Skills Ontario Photography (S) (PS) Virtual Contest 2021 Q&A

NEW Q&A are answered in RED.

Please note that Competitor numbers have been removed from the file naming convention. This was a component of the LIVE in person contest that we do not feel is required this year as all of your files will be delivered to your own folders upon submission and already have your name on them.

Q/ The longest side of the photo should be 1200 pixels, is there a max size each photo should be exported as? (like a number of MB?)

A/ No, I think this will sort itself out with the length of the image… If this contest were being held live, we would ask for much higher resolution, but we're going to be handling many files and wanted to mitigate any hardware issues...

Q/ Is there an additional software needed to add the keynotes of each photo onto the metadata? Or how can contestants add these keywords?

A/I don't know if I'm allowed to advise you on this, since it is part of the 'skills' evaluation, and it might give you an advantage… However I might suggest that you find an online tutorial for your editing software (ie YouTube); these are easy marks which are up for grabs and often make the difference between close entries.

Q/ Are photos such as photo manipulation allowed?

A/ In part 3 and 4 yes.

Q/ Have contestants received their contestant number yet? If so, how can we access this?
A/ The Competitor numbers are no longer required and have been removed from the scope (English only).

Q/ Checking that they submit a Raw file PLUS a 1200 pixel long, 300dpi JPEG of each image. Parts 1 to 4.

A/ We are not requiring the RAW files this year. The exported JPEG is fine (if your student wants to submit both, that is fine). Normally we would ask for this to be higher resolution (and would have larger file capacity) if the event were live, but this year we need to keep the files managable.

Q/ And secondly, for part 4, where they have to create 'four unique images'. Does that mean the four images can be a series, or each image has to be completely different from each other? A/ This is a great question - and since we weren't more clear, we will accept either. The intent was to have them unique, but a diptych/series is OK.

Questions from last week are below…

Q/ So they can shoot each object or portrait several times through the week and practice, or improve?

During the time of the contest window, can they talk to, or get feedback from their supervisors?

A/ You are correct in that the students will have one week to shoot, practice and improve.

Great question. All students will have the same opportunities to get help, consult and re-shoot this assignment so yes, if a student wants to discuss with a supervisor that is within the rules. Everyone, hopefully has the same advantages and we are hoping for great things from the students because of it!

Q/Also are there any limits to where the participant can be for the surprise element. I am wondering if the participant can be at home or at school.

A/There are no limits as to where participants can be for part 3. Home or school will be just fine.

Q/Will we be submitting RAWs or only jpegs?
A/ It is entirely up to you, but I would recommend Jpeg for all finished files.

Q/ Is natural light mandatory for Part 1 (still life) and Part 2 (portrait)
A/ Yes, natural light meaning light generated by the sun.

Q/ For Part 1 and Part 2 (Portrait and Still Life), post-processing is not allowed. Would using in-camera picture profiles that are applied to the image at capture be allowed? They were allowed last year.
A/ Yes, in camera is allowed. The emphasis here is not to do editing. This has been a popular question.

Q/ For Part 1 and Part 2 (Portrait and Still Life), the direction is to use natural light only. Is this limited to Natural Sunlight, or is indoor artificial lighting allowed? Can the light be modified with tools such as reflectors? Is strobe and continuous lighting off-limits?
A/ Natural lighting is sunlight/daylight for the purposes of our competition. Reflectors are allowed - strobes definitely off limits!

Q/ For Part 4 (4 unique photos), are composites allowed? If so, would I be required to provide every RAW asset used in said composite?
A/ Yes, composites are allowed, and yes please provide all photos