed and lacks IMPACT.
- 7: A good average photo that has some IMPACT but little or no “wow”!
- 8: Photo has good IMPACT including moderate “wow”!
- 9: Photo has all of the IMPACT elements and terrific “wow”!

The image must also be appropriate for the category in which it is entered. An image that does not meet the category criteria should be disqualified (“DQ”-ed). A member committee, appointed by the Competition Chair, shall review each image for appropriateness *prior* to the actual competition, and will DQ any images that in the Committee’s opinion do not meet the category criteria. During the actual competition itself, judges may (and should) DQ images that, in their opinion, do not meet the category criteria.