

SkillsUSA Texas Photography Contest 2023

Contest Chair - John Burrows

Contact – burrowsj@pearlandisd.org

Competition Overview

Competition Name:

Photography

Competition Description:

Competitors are put through a series of real-world photographic scenarios and are judged on their overall mastery of the following skills: understanding the features of today's digital SLR or mirrorless cameras, field assignment, producing a contact sheet, producing a composited digital fine art piece from their field assignment, 50 question written test, portrait/commercial studio using strobes, troubleshooting common photo errors, print competition, and job interview.

Number of Competitors (team or individual):

Individual

Competition Level:

State Championship

Competition Length:

2 Days

Day 1

Orientation - At this time all contestants MUST be in attendance. Sponsors are welcome to attend but their attendance is not required.

Dress - Dress - Contest attire - SkillsUSA white polo, black slacks/skirt and black shoes.
No red jacket is needed.

Resume - You will submit a one-page resume on day 1. Please ensure that your resume is complete and comprehensive.

1. Print Competition - This is your opportunity to show the judges your best work. These must be school-appropriate. They need to have been taken in the past year. Tell a story, capture a moment, something compelling and technically sound. You will be judged on your creativity, technical work, lighting, focus, correct edits, matting and overall judges draw to the image.

A. Please size them to 11x14 or 10x15. Color or B&W will work. DO NOT turn in a composite. Images will be printed and matted before you attend the contest. The print size must be either 11x14 or 10x15.

B. The matting will be 16x20 black matte with white core.

C. The backing will be a piece of black foam core secured all the way around on the mat. Use a double-sided tape for this but not required. You may use the hinge method but mattes that are warped will receive deductions.

D. Points will be deducted for scratches, pencil marks, curled or warped matte, or bent corners, etc.

E. DO NOT frame pictures If one of your prints is also in the print competition, please make a second copy so you are not worried about having it in two places at one time.

F. On the back of the foam core put the student's

- contestant number
- cell phone number (Teacher or students)

2. Written Test - This test has a series of multiple-choice questions that cover some of the following topics:

A. History of Photography (iconic photographers and advancements in technology)

B. Exposure controls and their effects on images.

C. Included is the Zone System.

D. Lens choices given a photographic situation (sports, jewelry, studio portraits, etc.)

E. General terminology Photoshop

3. Troubleshooting - This test will be a matching test. The contestants will be given a series of images commonly found in the digital process and will be required to identify the problem in each image.

Equipment for day 1

1. Resume

2. 2 prints

3. Pencil or pen

Day 2

Dress - Business Comfortable - Wear something that you can move and take pictures in (no sweats, joggers, or shorts). A comfortable pair of shoes that you can walk around in for an hour or two.

4. Interview - Contestants will be given an interview to assess their communication skills and overall job readiness. Have your resume ready for the interview. Students will interview when they are called into the secondary room to do the studio images.

5. Field Assignment - You will be given 4 prompts and two hours to photograph those prompts on location at the ABC center. You will be asked to format your memory card and please set

your camera date and time correctly. The photos that are turned in should only be from the contest time. You will only use manual mode on your camera. You will then be given time to edit those images using only sliders (global edits). No spot healing or manipulating. Color or B&W is allowed. You will crop your image to fit either a 4x5 or 4x6 ratio. Do not resize the image. These will be turned in as jpeg images. Title this image Photo_contestant#_Prompt label (This will be 4 images)

Scoring is based on:

- Technical: exposure and focus control
- Creative: overall use of composition, lighting, impact, etc.
- Level of editing (edits must be global in nature and must not be overdone)
- Competitor's adherence to time limits, location, and theme

6. Conceptual Assignment - For this portion of the contest you will take those four images that you turned in and create a composite. This needs to be cohesive and interesting. Title this image Photo_Contestant#_Conceptual

7. Portrait Studio - You will be given the task to set up your light and a model to produce a specific lighting pattern on the model. The model will be provided for you. The lights and light trigger will also be provided. The lighting trigger will work on standard hot shoe*. You will use 2 strobe lights: a main and a fill. No edits on the image submitted will be allowed. Title this image Photo_Contestant#_Portrait

Scoring is based on, but not limited to:

- Standard studio portrait lighting patterns (e.g., split, hatchet, Rembrandt, loop, butterfly, broad, short, etc.)
- Light ratios (due to a variety of teaching methods, competitors will be given a "main" light aperture setting [e.g., f/11] and a stop difference for the "fill" light (e.g., two stops)
- Use of a hand-held light/flash meter
- Interaction with the model and posing quality

*If the camera you bring does not have a hot shoe the trigger will fit on you will be provided with a Canon DSLR with no instructions.

8. Digital Editing - This part of the contest will test your ability to see what was done to an image and recreate it with the images provided. The original will be done in Photoshop if you are using another program to do your edits it may be more difficult for you. Title this image Photo_Contestant#_Recreate

This competition evaluates the student's knowledge of professional editing techniques, including, but not limited to:

- Selections and refine edge
- Layer masks and adjustment layers
- Green screen extractions

- Color correction
- Resizing layers
- Correct naming and formatting

9. Commercial Studio - You will be given the task to photograph a product for a specific company for an ad. This will be an image submitted straight out of camera with no edits. Title this image Photo_Contestant#_Commercial

Judging is based on, but not limited to:

- Product placement
- Lighting of product
- Clarity of product name
- Use of props
- Overall creativity and impact of image

Equipment for day 2

1. DSLR or Mirrorless camera
2. Lenses
3. Computer
4. Memory card
5. USB
6. Any other camera accessories you want to use

The professional Development Test is an online that the student will take before they arrive. This will be added to the final score after the score cards are turned in.