

Photography

CHAIR: Dan Moore, Visual Media Group

CO-CHAIRS: Jeff Hetler, Darin LaCrone, Junebug Clark

CONTEST DATE: April 25, 2019

CONTEST LOCATION: Atrium Conference Center – Endeavor II & III, Mercury

CONTEST TIME: 8:00 am

PURPOSE: To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of (still) photography.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with photography as the occupational objective.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENT: Official SkillsUSA white dress shirt, black dress slacks, black socks (or skin-tone hose for women) and black leather, work or dress shoes.

The Official State T-shirt may be worn at the State Championships.

Official State T-shirt attire



Official SkillsUSA white polo



CONTEST UPDATES:

Equipment and Materials

- DSLR or Mirrorless Camera with the ability to shoot RAW images
- 2 batteries and charger
- Jump Drive (8gb minimum)
- 2 Camera Memory Cards and a Card Reader
- Computer loaded with Adobe Bridge, Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Lightroom
- Digital Portfolio 15 to 20 digital jpeg images showcasing different subjects, techniques and your ability to edit your work.
- Written & printed current résumé (2 Copies)
- Please include the name of one photographer that you admire with a paragraph explaining why. Be prepared to discuss.

1. Photography Technical Knowledge Assessment Test
A three page fill in the blanks and multiple-choice written test
2. Practical Photography Challenge
45 minutes to go out on your own, find and capture pictures that interest you and impress the panel of judges on your vision and creativity.
All photos must be shot RAW.
3. Studio Portrait Skills
Using the provided constant lights and subject you will be asked to provide three variations of lighting and come up with three interesting photos.
All photos must be shot RAW.
4. Photoshop Skills
You will be given two images to retouch.
A portrait and a scene that needs to be cleaned up.
Everybody with a camera is eventually going to take a photo of their significant other or their mother-in-law, so they had better know how to retouch.
5. The Job Interview
Present your written and digital image portfolio to our panel of judges.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. **Written Test:** This test has a series of multiple choice questions that cover some of the following topics:
 - a. History of Photography (iconic photographers and advancements in technology)
 - b. Exposure controls and their effects on images
 - c. Lens choices given a photographic situation (sports, jewelry, studio portraits, etc.)
 - d. General terminology
 - e. Photoshop tools, workflow, processes, etc.

2. **Field Assignments:** The assignment evaluates the contestant's creative ability and adherence to contest guidelines. Contestants are brought to an undisclosed location to capture images based on a theme chosen by the technical committee. Contestants will then choose their best images and apply global edits and light editing before producing a contact sheet for judging. Scoring is based on:
 - a. Technical: exposure and focus control
 - b. Creative: overall use of composition, lighting, impact, etc.
 - c. Level of editing
 - d. Contestant's adherence to time limits, location and theme

3. **Portrait Studio:** Students will be evaluated on their use and understanding of studio lighting. Scoring is based on, but not limited to:
 - a. Standard studio portrait lighting patterns (e.g., split, Rembrandt, loop, butterfly, broad, short, etc.)
 - b. Light ratios (due to a variety of teaching methods, contestants will be given a "main" light aperture setting [e.g., f/11] and a stop difference for the "fill" light [e.g., two stops])
 - c. Interaction with the model and posing quality
 - d. Use of a provided 18% grey card to establish neural white balance

4. **Digital Editing:** Contestants are given images to manipulate in Adobe Photoshop. This contest evaluates the student's knowledge of professional editing techniques.

5. **Job Interview:** Contestants will be present their digital resume along with their digital portfolio and be given an interview to assess their communication skills and overall job readiness. Please include the name of one photographer that you admire with a paragraph explaining why. Be prepared to discuss.

Standards and Competencies

P 1.0 – Apply and implement overall photographic knowledge through a multiple-choice written test

- 1.1 Identify advancements in photographic history
- 1.2 Define a variety of camera functions
- 1.3 Explain studio lighting patterns and settings
- 1.4 Define a variety of digital photographic terms and terminologies

P2.0 – Apply the knowledge and skill needed to conduct a photographic field assignment and produce a contact sheet for judging

- 2.1 Demonstrate technical proficiency in the areas of proper manual exposure and focus
- 2.2 Demonstrate artistic ability through use of standard rules of art and design including, but not limited to: rule of thirds, balance, leading lines, worm's/bird's eye, etc.
- 2.3 Demonstrate an ability to capture images that adhere to the "theme" of the assignment
- 2.4 Demonstrate the ability to format, edit and save the contact sheet using contest guidelines.

P3.0 – Apply the artistic techniques to manipulate multiple images in a free-form conceptual assignment

- 3.1 Demonstrate the ability to use various manipulative tools in Adobe Bridge, Camera Raw and Photoshop
- 3.2 Show an ability to adhere to contest guidelines by using the minimum number of chosen "field assignment" images for this assignment state by the chairperson
- 3.3 Show a creative relationship between the elements used in the assignment

P4.0 – Apply the knowledge and skill needed to create a standard studio portrait or commercial image

- 4.1 Show an understanding of proper lighting patterns on a subject's face in a head-and-shoulder portrait (e.g., split, Rembrandt, loop, butterfly, broad, short)
- 4.2 Demonstrate correct placement of main and fill lights
- 4.3 Demonstrate correct lighting ratios by the setting of main and fill lights (i.e., main light = f/8 and fill light = f/4)
- 4.4 Demonstrate understanding of correct camera settings (e.g. white balance, ISO, aperture, shutter speed)
- 4.5 Demonstrate the ability to correctly crop the image in-camera (e.g., head/product placement, horizontal/vertical)
- 4.6 Demonstrate the ability to professionally pose a portrait subject
- 4.7 Demonstrate the ability to use creative compositional techniques in creating a portrait

P5.0 – Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of tools and techniques in Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom

5.1 Apply the knowledge of manipulating a digital image through several techniques, including:

- 5.1.1 Change orientation of an image
- 5.1.2 Change image size and/or crop
- 5.1.3 Use selection tools
- 5.1.4 Transform selections
- 5.1.5 Use adjustment layers
- 5.1.6 Make tonal adjustments
- 5.1.7 Save and correctly name files

P6.0 – Demonstrate the knowledge skills necessary for a job interview

- 6.1 Present a resume for the interview
- 6.2 Present a digital portfolio of photographic work
- 6.3 Demonstrate an ability to communicate knowledge of field of photography
- 6.4 Demonstrate soft skills necessary for the workplace