



Photo Contest Judges and Participants Guide

A. Purpose

One of the many attractions of a PCR meet are the railroad photographs on display. To aid judges in rewarding photographic excellence in portraying model and prototype railroading, this guide expands upon the PCR Contest Directory (Section IV). This guide may also be used by entrants.

B. Entries

Size:

Minimum and maximum sizes shown in the rules apply to square cornered single images. Other shapes (i.e. oval) shall be eligible for entry if their shortest dimension meets or exceeds the minimum and their longest dimension meets, or is less than the maximum specified in the rules.

Multiple images (i.e. two or more photos mounted on one board) shall be eligible for entry if: 1) at least one of the images meets the minimum and maximum size requirements, and 2) the total area of all the images on the board does not exceed the area of the maximum dimensions specified in the rules (80 sq. in.). As long as the two conditions above are met, there is no minimum size requirement for additional images on the mount. Images may overlap one another, but only the dimensions or area visible to the judges shall determine eligibility.

Unusual situations:

Creativity is encouraged but not to the point that it departs from being railroad related, is bizarre or creates unfair competition. The following examples should determine entry eligibility. If in doubt, request a decision from the Photo Event Chairperson.

Sepia tone – enter in black and white category.

Colored black and white (i.e. hand tinted) – must be entered in color category.

Multiple exposures (either in camera or darkroom) – eligible.

Three-dimensional images (i.e. print(s) mounted so that the front of an image is more than 1/8 inch from back of the mount) – Not eligible.

Multiple layers of one or more film images sandwiched with reflective backing – eligible.

Retouched images – eligible if majority of image is photographic.

Xerography or graphic arts images (i.e. color Xerox, black & white high contrast “line shot”, posterization) – eligible if a majority of the image is created by action of light on a sensitized surface.

C. Judging

Entries selected for awards should exhibit photographic excellence in portraying model or prototype railroading. It is up to each judge to determine what qualities constitute that excellence. It is entirely subjective; however, each judge must be impartial in evaluating the entries. Bias regarding photo technique, road name, type of motive power and equipment etc. must not be a part of the judging. It is the overall impression of the entry that should be considered.

D. Procedure

1. Entrants complete the appropriate spaces on the entry form and submit the form with entries to the contest clerk. Clerk assigns entry number using entry log and labels each entry with its assigned number and places entries on display. The clerk shall not accept entries that do not meet the contest rules.
2. At the designated time when the contest is closed for further entries, the judges (three in number, or five if available – but not four) assemble with the contest chairperson in the display area. The contest chairperson will give appropriate instructions to the judges. Then, the judges working individually, and without conferring, will review the displayed entries and record their choices for first, second and third places in each category on their individual work sheets. The work sheets will then be submitted to the chairperson.
3. The contest chairperson will list by category all entries shown on the work sheets. These entries are considered to be in the judging finals. In all situations in which the work sheets indicate a judging consensus (e.g. all judges vote for the same entry for a designated award), the award may be made at this step in the judging process. In all categories in which a

judging consensus is not indicated, the judging will proceed to the next step.

4. For each category, the clerk will display each entry separately and the judges will indicate by a secret “yes” or “no” vote whether the entry should be retained or eliminated. Each entry receiving at least two “yes” votes (three, if there are five judges) will be retained. If too many entries still remain at the end of this process in the opinion of the contest chairperson, it may be repeated for further elimination.
5. The remaining entries from step 4 will now be displayed adjacently. The judges, as an open panel, shall reach agreement on first, second, third and honorable mention awards. ALTERNATE METHOD: In the event of a very low number of entries in the category, the contest chairperson may eliminate step 4 and allow the judges to go directly to step 5.
6. Judges are not required to make an award. In the event that the judges do not make an award (e.g. only one entry in category), the contest chairperson may make the award with concurrence of the PCR contest chairperson.
7. Judges are requested, but not required, to enter comments on each entry judges sheet.
8. Print entries will be available for viewing following judging with award winners clearly marked. Best print of show may be concealed until the awards presentation, if it is known that the winner will be in attendance.
9. Entrants, or their proxy, will retrieve their entries. Receipts must be shown.