



Midland District Camera Club

Founded 1963

Guidelines Used for Judging Photos

- BEFORE you start, develop a set of guidelines. Typical criteria can include proper exposure, sharpness, composition, impact and originality.
- Take advantage of the preview of all the photographs first, to enable you to successfully tailor the range of your scoring to the actual range of quality.
- Clear your mind of subject matter prejudice. You are a photo judge, not a "subject judge." Avoid letting your likes and dislikes colour your objective judgment.
- Avoid snap judging caused by initial sensory overload. A great photograph should linger in the mind and soul, and needs more than technical flashiness or pretty scenery to do so.
- Avoid judging that favors "technical proficiency" over "creativity". Both should figure more or less equal. Creativity is the soul of Photography and if it takes a fresh look at our world, it may merit a higher score.
- Consider "pluses" as well as "minuses" in commenting and scoring.
- Avoid over adherence to one arbitrary "rule of composition" or "theory of seeing"
- Avoid obsession with minor imperfections. A minor imperfection should not mean a major reduction in your final score.
- Be careful with photos that evoke a strong emotional response. Good or bad, emotions are emotions, and your task is not to judge the "happiness level" of the emotions produced but how well the photographer succeeds in bringing them forth for the viewer.
- Stick consistently to your guidelines for judging throughout the entire judging process.
- Make sure your comments justify your final score.