

Annual Competition Version 2.0

Summary

Deadline for Entries

Sunday April 13, 2025, **10:00 pm**.

Submissions will open after the March Competition entries are processed.

Date of Competition

Thursday, April 24, 2025, **7:00 pm**.

Competition Categories (Summary)

Please read the full entry requirements and rules for each listed below.

- 100 President's Challenge: Fifty. (Digital Single Image)
- 200 Feature: Perspective (Digital Single Image)
- 300 A Work in Progress (Digital Single Image)
- 400 Outings and Workshops (Digital Single Image)
- 500 The Wild World: Flora (Digital Single Image)
- 600 The Wild World: Fauna (Digital Single Image)
- 700 'Scapes (Digital Single Image)
- 800 New Member (Digital Single Image)
- 900 Photo Essay (Digital Composite Image)
- 1000 Clive Mathewson. Humour/Lighthearted (Digital Single Image)
- 1100 Video Composition. Open. (MP4 or similar video file, 3 minutes maximum)
- 1200 Print Open. (Printed Single Image, Max 20 inches)

Rules and Entries

Rules

The rules for IACC competitions are contained in the [Competition Manual for the current club year \(2024-25\)](#), on pages 8-10. All rules therein apply to the annual competition, unless clearly stated otherwise. In addition there are specific requirements, restrictions, and themes for certain categories within the annual competition.

Please read the details of each category you wish to enter. Some categories have quite specific requirements, and some may have changed from previous years. Note especially that all categories except 1100 and 1200 are now single digital images.

How to Enter

Submission procedures are detailed in the IACC Competition Manual for the current year, on pages 5 to 7. Note especially that:

- A complete entry form for all entries must be submitted prior to the entry deadline.
- Some categories have further submission requirements. Please read the details of each category you wish to enter.
- If you make an error in your submission (e.g. wrong file, wrong format, error in title, or whatever), you can correct it by re-submitting *the entire form*. We always use the last submission from each entrant.

Scoring and Results

Categories, 1000, 1100, and 1200 are voted on by members in attendance at the April club meeting in the same way as monthly competitions. Categories 100-900 are judged and scored by experienced photographic judges chosen by the competition committee. These are professional and/or highly experienced photographers, who have had experience judging in competitions. Normally, the judges are not current club members.

Winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Meeting in May. Winners of “Best Overall in a Monthly Category” will also be announced at the awards meeting. These winners are determined by their scores in the monthly competitions for their entries in the digital and print categories. Shortly after the awards evening, a summary of image numbers, scores and rankings will be available online. This information may be accessed via a link on the Members Only Competitions page on the IACC Website.

Competition Categories

100 President’s Challenge

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.

2. The theme for each year is announced annually at the Awards Night in May of the preceding year. It is set by the club president.
3. The theme for 2025 is **Fifty**.

200 Feature

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.
2. The Feature theme for each year is announced annually at the Awards Night in May of the preceding year. The theme is set by the competition committee.
3. The theme for 2025 is **Perspective**.

300 A Work in Progress (Digital Single Image)

1. Any club member who has not been awarded a judge-scored first, second, or third place in previous monthly competitions in the current club year may enter a single **digital** image in this category.
 - a. Members who have received a member-voted first, second, or third place may enter.
2. The theme of this category is “Open”.

400 Outings and Workshops (Digital Single Image)

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.
2. The image must be from a sanctioned IACC Outing or Workshop, conducted since the previous year’s Annual Competition entries closed. The original image must have been acquired at the Outing or Workshop.
3. The name of the workshop should be used as the title of the image (e.g. Aldons 2024).

500 The Wild World: Flora (Digital Single Image)

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.
2. The image must be of a **wild plant or plants**, *photographed in its/their natural setting*. Each image must conform to the following definition of wild plant and natural setting. If in doubt about the eligibility of your image, please contact the competition committee well before the competition deadline.
 - a. **A plant** is a living organism that generally does not change location by itself and absorbs nutrients from its surroundings. This “includes the flowering plants, conifers and other gymnosperms, ferns, clubmosses, hornworts, liverworts, mosses and the green algae” (*Wikipedia entry ‘Plant’ n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant>*). For the purposes of this

competition, we will also accept lichens and fungi as well as red and brown algae (e.g. seaweed).

- b. **A wild plant** is a member of a species that grows without human aid or intervention in any part of its life cycle (*Webster's Dictionary*). A non-wild plant is a member of a species that requires such intervention, and/or has been bred by humans over time to fit specific requirements, and/or has been tamed. Non-wild plant species include decorative plants such as ornamental bushes and cultivated flowers (e.g. tulips, carnations), and farm plants which have been bred by humans for food or other economic purposes (e.g. wheat, oilseed, beans, etc). Feral versions of non-wild species are not eligible for this category.
- c. **The natural setting** of a wild plant is the environment where it normally lives. If wild plants are photographed in a controlled context (e.g. a conservatory or wilderness garden), this should not be evident in the submitted image. Images of wild plants or animals removed from their natural environment and photographed in an artificial setting (e.g. in a studio, on a lightbox) will be disqualified.
- d. **The Hand of Man**. The appearance of humans, human artefacts, human structures, or non-wild animals or plants as minor elements in these images will not result in disqualification. For example, a mangrove tree with humans or sailing boats in the distance, a wildflower growing in a fence or hedge, and so on would all be accepted. However, unless these form part of the context or natural environment of the subject, or add to the 'story' of the plant, they will usually distract from the impact of the image. Judges give lower scores for images with distractions.

600 The Wild World: Fauna (Digital Single Image)

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.
2. The image must be of a **wild animal or animals**, *photographed in its/their natural setting*. Each image must conform to the following definition of wild animal and natural setting. If in doubt about the eligibility of your image, please contact the competition committee well before the competition deadline.
 - a. **An animal** is a living organism that generally does change location by itself during at least some stages of its life, and gains nutrients from consuming other creatures. Animals include vertebrates (birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish); molluscs (clams, oysters, octopuses, squid, snails); arthropods (millipedes, centipedes, insects, spiders, scorpions, crabs, lobsters, shrimp); annelids (earthworms, leeches); cnidarians (jellyfish, anemones, corals); and sponges. (*Wikipedia entry 'Animal' n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal>*).

- b. **A wild animal** is a member of a species that grows without human aid or intervention in any part of its life cycle (*Webster's Dictionary*). A non-wild animal is a member of a species that requires such intervention, and/or has been bred by humans over time to fit specific requirements, and/or has been tamed. Non-wild animal species include all pets and farm animals. **Feral versions** of non-wild species are not eligible for this category.
- c. **The natural setting** of a wild animal is the environment where it normally lives. If wild animals are photographed in a controlled context (e.g. a zoo or game farm), this should not be evident in the submitted image. Images of wild animals removed from their natural environment and photographed in an artificial setting (e.g. in a studio, in a corral, in a house or vehicle) will be disqualified.
- d. **The Hand of Man.** The appearance of humans, human artefacts, human structures, or non-wild animals or plants as minor elements in these images will not result in disqualification. For example, a zebra photographed during a safari with a native village in the distance, a bird perched on a fence, a wolf stalking sheep, would all be accepted. However, unless these form part of the context or natural environment of the subject, or add to the 'story' of the animal, they will usually distract from the impact of the image. Judges give lower scores for images with distractions.

700 'Scapes (Digital Single Image)

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.
2. The image may be a landscape, a seascape, a skyscape or a cityscape. There are no hard restrictions, other than that the image is to be made of the outdoors.
3. Entrants should consider that judges will generally think of landscape photography "in reference to photography of naturally occurring scenery in open spaces—typically ranging from a dozen feet, to a dozen meters, to a dozen miles, in breadth" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape_photography). Cityscapes, seascapes, and skyscapes have similar meanings for their own specialties. Images which do not clearly reflect these concepts are likely to receive lower scores, even if they are otherwise good images.

800 New Member (Digital Single Image)

1. Each new member can enter a single **digital** image.

- a. **A new member is defined** as a person who has joined the IACC for the first time in this club year (September to May). Returning members (i.e. former members who had lapsed for a period of time) do not qualify.
2. The theme of this category is “Open”.
3. New members may enter any and all categories of the Annual Competition.

900 Photo Essay

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** photo essay.
2. A photo essay is a series of images, presented together, designed to tell a story of some sort. Photo essays are usually considered to fall into two broad categories: narrative or thematic. Narrative photo essays tell a story, while thematic photo essays explore a theme. Most judges recognize only narrative photo essays as legitimate. Therefore we strongly recommend submitting an essay that clearly tells a story.
3. For the purposes of this competition, a single photo essay consists of 5 to 9 discrete images plus a title. These must be combined into a single digital image, which will be submitted with the entry form.
4. There should be no text on the entry other than the title (i.e. no titles of individual prints, no numbers).
5. As usual for IACC competitions, there should be no identification of the photographer (no watermarks, nothing in title, etc.)
6. **Image Specifications:** Unlike other digital competition entries, it is important that the judges can zoom in and scroll around the overall image to view the individual images. Therefore we recommend that your submitted image be at least 5000 pixels wide/high. The final image must also be less than 50 megabytes in size, or our software will not accept it. If you wish, you may submit a test version to the competition chair (competitions@imagesalberta.ca) at least three days before entries close.
7. How to Do a Narrative Photo Essay.
 - a. Narrative photo essays tend to be chronologically structured, but not all narrative photo essays follow a purely chronological format. Below is one writer’s fairly rigid sequence for a narrative photo essay, but remember that there are many other potential approaches.
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Contextualization
 - iii. Opening
 - iv. Development
 - v. Conflict
 - vi. Continuation
 - vii. Climax

viii. Resolution

ix. Closing (Lightstalking: <https://www.lightstalking.com/create-meaningful-photography-essay-5-steps/>)

1000 Clive Mathewson Humour Award

1. Each club member can enter a single **digital** image.
2. The theme of the category is humour. The submitted image should be humorous or lighthearted.
3. This category is scored by member voting.

1100 Video Composition

1. Each club member can enter one video/slideshow with either verbal or musical accompaniment.
2. The content/theme of the slideshow is “Open”.
3. Length: The show may be up to THREE (3) minutes long. Longer shows will not be accepted.
4. Since the videos will be member voted, please avoid including watermarks, signatures, or other elements that identify the entrant.
5. Titles and other text elements are allowed, as long as they do not identify the entrant.
6. This category is scored by member voting.
7. Special Submission Instructions
 - a. Entrants must submit their entry using the provided entry form, similar to all other IACC entry categories.
 - b. When submitting the entry form, you will need to provide a placeholder image to make the form work. This can be anything, as it will not be used for the website.
 - c. Due to the size of video/slideshow files, the actual file for projection should be sent directly to the Competitions Chair at competitions@imagesalberta.ca, using WeTransfer, Dropbox, or physically handed over on a thumb drive. Contact the chair first to make sure they are expecting the file.
 - d. The presentation should be in a file format that does not require special software for playback (e.g. MP4). All widely used video formats are acceptable. **Do not submit .exe files.**
 - e. **Powerpoint shows** must be converted to video for submission. MP4 is preferred. This prevents problems with timing, sound sync, etc. Please check with the competition chair regarding other formats.
 - f. It is recommended that videos be in HD resolution of 1920x1080 pixels.

1200 Print.

1. Each club member may enter a single printed image. A digital version must be submitted when entering.
2. The theme is "Open".
3. Submission Instructions
 - a. You will be emailed a print tag for your submission. It must be printed put and affixed to the upper right corner of your submission with the image number and title clearly visible. Your name must not be visible.
 - b. Prints (hardcopy) must be received at the competitions desk at the hall before **6:50 pm** on the night of the April annual competition meeting.
 - c. The rules regarding acceptable print materials and presentation are the same as for monthly competitions.
 - d. Maximum print size is 20 inches in any direction. This excludes the size of any matte.
 - e. The submitted image must be capable of being displayed on our easels. It must be rigid enough to be self supporting. The most common method of achieving this is to matte or mount the print. It also cannot be too heavy. This precludes the use of frames, and glass or metal prints. The decision of the "pit crew" is final.