NC-SkillsUSA
2021 Virtual Photography Contest
Secondary / Post-Secondary
(updated 1/05/2021)

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 8 categories of 100-150 points each. Each contestant must attempt all 8 categories. Scoring is done by an independent panel of judges comprised of professional photographers.

DRESS CODE:
Contestants are asked to 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.], for all virtual meetings.

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

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

2. Wi-Fi with bandwidth capable of receiving and transmitting images in excess of 2Mb. (Be sure to test your wi-fi system prior to the event).

3. **Two digital photographic images** for Print Competition (see guidelines in "Scope of Contest")

4. All competitors must create a **one-page** résumé and submit **a digital copy PDF** through the Canvas upload site by Orientation on April 19. As we are forgoing the "Interview" this year in favor of the digital résumé only, failure to submit the résumé will result in a 100-point penalty.

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

First Day of Competition. Monday, April 19th, 2021

9:00 am. ZOOM ORIENTATION: All contestants, Secondary and Post-Secondary, and their respective advisors **must** attend. Explanation of the overall competition followed by Q&A session with Contest Chairpersons. Any contestant or advisor who can not attend the orientation must notify the contest Chairperson at least 24 hours prior to the event to make other arrangements if applicable or the contestant(s) will be disqualified.

Each student will submit two original photographs of their own design and creation to be judged and displayed on the NC-SkillsUSA website following the competition, along with a copy of their digital resume. Requirements for images and resume are as follows:

1. Image sizes **MUST** be 800x1000 pixels (8in.x10in.) @ 100 ppi.(approx. 2.3 Mb)
2. All images **MUST** be JPG format.
3. All images must be labeled with the **Contestant's Numbe**r only, No Names Please!
4. Contestants will also submit a digital resume in Word.docx format, also labeled with the contestant number

These Photo files and resumes must be uploaded to Canvas between March 1st and the contest orientation. Image files received after this time will not be accepted.

During the Orientation, contestants will receive detailed instructions on each of the specific contest events. All completed work and images must be saved to Canvas and labeled with the **Contestant's Number.**

1. **Color Correcting –** Contestants will be given a digital file containing two versions of a single photograph. One (A) is correctly color balanced; the other (B) is off color. Your task is to adjust the color of (B) to match that of (A). You may not copy and paste any portion of image A onto image B. .
       1. The contestants will adjust the color of version B to match that of version A.
       2. Save version B as: **Color Correct (Contestant number)** in the Photo Contest Folder

    RGB color values range from 0 to 255. Judges are provided with reference points which will be used for standardized evaluation of all entries. Values within 5 points of each of the target R, G, and B values equal a score of 150.

    A deduction of 1 point from the score for each additional 2-point variation $\pm$ in the color values.

    Contestant: R= _____
    Correct/ Original: R= _____
    Difference ± :   _____ /2 = -_____

    Contestant: G= _____
    Correct/ Original :   G= _____
    Difference ± :   _____ /2 = -_____

    Contestant: B= _____
    Correct/ Original :   B= _____
    Difference ± :   _____ /2 = -_____

        TOTAL POINTS   _____ **(150 points max.)**

2. **Adobe Photoshop –** Contestants will be asked to demonstrate the use of Adobe Photoshop CS6 or above to create a conceptual composite combining the images supplied in your contestant folder. They will be judged on creativity, composition and design, clarity, 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.

       1. In Photoshop, open a new 8x10 @ 100ppi, portrait orientation project and save it on your desktop as **"Photoshop-your#"** (i.e. Photoshopl-105)
       2. You must use all of the provided images from the contest folder
       3. Using the Text Tool, add the **SkillsUSA 2021 Theme: SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Empowered to Succeed** to the composite in a font style, size, and color that is clear and easily readable at a distance of 3 feet from the monitor. You may apply any layer style to the text that feel is appropriate for your composition.
       4. Using the Text Tool, place your contestant number in the top right corner of the print, using Arial font at a size of 20 pt. in any color that can be easily readable by the judges.
       5. Flatten the image and save as a high .JPG file
       6. Save as: **Photoshop (Contestant number)** in the Photo Contest Folder

Rate the contestant's print based on the criteria listed below. Each item is worth 15 points.

Aesthetic
1. **Creativity/Originality** _____
2. **Use of all file elements** _____
3. **Theme text design** _____

Technical
1. **Exposure** _____
2. **Color balance** _____
3. **Contrast/Tonality** _____
4. **Text specifications** _____

Presentation
1. **Overall Image Resolution** _____
2. **Print Dimensions/Orientation** _____
3. **Contestant number** _____

TOTAL POINTS _____ **(150 points max.)**

3. **Troubleshooting–** Contestants will be shown 10 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.
    1. Contestants will identify and type the specific problems in the spaces below each print.
    2. Save as: **Troubleshooting (Contestant number)** in the Photo Contest Folder
    TOTAL POINTS _____ **(100 points max.)**

4. **Color Balance Recognition -** Seven 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.
    1. Contestants will identify and enter the color of the shift in the spaces below corresponding with the number on each print.
    2. Save as: **Color Recognition (Contestant number)** in the Photo Contest Folder

    TOTAL POINTS _____ **(100 points max.)**

5. **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.**
    1. The written test will be administered through Canvas between March 1st and March 5th as a qualifier for this competition. The score for the test will be added to the contest total.

    TOTAL POINTS _____ **(100 points max.)**

6. **Job Interview –**. Each contestant will submit a complete, accurate, and up to date, **one-page** digital résumé through Canvas. As we are forgoing the "Interview" this year in favor of the digital résumé only, failure to submit the résumé will result in a full 100-point penalty. Each category below will be scored at up to 20 points each.

    1. Design/Presentation (including overall formatting, font size and style, and readability)
    2. Personal Data (including contact information and a short [100 words or less] statement of your qualifications for a job at a photography studio)
    3. Educational Background (including significant honors, awards, or other achievements within the past 4 years)
    4. Work Experience (including paid or unpaid, full or part-time, totaling more than 3 weeks cumulative per year, within the past 4 years)
    5. Technical Expertise (including photographic as well as computer application skills)

    TOTAL POINTS _____ **(100 points max.)**

7. **Digital Photograph judging A and**
8. **Digital Photograph judging B –** Each contestant will submit two original digital photographic images of their own creation, Black and White and/or Color, representing the very best of their ability. Images may be manipulated to whatever degree the creator desires but should retain qualities of a photographic image. (Just a suggestion: Don't overdo it! - i.e., not just a digital graphic design)
    1. Image sizes **MUST** be 800x1000 pixels (8in.x10in.) @ 100 ppi.(approx. 2.3 Mb)
    2. Images may be portrait or landscape orientation
    3. All images **MUST** be JPG format.
    4. All images must be labeled: **Photo A (Contestant number)** or **Photo B (Contestant number)**
    5. Portraits in which individuals are recognizable must be accompanied by an authentic digital copy of a signed, witnessed model release. Release must be labeled to identify the image it relates to and included in the print folder.
    6. Submission of any images for competition with NC-SkillsUSA confers to NC-SkillsUSA usage rights for reproduction of those images limited for promotional purposes only. No images may be resold or redistributed to any other party for any purposes what-so-ever without the express written permission of the creator. Creator credit will accompany any publication of any image.

Rate the contestant's two digital photographic images based on the criteria listed below. Each item is worth 15 points for a total of 150 points per photograph.

		Image A	Image B
1	**Aesthetic**		
	a **Creativity/Originality**	_____	_____
	b **Composition**	_____	_____
	c **Depth-of-Field**	_____	_____
2	**Technical**		
	a **Exposure**	_____	_____
	b **Focus**	_____	_____
	c **Contrast/Tonality**	_____	_____
	d **Digital Processing**	_____	_____
3	**Presentation**		
	a **Cleanliness**	_____	_____
	b **Spotting/Retouching**	_____	_____
	c **File size and format**	_____	_____
	TOTAL POINTS (150 max) EACH	_____	_____

CUMULATIVE TOTAL   _____ (1000 points max.)

Digital file folders will be downloaded by the end of the first day of competition. Items not submitted to Canvas by 9:00 p.m. will not be considered for judging.

For more information, please contact: Frank Chodl, Photography Contest Chairperson
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