

Competitions for the

2026-2027 Season

This season there will be three competitions. Two digitals, and one print competition. For those without a printer, we offer printing in the Technology Lab.

2026-2027 Competition Summary

Date	Type	Categories
Oct 2026	Digital	Open / The Eyes Have It / Transportation
Jan 2027	Print	Open
Mar 2027	Digital	Open / Travel Photography / Doors, Windows and Entryways

Judging Criteria

To ensure we can dedicate more attention to each photograph, the submission limit in Digital reduced from 6 to 4. So max for all competitions is now 4 per member.

Check our [resource page](#) on [SCPD Photography Club](#) website for the 10-point checklist and explanation of what the judges are looking for, as well as scoring system. ([Resource Page](#)) Basically, does your composition represent your subject at its best? Does your image tell a story or have a point of view? Is it sharp where it should be sharp. Is the lighting appropriate? Are there interesting colors and contrasts? Show us your best! Manipulation is permitted.

Judges will assign up to 5 points per photo per judge.

Do not include any identifying watermarks / logos on your photos. This will result in disqualification.

Competition Number 1 - Digital

October 2025 – Submission process to follow.

A maximum of two entries per category will be permitted. A maximum of four entries combined for all categories will be accepted. If an entrant submits more than four combined entries, ALL entries by that photographer for that evening's competition will be disqualified as we cannot ascertain which entries the photographer would choose.

Categories

Open

Anything goes—any genre - use your imagination. Add or delete elements...change colors...use filters... think outside the box!



The Eyes Have It

These photographs should highlight the subject's eyes, often referred to as the "windows to the soul." The intent is to create images where viewers are drawn into the gaze of the subject, whether it is a person, pet, or animal. Macro shots of insects are also suitable, provided the eyes are captivating and central to the composition.

This theme encourages photographers to explore the connection between their subjects and the viewer by emphasizing the eyes as focal points.

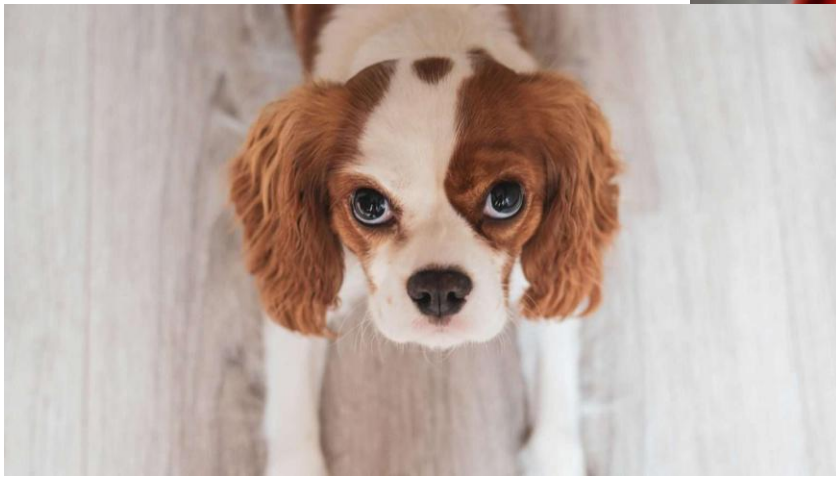
Internet Resources

<https://www.dannyburk.com/captivating-portraits-how-to-emphasize-the-eyes/>

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/how-to-catch-light-in-a-photo-subjects-eye/>

[Capturing Pet Eyes - Cats](#)

[Editing in Lightroom the photos of your pet's eyes - Dogs](#)



Transportation

Planes Trains and Automobiles

Any mode of human transportation, including horses, horse-drawn carriages, trains, automobiles, airplanes, and even spacecraft, is acceptable

Internet resources.

<https://www.lightstalking.com/transport-as-travel-shots/>

[Photographing Planes](#)

[Photographing Trains](#)

[Photographing Automobiles](#)



Competition Number 2 - Prints

January 2027 – Submission process to follow.

- Prints: Maximum 4 Prints. Digital copy required for viewing on screen, but judging will be based on print.
- If maximum number is exceeded, then ALL entries will be disqualified.

Categories

Open

Anything goes--use your imagination. Add or delete elements...change colors...use filters... think outside the box!

If you are interested in entering the Date Festival photo competition, be sure to check their entry criteria. At the time this document was written the photography competition information has not been published for 2027. Keep checking at www.datefest.org for updates on Photography competitions.

Competition Number 3 - Digital

March 2027 – Submission process to follow.

A maximum of two entries per category will be permitted. A maximum of four entries combined for all categories will be accepted. If an entrant submits more than four combined entries, ALL entries by that photographer for that evening's competition will be disqualified as we cannot ascertain which entries the photographer would choose.

Categories

Open

Anything goes--use your imagination. Add or delete elements...change colors...use filters... think outside the box!

Travel Photography

Generally considered photos while traveling, but not necessarily.

Travel photography is a genre of photography that may involve documentation of an area's landscape, people, cultures, customs, and history. The [Photographic Society of America](#) defines a travel photo as an image that expresses the feeling of a time and place, portrays a land, its people, or a culture in its natural state, and has no geographical limitations.

This could be downtown Indio, downtown Palm Springs. Joshua Tree or many of our locations that we go to on our field trips.

Internet Resources

[Travel Photos - A Complete Guide](#)

<https://www.earthtrekkers.com/travel-photography-tips-and-tricks/>

<https://www.nomadasaurus.com/travel-photography-tips-for-beginners/>



Doors, Windows and Entryways

Doors, windows and entryways are more than just physical barriers or entry points; they are silent storytellers. They can be gateways to new experiences, a reflection of the inhabitants, or a threshold between the past and present. What unique character or narrative of a door or entryway will you find?

Door, Windows and Entryway Photography Tips

When photographing doors, windows and entryways, consider the following tips to enhance your photography skills.

- **Explore Unique Compositions:** Look for doors / windows with interesting backgrounds or juxtapositions to create visually appealing images.
- **Use Creative Angles:** Experiment with different angles and perspectives to capture the character and beauty of the doors / windows.
- **Highlight Details:** Focus on the details of the door, such as the hardware, paint, and the overall design, to create a more engaging image.
- **Tell a Story:** Include elements beyond the door / window, like the interior or the surrounding environment, to add context and interest to your photograph.
- **Experiment with Lighting:** Use natural light or artificial lighting to create different effects and highlight the textures and colors of the doors.

By following these tips, you can capture stunning photographs of doors, windows and entryways that reflect the architectural beauty and cultural significance of the spaces they represent.

Internet Resources

<https://photzy.com/how-to-creatively-photograph-windows-doors/>

<https://door.photography/>

<https://jimswallow.com/doors-and-windows/>

<https://www.lanesmithphotography.com/doors-fine-art-photography>

