Skills USA State Contest Description - Photography - 2023

Objective:

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of still photography. Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with photography as the occupational objective. Competitors will demonstrate their skills in photography by a print competition, field assignment, digital editing, and an exam.

Knowledge Performance:

Students will take a 50-100 question multiple-choice exam on general photography, Adobe Photoshop, and SkillsUSA knowledge.

Skills Performance

2023 Photography Contest theme: *Nostalgia*

Print Competition: Contestants must submit two prints produced before the competition in any category of their choice (portrait, landscape, still life, etc). These prints will follow the theme of "Nostalgia." Prints will be on public display and must not contain any questionable content including but not limited to: drugs, sex, violence, illegal activity, etc. Prints must adhere to the following criteria:

a. Print size must be an 11"x14" or 10"x15"
b. Each of the 2 prints must be mounted to a 16"x20" black foam core board (1⁄4"thick) with a 16"x20" black window mat on top. The window mat should be cut from mat board or illustration board.
c. Each print must have a label placed on the back upper middle section that includes the following information:
1. Contestant number (given at the contest)
2. Cellphone number (advisor or student)
d. Prints must be brought to the first orientation meeting of the contest (Tuesday, unless otherwise announced). Prints received after the meeting will receive a penalty

Students will capture photographs that are representative of the assigned theme using their own DSLR and photography gear. Students can use reflectors, flash, lenses, tripods, etc. Students will select and edit their two best images applying minor adjustments (IE: cropping, exposure, levels, white balance).

Field Assignment: The assignment evaluates the contestant's creative ability and adherence to contest guidelines. During the competition, students will capture images based on a
theme chosen by the technical committee. This will be a separate theme from the Print Competition theme. Contestants will then choose their best images and apply global edits and light editing before producing a digital contact sheet for judging. The technical committee will assist students in creating the contact sheet if needed. Scoring is based on:
a. Technical: exposure and focus control
b. Creative: overall use of composition, lighting, impact, etc.
c. Level of editing (edits must be global in nature and must not be overdone)
d. Contestant's adherence to time limits, location and theme

Conceptual Assignment: Contestants will use Adobe Photoshop to combine a minimum of three images from their chosen field assignment to produce one creative conceptual piece of art. Very few parameters are put on this contest, as it is meant to evaluate creativity.

Troubleshooting: Contestants will be shown a series of images that have issues commonly found in today's digital processing. Contestants must correctly identify these problems from the list provided. These problems may include but are not limited to: Chromatic aberration, barrel distortion, aliasing, white balance, halos, posterization, parallax

Digital Editing: Contestants are given images to manipulate in Adobe Photoshop. This contest evaluates the student's knowledge of professional editing techniques - including, but not limited to: Selections and refine edge, layer masks and adjustment layers, Green Screen extractions, color correction, resizing layers, correct naming and formatting

Portrait Studio and Product Photography: These are short assignments that will be completed on-site. Studio lights, backdrops, a soft box, and props will be provided.

Career Readiness Performance:

Resume: Students will create a resume using the standard Skills USA format.

Interview: Students will be interviewed on-site at the competition by a photography judge. Students should be prepared to answer questions as if they were interviewing for a position in a photography studio.

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CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS
Class E: Contest Specific — Business Casual
• Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt.
• Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose).
• Black leather closed-toe dress shoes.
• Points will be deducted from the interview rubric for not following the dress code

<u>Tuesday</u> (Orientation):
Contestants must wear the official SkillsUSA clothing requirement listed above.

<u>Wednesday</u> (Contest Site):
Contestants must wear the official SkillsUSA
clothing requirement listed above.
These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at:
www.skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call
1-888-501-2183.
Note: Contestants must wear their official contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS
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 Printing, Portrait Studio, Troubleshooting, Color
Correction and Job Interview sections. Remember that all equipment brought on the
"field assignment" must be carried by the student and fit in shared bus seating (in essence, one medium to large camera bag).

Provided by the contestant:
1. One DSLR or mirrorless camera with removable lens capabilities (bridge or compacts not accepted)
2. Minimum: two batteries with charger
3. Minimum: two 16 GB memory cards

4. One speedlight flash with wireless
transmitter (be sure they work together)
5. One hand-held flash meter
6. USB card reader or camera USB cable
7. <u>Computer with USB and/or SD card slot (laptop preferred).</u>
8. Adobe Photoshop (be sure Photoshop can open the camera's RAW files)*
9. Two images for Print Competition
10. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy to the technical committee chair at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty.

*Note: The WI State competition does allow other software to be used: Adobe Lightroom, Photopea, GIMP, etc. However, please note that the student who advances to the National competition will be required to use Adobe Photoshop.

CONTEST SCHEDULE

Students will report to the Photography area during Orientation on Tuesday to receive the field assignment and take the exam. They should take some photos to work with before arriving at the contest site on Wednesday. Most of Wednesday will be spent working with their photos on the computer. The interview portion of the competition will also be held on Wednesday.

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OTHER NOTES

If you have any questions or are missing some of the equipment mentioned above, please contact the tech chair! (Monica Nohr). We might be able to help you out if we know ahead of time. Students are responsible for bringing cameras, though.

Also, this contest follows the standards and competencies of the National contest. Some of the more advanced content covered may may not have been covered in your school's photography program. This should not discourage students from participating in the contest.   Instructions will be provided for things such as how to use the studio lights, in case participants haven't used them before. Students should practice basic digital editing skills such as cropping, adjusting lighting, clone stamp, selecting areas.

Did you participate last year? Some parts of the contest took longer than expected, so those portions will be significantly shortened to fit the time of the contest with less stress on everyone.

Photography Contact Information:

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Thank you for participating in this year's competition.