

Trowbridge Camera Club Competitions 2026/27

Advanced notice to members of competition subjects for the coming season.

This season we will be having 4 themed competitions corresponding to trophies we hold, and a number of open competitions where any image of any subject can be submitted.

Subjects:

People

Architecture

Flora and Fauna

Landscape

In the past there has been some controversy about what the subjects cover. Judges often have their own ideas which don't necessarily concur with ours resulting in some amazing images being undeservedly marked down.

So, unlike previous years, we are providing a brief on each of the subjects.

We will also give the same brief to each of the judges so it will be clear what we expect.

A copy of the briefs is included below. We will also publish this on the website shortly.

Thankyou Jill for researching and producing the briefs.

In photography competitions, the "People" category is defined as imagery where the human subject is the dominant focus, emphasizing personality, emotion, mood, or lifestyle. It ranges from intimate head-and-shoulder shots to full-body environmental portraits, whether staged in a studio or captured candidly in public. Ideas may be drawn from the following:

- **Portraiture:** Formal or artistic images aiming to capture the spirit and character of one or more subjects.
- **Candid / Street Photography:** Unposed shots where the subject is typically unaware of the camera, capturing authentic, real-life moments in urban or natural environments.
- **Human Interest / Photojournalism:** Captures a person or group in an interactive, emotional, or distinctive situation. It emphasizes storytelling over sheer pictorial perfection.
- **Lifestyle / Culture:** Focuses on the "art of everyday," telling a story about a specific culture, way of life, or human activity.

What Judges Look For

Competitions hosted by recognized organizations use several technical and artistic metrics:

- **Emotion & Connection:** Does the photo convey a clear mood, narrative, or display the subject's personality?
- **Camera Craft:** Proper exposure (detail in both shadows and highlights), correct focus (usually on the eyes), and depth of field that isolates the subject.
- **Composition:** Clean backgrounds (no distracting elements like branches growing out of heads), strong leading lines, and intentional cropping.

Ref: The Society of Photographers, International Photography Awards.

In photographic competitions, the definition of architecture is generally defined as the artistic, technical, and creative documentation of man-made structures. It goes beyond just taking a picture of a building to capturing the design, soul, and interaction of space, light, and geometry.

The scope of the subject matter covers overall exterior spaces and intimate interior details including close-ups of windows, doors, roofs, stairways, steeples, towers and domes.

The built environment includes skyscrapers, residential homes, bridges and industrial structures and can be rural or urban which incorporates cityscapes, urban decay and historic structures.

What Judges Look For

Many judges focus on a composition which highlights the form, shape and design aesthetics of the building and take into account the use of light and shadow which emphasizes surface texture and materials. Good images reflect a narrative or mood and can be purely documentary, while abstract and fine art images might focus on geometric forms, patterns and textures.

In summary, competition judges look for more than a snapshot; they look for creative interpretation of constructed spaces.

References from: British Photography Awards, The Society of Photographers, Architecture Photo Awards, Australian Photographic Judges Association.

Trowbridge Camera Club Flora and Fauna

What is Flora?

Flora is any and every type of plant life in a specific place or at a specific time. It's essentially nature's own plant catalogue for any given region. The scientists who came up with the term "flora," borrowed it from the Roman goddess of flowers and fertility.

When it comes to flora, we're talking about anything that's able to make its own food using sunlight. So that includes towering trees that stretch up to the sky, shrubs along riverbanks, grasses that bend in coastal winds, mangroves tangled in brackish water, and orchids clinging to tree bark. If it grows and produces its own food through sunlight, it's considered flora.

What is Fauna?

Fauna is the other half of the equation—it's every type of animal and insect that lives in its own habitat. The term comes from the Roman god of forests and fields.

What counts as fauna? Animals that rely on consuming organic material for energy and cannot make their own food. So that includes jaguars prowling through the undergrowth, spider monkeys swinging between branches, sea turtles crawling up onto beaches, bats echolocating through the darkness, birds migrating along the coast, and fish swimming in coral reefs. Household pets and livestock are not included but the majority of online sources agree that wildlife sanctuaries, zoos, marine life etc are allowed within photographic competitions.

Ref: <https://pasopacifico.org/what-is-flora-and-fauna>

World Animal protection UK

Landscape photography is capturing an image that embodies the spirit of the outdoors. It carries a sense of *being there* to see something incredible. When viewers look at your work, their hearts should jump. You want them to feel the same emotions that you felt, standing in the middle of nature and bringing back something amazing.

The modern definition of landscape photography is very broad. Land or sea, urban or nature, big or small — by some measures, if you call it landscape photography, it is. You might say that this definition is too open, and that's fair, but it also has a certain truth to it. When you try to restrict the definition of landscape photography, you're placing limits around something that should be creative and boundless. [Nasim Mansurov](#)

Reference: <https://photographylife.com/landscape-photography>

- **The Grand Vista:** Captures vast, awe-inspiring scales of nature, such as mountain ranges, canyons, and deep valleys.
- **Intimate Landscapes:** Focuses on small, isolated sections of a scene (e.g., a specific tree branch or a section of forest floor) rather than the horizon or sky. Ref: Photography Life
- **Seascapes:** Centres on the ocean, coastlines, waves, and beaches, often utilizing long exposures to smooth out moving water.
- **Urban & Cityscapes:** Applies landscape techniques to human-made environments, capturing city skylines, architecture, or the geometry of streets.
- **Astrophotography:** Highlights the night sky, featuring stars, the Milky Way, and nebulae positioned over natural or remote landmarks.
- **Abstract & Minimalist:** Uses colour, shape, and texture to evoke a mood, focusing on graphic elements like sand dunes, ice patterns, or reflections rather than realistic representation.
- **Extreme Weather & Storm:** Focuses on dramatic environmental conditions like tornadoes, lightning, heavy fog, or intense cloud formations over the land.
- Suggested reading: <https://petapixel.com/types-of-landscape-photography/>