

SkillsUSA NC

**2024 Photography Contest**

**Secondary/Post-Secondary**

**(updated 12/1/2023)**

**ALL Advisors and Contestants MUST read this!**

The North Carolina SkillsUSA Photography Competition is designed to reflect the scope and rigor of the National SkillsUSA Photography Competition, with input and oversight from members of the National Education Team as well as the National Photography Competition Chairperson. While some variations may be applied to the competition due to location and time constraints, be sure to refer to the SkillsUSA National Standards which was included in your Advisor’s registration packet for more information about this event. Scoring is based on a 1000-point contest which is divided into 10 categories of 100 points each. Each contestant must attempt all 10 categories. Scoring is done by an independent panel of judges comprised of professional photographers.

**Dress Code:**

Contestants will wear white dress shirt or polo shirt [no T or sweatshirt and shirt may not have any print, type, or logos other than the official SkillsUSA name or logo], black slacks or skirt, black socks with slacks, and black closed toed, full heal shoes, [spiked, platform, or other high heel designs are not acceptable]. Penalties of up to 50 points deducted from overall score may result for non-compliance.

**EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY CONTESTANTS:**

This is a minimum required equipment list. Any additional accessories are acceptable and up to the discretion of the student (e.g., on-camera flash, reflector, additional lenses, etc.). The technical committee supplies systems for Portrait Studio, Troubleshooting, Color Correction and Job Interview sections. Remember that all equipment brought on the “field assignment” must be carried by the student (one medium to large camera bag).

1. **Digital SLR** **or Mirrorless System Camera** with lens (ZLRs, Fixed lens, compacts, cell phones or tablets are not acceptable!) Must be fully Manual capable.

2. 2-Batteries with charger

3. 2-SD/CF camera storage cards. Minimum 8GB each (memory cleared before competition)

4. USB card reader or SD slot on computer

5. USB flash drive (minimum 8GB – memory cleared before competition)

6. Computer with USB drive (laptop recommended but not mandatory)

7. Computer loaded with Adobe Photoshop (version CS6 or higher)

Please note that the coliseum Wi-Fi is not free and does not have the bandwidth to download the

Adobe apps on site.

8. Hand-held Ambient/Flash light meter

9. **Two mounted prints** for Print Competition (see guidelines in “Scope of Contest”)

Please note that there are no professional printing facilities in the area of the coliseum.

10. All competitors must create a **one-page** résumé and submit **2 hard copies** to the technical committee chair at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 20-point penalty.

The schedule and a definition of each contest category and the corresponding scoring rubrics are as follows:

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.**

**Greensboro Coliseum.**

A lunch break will be provided on site for contestants and judges. The Coliseum provides a variety of fast foods at the snack bar **at the contestant’s expense**. Contestants may not leave the Coliseum area without express permission of the Contest Chairperson.

**8:00 am. ORIENTATION:** All contestants, Secondary and Post-Secondary, must attend. Explanation of the overall competition followed by Q&A session with Contest Chairperson.

Each student will submit two original photographs of their own design and creation to be judged and displayed at the competition. Requirements for prints are as follows:

1. Print size **MUST** be an **11"x14"** or a total of 154 square inches.

2. All prints **MUST** be mounted to a **16"x20" black foam-core mount board with a 16"x20" black over mat board with an 11”x14” window for the print to be visible through.**

3. The total thickness of the finished piece may be no thinner than 1⁄8" and no thicker than 1⁄2".

4. All prints must have a label placed on the back upper middle portion that includes the following information:

1. Maker’s name

2. Instructor’s name

3. School name and address

4. High school or college designation

5. Maker’s cell phone

**These prints must be brought to the contest orientation.** Prints received after this time will not be accepted.

**Contestants must bring all photo equipment and computers to the orientation. Advisors may set up their contestant’s computer during the Off-site Shooting assignment. Advisors must leave the contest area before any contests return.**

1. **Field Assignment**

**Off-site Shoot –** Contestants will be taken to a site to be determined. Each contestant will bring an approved digital camera (see above) and one SD/flash card. The media card will be checked prior to shooting to ensure that it is blank. No other storage media will be allowed on the site. The contestants will shoot in combined jpg/raw format. The theme, assignment, and location of the shoot will be disclosed to the contestants only at the site. Contestants may bring any other equipment such as tripods, reflectors, or flash units with them that they may feel necessary, but they must be responsible for all of their own equipment at all times.

Contestants will have a total of 90 minutes from the time they leave for the location to complete the shoot, return to the contest site and assemble a contact sheet file. Contact sheet files will be saved onto a USB flash drive and delivered to the judges table. No drives will be accepted after time has expired.

Points will be added or deducted from the final score based on the contestants’ professionalism shown during the off-site shoot.

**Rate the contestant’s performance on the following criteria:**

1. **Preparedness** 
   * 1. **Camera \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
     2. **SD/CF Card / USB Flash drive (cleared) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10 points max.)**
     3. **Proper Attire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (50 points max.)**
2. **Efficient use of time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10 points max.)**
3. **Professionalism shown on site \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10 points max.)**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Field Assignment**

**Theme Interpretation Contact Sheet –** The students will select 12 frames which were shot at the designated location and save them to a folder labeled with their contestant number. Those frames will be compiled into a Contact Sheet using Adobe Photoshop, Bridge, or Lightroom. Thumbnail size should be sufficient that all 12 shots fill an 8”x10” print area. The contact sheet will be judged based upon exposure, focus, composition, and adherence to the theme. Make sure that your contestant number is clearly visible on the contact sheet.

**Rate the contestant’s photographs for overall consistency based on the following criteria:**

* + - 1. **Overall exposure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
      2. **Thumbnail size \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
      3. **Resolution \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
      4. **Focus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
      5. **Composition \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Color Correcting –** Contestants will be shown two versions of a single photograph on the computer monitors.One version (A) will be labeled as correctly color balanced; the other (B) is off color. The contestants will work on this problem before and/or after their rotation events and will have until the end of the timed session to adjust the color of version B to match that of version A.

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Studio Product/Portrait Photography –** Contestants will demonstrate their knowledge of studio lighting styles, lighting ratios, and exposures along with their ability to photograph a commercial product or studio portrait. The judge will specify the light style, lighting ratio, lens aperture, ISO, and shutter speed. The contestant will use their own camera and lenses and they will be judged on the appropriate choice of lens size. Contestants may move their camera as deemed necessary, and add any additional props or accessories for composition, but they will not move the main object/subject from the judge’s position.

Contestants will have **10 minutes** from the time they enter the studio until the final shot is exposed. The contestants may shoot as many exposures as time allows, from which they will select the best 6 (six) for judging and save them to a folder labeled with their contestant number. Those frames will be compiled into a Contact Sheet using Adobe Photoshop, Bridge, or Lightroom. Thumbnail size should be sufficient that all 6 shots fill an 8”x10” print area. The contact sheet will be judged based upon exposure, focus, composition, and adherence to the theme. Make sure that your contestant number is clearly visible on the contact sheet which will be submitted digitally.

* + - 1. **Lens Focal Length \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      2. **Lighting Style \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      3. **Overall Exposure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      4. **Aperture (Depth of Field) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      5. **Shutter Speed (Blur/shake) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      6. **Light Ratio \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      7. **Composition/pose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      8. **Control of reflections/glare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      9. **Thumbnail size/resolution \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      10. **Focus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Adobe Photoshop –** Contestants will be asked to demonstrate the use of Adobe Photoshop CS6 or above to create a conceptual composite combining the images from your Off-site Shoot Assignment and Studio Shoot. Your design pieces will be saved to your flash drive. They will be judged on creativity, composition and design, clarity including focus and exposure, and theme interpretation. Remember, as with any computer program or system, it is important to save often. Contestants will be judged on the final image rather than the actual steps used to create it.

Allotted time = 60 minutes

* + - 1. In Photoshop, open a new 8x10 @ 300ppi, portrait orientation project and save it on your desktop as **“Conceptual-your#”** (i.e. Conceptual-105)
      2. You must use exactly 4 (four) images chosen only from your Off-site Shoot Assignment contact sheet that you feel best interpret the theme.
      3. You must use exactly 1 (one) image chosen only from your Studio shoot contact sheet.
      4. Using the Text Tool, add the **SkillsUSA 2023-2024 Theme: “SkillsUSA: No Limits”** to the composite in a font style, size, and color that is clear and easily readable at a distance of 3 feet. You may apply any layer style to the text that feel is appropriate for your composition.
      5. Using the Text Tool, place your contestant number in the top header area of the print, center justified, using Arial font at a size of 20 pt.
      6. Flatten the image and save as a high .JPG file
      7. Save to a USB flash drive and bring to the designated download station.

**Rate the contestant’s print based on the criteria listed below. Each item is worth 10 points.**

**Aesthetic**

* + - 1. **Creativity/Originality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      2. **4 Off-site images \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      3. **1 Studio image \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      4. **Theme text**

**Technical**

* + - 1. **Exposure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      2. **Focus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
      3. **Contrast/Tonality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Presentation**

* 1. **Overall Image Resolution \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  2. **Print Dimensions/Orientation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  3. **Contestant number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Troubleshooting/Color Balance Recognition –** Contestants will be shown several digital output photo prints that have major problems relating to exposure, processing, or output. Each print has a single problem identified. The problem may be an error in shooting, handling, processing, or printing. There are no two prints with the same problem. Contestants will have **10 minutes** to identify and write down the problems in the spaces below corresponding with the number on each print.

Seven additional photographs have been provided. One print (N) is correctly color balanced. The others, (1-6) are off color to red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, or yellow. There are no two prints with the same color shift and there are no combination shifts. Contestants will have **10 minutes** each to identify and write down the color shift in the spaces below corresponding with the number on each print.

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Written Test -** A 50 question test. Questions will deal with knowledge of digital photography, light and lighting techniques, digital printing, and Adobe Photoshop functions. Each item is worth **2 points.**
2. **Job Interview –** Contestants will meet with a working professional in the photographic industry and undergo an interview for a hypothetical position as a studio assistant at a photography studio. Each contestant will provide **two** copies of a complete, accurate, and up to date, one-page resume. They will demonstrate their knowledge of studio operations as well as basic photographic skills. The judge may ask any questions that he/she feels are relevant to the position. Contestants’ professionalism will be judged on their poise and confidence, appearance, quality of the resume, and overall knowledge.
   * + 1. **Appearance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
       2. **Articulation/Poise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
       3. **Photographic Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
       4. **Studio Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**
       5. **Resume \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20 points max.)**

**TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (100 points max.)**

1. **Print judging A**
2. **Print judging B –** Each contestant will bring with them to the Contestant Meeting two prints, Black and White and/or Color, representing the very best of their ability. Prints will be mounted on **black 16”x20” foam core mount board with a 16"x20" black over mat board with a window for the print to be visible through**. The print size must be **11”x14”** or a total of 154 square inches. Prints will be judged on Thursday for aesthetic creativity, technical merit, and presentation quality. Portraits in which individuals are recognizable must be accompanied by a signed, witnessed model release.

**Rate the contestant’s two mounted prints based on the criteria listed below. Each item is worth 5 points for a total of 50 points per photograph.**

**Print A Print B**

1. **Aesthetic**
   1. **Creativity/Originality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   2. **Composition \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   3. **Depth-of-Field \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Technical**
   1. **Exposure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   2. **Focus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   3. **Contrast/Tonality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   4. **Print Processing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
3. **Presentation** 
   1. **Cleanliness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   2. **Spotting/Retouching \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   3. **Mounting/Matting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL POINTS (100 max) EACH \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

CUMULATIVE TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1000 points max.)

For more information, please contact: Clayton Joe Young, Photography Contest Chairperson

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