Westbridge Camera Club

Competition Rules
And
Guidelines

Revision Date: 8/29/2026

Table of Contents

Competition Structure Effective September 2025 ..... *3*

Digital Structure **3**

Print Structure **3**

General Rules of Competition *4*

Scoring for Monthly Competitions *5*

Digital Competition Divisions *6*

Print Competition Divisions *7*

Instructions for Uploading Photos to Zenfolio for Digital Competition *9*

Detailed Instructions for Submitting Entries to the Digital Competition **9**

Submission format rules: 9

Uploading photos to Zenfolio: 9

Questions or problems uploading to Zenfolio? Alternative methods for submitting photos: 10

Annual Salon and Awards *11*

Annual Awards **12**

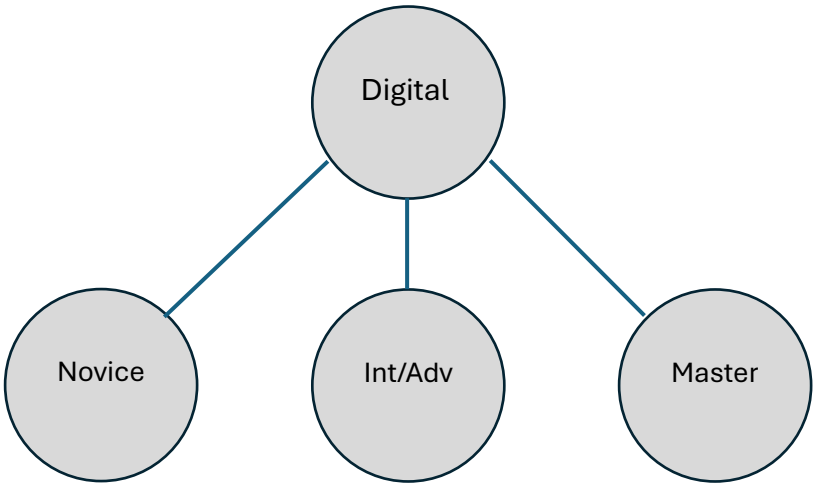
Tips for Competition *13*

Competition Structure Effective September 2025

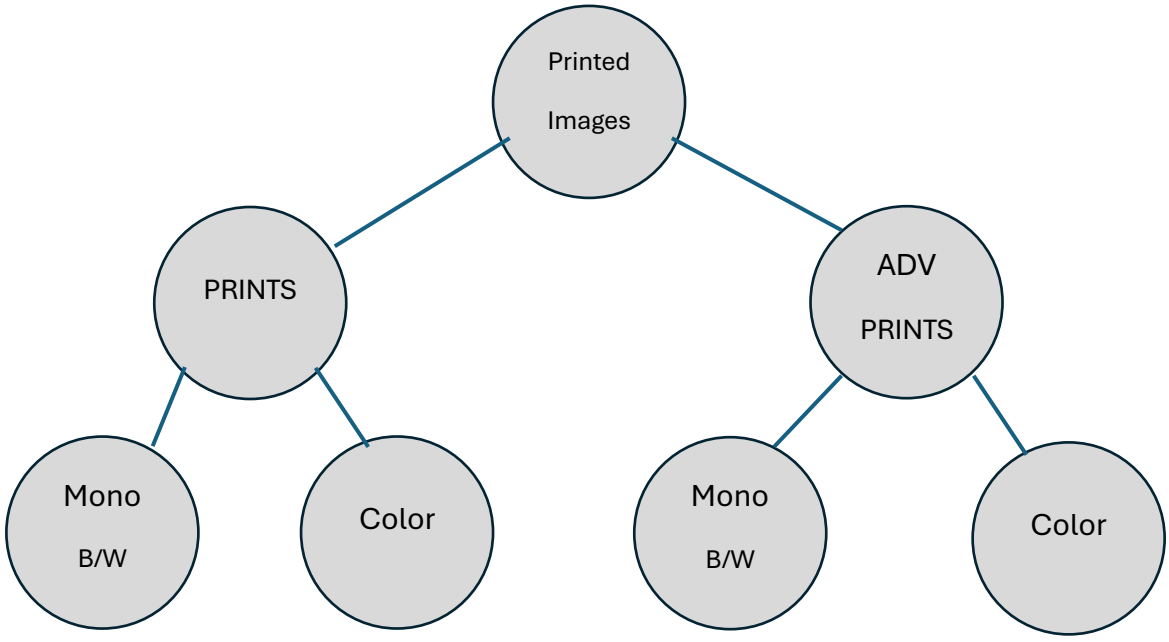
At the Westbridge Summer Committee Meeting held July 28th, 2025, the leadership voted to change the competition structure. The new competition categories and rules will take effect beginning with the competition in September 2025.

The following diagram shows the structure of the digital categories reflecting the addition of the Master category and the name changes. In September 2025 the Print competition structure was changed to now have PRINTS and ADVANCED PRINTS.

Digital Structure



Print Structure



General Rules of Competition

See each individual category included in this document for relevant rules related to that division.

1. Any member with a current paid membership is eligible to enter competitions. Membership must be paid and current before any submission is made. Nonpaid entries will be ineligible and eliminated.
2. All elements of the photograph must be from photos taken by the member; in other words, the member created every element of the image. No generative AI elements or stock photos are permitted. There are no limits on standard processing and editing. Composites and photographic artistic expression are acceptable.
3. Identifying information on the front of the photograph is not permitted. This includes watermarks on digital images and signatures on prints.
4. Digital or print entries involving more than one image, such as a series, sequence or diptych, must be presented as one digital file or on one mount board. Size restrictions on files and mount board remain the same as for single images.
5. Digital entries must be jpeg and no larger than 2400 pixels on the longest side. The image must be titled and include member#, i.e. **Arizona Moonrise-123987.jpg** Your unique Member Number can be found by logging into the Members Section of the Westbridge Camera Club website.
6. Deadlines for submission are determined by the competition committee. Entries that do not meet all requirements regarding format etc. will require resubmission before the deadline. Club membership dues must be current by the submission deadline, or the entry will be disqualified.
7. One member may submit no more than two entries in the chosen digital category and 2 in each print category for a total of 6. An entry is defined as a print (either monochrome or color) and a digital image.
8. An entry that has placed first through fifth in any division may not be resubmitted to any competition category at any point in time.
9. A member may not submit the same image in more than one category in the same competition.

10. Honorable mention images may be resubmitted in future years. Any image that placed fifth or higher in the salon may not be re-submitted in any future competition.

Scoring for Monthly Competitions

First place	6 points
Second place	5 points
Third place	4 points
Fourth place	3 points
Fifth place	2 points
Honorable Mention	1 point

Total HM per category is equal to 10% of the total entries in that category

Total accumulated points in each category and winners' names will be posted in the members section of the Westbridge website following the competition. Accumulated points for regular competitions do not include awards from the Annual Salon.

Digital Competition Divisions

There are 3 categories in the digital competition:

- Novice
- Intermediate/Advanced
- Master

1. Each year a member may choose one category in which to enter images for the entire year. Entries in another digital category are not permitted. The first entries of the competition year determine the chosen category. Each member is free to choose the category that best fits their skill level.
2. There are no restrictions as to what category one may choose other than those listed below (see #3). At the end of the season the slate is wiped clean, and a different (or same) category may be chosen in the next competition year. Someone might compete in the master category one year and choose to compete in the intermediate/advanced category the following year provided the 1st - 3rd rule is not met. (see #3)
3. If for 2 years in a row an individual places in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd position for total points in that category, they must move to the next category.

   Example:

   Year 1: Individual enters the novice category and places 1st in total points for the year.

   Year 2: Individual enters the novice category and places 3rd in total points for that year.

   Year 3: Individual must compete in the next category or higher (intermediate/advanced or master) and may not enter the novice category again in any future competition.
4. A maximum of 2 images may be submitted. They may be monochrome, color or a combination.
5. Photos entered in the digital competition may not be entered in the print competition for the same month. If no points are earned, they may be entered again in either the digital or print competition in subsequent months.
6. See Instructions for Uploading to Zenfolio for format requirements (page 8).

7. 1st - 5th place will be awarded in each category and HM equivalent to 10% of the entries in that category.
8. A slide show of all digital entries as well as award presentations will be presented at the competition meeting.

Print Competition Divisions

1. The print division consists of the following four categories:
    - PRINTS – Color
    - PRINTS – Monochrome (B/W)
    - ADVANCED PRINTS – Color
    - ADVANCED PRINTS – Monochrome (B/W)
2. The **PRINTS** categories are designed to encourage participation from newer or less experienced members who are building their skills in print presentation.
   The **ADVANCED PRINTS** categories are intended for members who have demonstrated a high level of craftsmanship in printing and often utilize specialty papers or advanced printing techniques. As with digital competitions, you will be asked to select the group you wish to participate in at the start of the competition year. Once selected, you'll remain in that group for the duration of the season.
3. If for 2 years in a row an individual places in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd position for total points in the Prints category, Color or Monochrome, they must move to the Advanced Prints in both the Color and Monochrome categories.
4. Two entries max may be entered into each category
5. Prints (image area) may not be smaller than 8 inches wide by 8 inches tall. The final mounted print including the mat or other mounting material may not exceed 24" on the longest side.
6. Photos must be mounted on appropriate material and unframed. There are no restrictions on the mounting material; however, glass or breakable backing is not permitted. No hardware of any sort should be on the back. While great care is taken in handling photos, Westbridge is not responsible for damage that may unintentionally occur.
7. Commercial printing and/or mounting is acceptable

8. Prints are judged at the competition meeting the 3rd Monday each month
9. 1st through 5th place will be awarded in each category and HM equal to 10% of total entries in each category will be awarded.

Instructions for Uploading Photos to Zenfolio for Digital Competition

Detailed Instructions for Submitting Entries to the Digital Competition

You must be a paid member to enter competitions! No Exceptions.

The deadline for uploading photos is 10:00 pm the 2nd Monday of the month.

Submission format rules:

1. Files must be jpeg and 2400 pixels or less on the longest side. If you need help with sizing your photographs, please contact us. Here are a couple of websites to resize photos that are free, easy and efficient to use:
   - https://new.express.adobe.com/tools/resize-image
   - https://resizing.app
2. Make sure your jpeg image is titled and includes your member #.

   Example: Arizona Moonrise-123987.jpg

Uploading photos to Zenfolio:

1. Go to http://westbridge.zenfolio.com
2. Scroll to the bottom of this page and click “login” on the bottom right (it is a very small button!)
3. Enter username and password (username and password are in member section at www.westbridgecc.com)
4. Click login
5. This takes you back to the Westbridge landing page
6. On the upper right click Westbridge and on the drop-down menu click “all photos”
7. On the left side bar click + All Photographs then 2026-2027 Competitions
8. Click on the category for which you are uploading photos. For example, April 17, 2023 Beginner No Theme
9. Click Upload then + and add the jpg files then upload your photos. (you can also do this by drag and drop)
10. Click start upload (this takes a moment, so be patient :)

11. Once the upload is completed you will automatically be taken to the gallery page where all photos that have been uploaded in that category are shown. You can verify that your photos have successfully uploaded.

12. When finished click “westbridge” at top right and select “Logout”

If you want to remove and/or replace an image, scroll your mouse over the image and click on the down arrow on the bottom right. This will allow you to make your selection.

Questions or problems uploading to Zenfolio? Alternative methods for submitting photos:

1. Email images to wbcc.beginner@gmail.com OR wbcc.intadv@gmail.com OR wbcc.master@gmail.com depending on the category for which you are submitting photos. The images sent using this method will be entered onto the Zenfolio site by one of the digital committee members. Note this may not happen until the deadline day.
2. If you experience trouble with either of the methods detailed above contact Carol Shurlow at shurlowc751@gmail.com or 614-620-5895

Annual Salon and Awards

Westbridge is pleased to have our annual salon at the end of each season. This special event provides members the opportunity to submit their award-winning photos from throughout the competition year for awards and recognition. In May of each year a team of three judges determines the awards which they considered to be the best of the best from the outstanding award winners from the season. All awards are presented at our annual salon banquet that takes place in June. Following are the rules of the salon competition.

1. The Annual Salon is held in May of each year. Eligible entries from all competition divisions may be submitted. Those divisions are beginner, intermediate/advanced, or master digital divisions and the print divisions.
2. Entries for each member are limited to all images which placed first through fifth in that division. A member may substitute a photo that received an Honorable Mention in place of a 1st through 5th place winner but may not substitute a non-winning image.
3. Substituting a new photograph or digital image is not permitted. If a member has only one such eligible photograph or digital image in any single division, he/she may enter a second photograph or digital image of his/her choice from that division.
4. If a member has no eligible prints or digital images, they may enter two photographs of their choice in that division whether it was submitted before or not. For digital entries members are limited to the same division in which they competed during the year. That is a member who competed in the Beginner digital division may only submit images in the Beginner salon competition.
5. Salon awards are given for 1st through 5th places and 3 entries with receive an HM.
6. Prints or digital images receiving an award in the Annual Salon shall not be eligible for any subsequent Westbridge competition.

Annual Awards

The 1st-5th place point winners from each category:

- Digital Novice
- Digital Intermediate/Advanced
- Digital Master
- PRINTS – Color
- PRINTS – Monochrome (B/W)
- ADVANCED PRINTS- Color
- ADVANCED PRINTS – Monochrome (B/W)

Salon Awards (independent of awards from regular competition)

- Digital Beginner Image of the Year
- Digital Intermediate/Advanced Image of the Year
- Digital Master Image of the Year
- Color Print of the Year
- Monochrome Print of the Year
- Image of the Year Award (formerly Laurie Butts Award) is awarded to the winner of the Salon. This award winning image is chosen from one of the Image of the Year in each category.

Tips for Competition

The goal of competition is to present what you consider to be your best work no matter how experienced you are. Competitions are a part of education - they are a great opportunity to learn about what makes a good photo and therefore increase your knowledge and skill. Competitions can be subjective. Just because no points were awarded for your photo doesn't mean it's a bad photo. Different judges have different criteria on which they concentrate so don't be discouraged! That said, it's a chance to take a second look and see if there are ways you could improve the photo based on looking at all photos submitted and listening to comments. It's a great opportunity so have fun participating and learning.

All in all, having your photo noticed and stand out from the crowd is one of the objectives. Following are some suggestions of things you may want to think about when preparing your photos. Everyone has different skill levels so do your best for wherever you are in the process of building skill. Here is some food for thought.

1. **Details**

   First and foremost, make sure you've met all of the requirements for entry in each division. If there is a theme for that competition enter photos that adhere to that. Images that don't won't be considered for an award no matter how wonderful it is. Don't take the chance that your entry may be disqualified for a fixable oversight.

2. **The judging process**

   Westbridge does not give judges specific instructions on what to look for in a photograph. We want to encourage each judge to bring their own experience and knowledge to the process.

   There are no editing restrictions for photographs other than every element of the final image must be from your own work. No AI, stock images or elements that are not from photos taken by you are permitted.

3. **Choosing images to enter - the subjective decision.**

   Ask yourself these questions first and make a commitment that your entry is representative of your skill and artistic expression. Let the judge be secondary to your decision.

   1. Is the photo successful - i.e. does is reflect what attracted you and compelled you to stop and press the shutter button?

2. What story does it tell? Have you succeeded, in your own opinion, of bringing that story to life in the final image?
3. Is there a WOW factor? Does it compel someone to say "Wow - I wish I had taken that photo!"

4. **Technical aspects - only part of the picture but important none the less**

- SPOTS!!
- Cropping - try many different crops and look at different sizes. Don't forget to take a look at the corners. Look at different sizes and aspect ratios. What would a square crop look like?
- Exposure - look for clipping and hot spots
- Lighting and color balance - white balance
- Sharpness - this can vary depending on the artistic intent, but inappropriate/unintentional blur or lack of sharpness is usually a deal breaker
- Over sharpening, clarity, and contrast resulting in artifacts and halos
- Banding - can be fixed by adding blur or noise. Editing in 16 bit is useful as banding usually results from insufficient digital information to make seamless transitions
- Cloning - make sure it is meticulous (certainly made much easier by the AI available today)

5. **Creative Expression**

- Allow your image to reflect your vision - does it reflect what you see/saw?
- Play with color tone, black and white, composition, compositing, or cropping. Try flipping the photo in the vertical or horizontal plane.
- Is it interesting to break a "rule" to make your artistic statement? Does the rule of thirds, for example, or detract from the composition?
- Does something always have to be off center? Could putting something square in the middle be an artistic statement?
- What about a square crop and aspect ratio presentation?

6. **The Print**

- Andy Hoppe at Midwest Photo can print images at a very reasonable cost. If you don't have a printer the advantage of having it printed at Midwest is the many choices of paper and the chance to work with someone who can guide you. Andy spends a good amount of time in this context of his position at Midwest helping to make perfect prints. **DON'T FORGET WESTBRIDGE MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON PRINTING AT MIDWEST!!**
- Note that prints will be shown on a black background with LED lights simulating daylight. Flaws will show.
- The print is where your images can really come to life and print competition is a wonderful way to build skill both in artistic vision and editing skill.
- Don't present your photo in cellophane covering. It reflects light and makes it for the judge to see well.
- Take into consideration the choice of paper as well as the mat. Would a textured paper enhance a photo or detract from the subject? Mat, baryta, luster or metallic? Think about small cards of different papers and print samples. Pick up some sample prints on different papers to see the different effects.
- Sample packs from different manufacturers are available and can be a great way to try out papers. Midwest can order many of these for you.
- Matting can make a difference in presentation - white mat? black? a different color that may enhance the appearance of your matted photo? Boarders or different mat textures?
- What about color of the paper - warm or cool? What about weight? What about the texture of the paper - will it enhance or detract from the appearance of your photo?
- Buy several mats and use them over and over. Photos can also be mounted easily but in the long run this might be more expensive. Do note if your mats are showing wear or have dirt on them - time to get a new one :)
- Think BIG - small prints are more difficult to see. Step back from the print to get an idea of how it will look when displayed. Different size photos are meant to viewed at shorter or longer distances.
- Think about how your photos look in digital format vs. print. Some photos shine when printed while others shine in the digital format.

- An alternative to a mat is to mount the photo on gatorboard or foam core. These are available with adhesive already applied to make it very simple if you choose this method. The photo might be printed with a simple white boarder or a mat simulated in photoshop which looks very much like a mat.
- Mounting on wood or printing on metal are also alternatives that may make your photo shine based on your artistic vision. **(Please note that printing or mounting on glass or other breakable material is not permitted).**
- Think about using tac to stick your print on your wall and look at it from different distances and in different light. This won't leave any marks on the wall and is a good way to live with it a bit to see what you think. Would you want this print hanging in yours or someone else's home? If so, then it will most likely present well in a competition.
- Finally, no matter how you choose to present your photo make sure it lacks dirt, rough edges or marks on the mat or mounting material that may detract from a professional and clean presentation.

Most of all:

HAVE FUN!