

# The Twenty-fourth Annual Champaign County Camera Club Photographic Print Competition



Lincoln Square Village, Urbana  
February 8 – February 23, 2025

Sponsored by:



**Please read this form carefully and fill it out completely.** Hand-deliver or send entry forms and prints to: Urbana Park District, Phillips Recreation Center, 505 W. Stoughton, Urbana, IL 61801. Call 217-367-1544 with questions.

**ENTRY FEE:** (Early bird deadline) Through January 22, 2025, at 6 pm, \$5 for the first print plus \$3 for each additional print. After January 22, 2025, at 6 pm, \$10 for the first print plus \$3 for each additional print. Limit five prints per entrant. (There is no fee for Youth Division entrants.) **Enclose a check for the total amount made payable to Champaign County Camera Club.**

**ENTRY DEADLINE: January 29, 2025, at 6 pm.**

A voluntary tax-deductible donation made payable to the Urbana Park District would be very helpful for allowing better display of prints, including the purchase of additional display panels. For this purpose, use a separate check from the entry fee check and make it payable to the **Urbana Park District**.

To avoid errors, please print clearly or type all the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ If you are 18 years of age, are you currently enrolled in high school? (Circle one.) Yes No

Entry #1 Title (max 40 characters) \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Entry #2 Title (max 40 characters) \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Entry #3 Title (max 40 characters) \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Entry #4 Title (max 40 characters) \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Entry #5 Title (max 40 characters) \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Cropping is not considered editing.**

I hereby certify that I am an amateur artist (including photography, painting, etc.); my entries are my original work; all work on my entries is mine, except for possible commercial printing, mounting and matting; I do not have gross revenue exceeding \$1,000 per year from photographic activities, including the taking and/or editing (using Photoshop™ or similar editing programs) of photographic images; the photographs were taken on or after January 1, 2024; and I fully agree to abide by the rules and conditions regarding entry eligibility.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS OF ENTRIES FOR DISPLAY

The exhibit committee requires that all pieces be prepared as follows. If these requirements are not met, your entry will not be displayed. All prints must be mounted on foam core measuring 11" x 14" x 3/16". Any size print that fits on an 11" x 14" piece of foam core is acceptable, but entrants are advised that prints smaller than 8" x 10" are likely to have less visual impact than competing prints of a larger size. Prints may be flush mounted (all the way to the edge of the foam core), matted, dry-mounted or neatly affixed with adhesives (no tape please). No framed pieces will be accepted. Each entered print must have a title ("untitled" is an unacceptable title). Entries must be clearly labeled on the back in the bottom right-hand corner with the entry title, category, artist's name, and general location (e.g., city, county, state, or country) where photo was taken.

**Artist's name must not appear on the front of the entry.**



# The 24th Annual Champaign County Camera Club Photographic Print Competition

The Best in Show 2025 Photographic Print Competition offers non-professional photographers the opportunity to have their prints publicly exhibited and professionally judged. The purpose of this exhibit is to encourage local AMATEUR photographers' pursuit of artistic pastimes. The show is not intended as a forum for promoting sales. For more information, contact the Urbana Park District at 217-367-1544 or [info@urbanaparks.org](mailto:info@urbanaparks.org).

## HOW TO ENTER

Individual eligible photographers may enter up to five pieces in the exhibit by completing the attached entry form. The print(s) and entry form, accompanied by a check payable to the Champaign County Camera Club, must be received at the Urbana Park District **no later than Jan 29, 2025, at 6 pm**. The fees are: (Early Bird deadline) Through Jan. 22, 2025, at 6 pm, \$5 for the first print plus \$3 for each additional print. After Jan. 22, 2025, at 6 pm, \$10 for the first print plus \$3 for each additional print. Entries may be hand-delivered or mailed to: Urbana Park District, Phillips Recreation Center, 505 W. Stoughton, Urbana, IL, 61801.

## ELIGIBLE ENTRIES

Entries must be new, original prints created by an amateur photographer residing in East Central Illinois. Work not meeting these criteria will not be exhibited or judged. To qualify as new work, the original photographic image on which the work is based must have been taken on or after January 1, 2024. Original prints are those created from the photographic work (film or digital) of the exhibitor. Amateur photographers are broadly defined as those who do the exhibited form of art for pastime, not vocation. In addition, amateur photographers are those who do not do photography as a livelihood or teach arts or crafts as a profession or compete in professional art exhibits. Amateur members of clubs belonging to the Central Illinois Camera Clubs Association (CICCA, i.e., Champaign County, Decatur, Kodaroamers, Peoria & Springfield camera clubs) are eligible but must enter the Club category (for non-cash prizes).

## JUDGING/CATEGORIES

For purposes of this competition, a **photo-realistic image** is one in which the original photographic content of the original image predominates, whether the original image was made on film or by using a digital camera. Alteration of the basic image by the maker is permitted, but alterations must not predominate or be obvious. Combining elements of more than one image is prohibited. CICCA members may only enter the "Club" category. The use of HDR (high dynamic range) in the creation of the image is not considered manipulation if the image still looks photo realistic. In this competition, only photo-realistic images may be entered, except for the General category.

### Categories for this year's competition:

- 1. Animals** (photo-realistic category) – Main point of interest must be wild or domesticated animals.
- 2. Architecture** (photo-realistic category) – Images may show complete buildings or minute details of buildings. "Building" includes such things as bridges and other man-made structures.
- 3. Black and White** (photo-realistic category) – This category is for prints that are entirely in the gray scale (typically thought of as black and white). In addition to grey-scale images, prints done in sepia tones, colored monotone or infrared are acceptable.
- 4. Club** – CICCA members are limited to entry in this category following the General category guidelines.
- 5. General** – Any image may be entered in this category including those that previously fit in the Manipulated category. Manipulated images have been significantly modified via photo-editing software or combine elements from more than one scene, test, abstracts, etc. **Youth entering a manipulated image must enter it in this category.**

**6. Landscape** (photo-realistic category) – Includes the visible features of an area of land or water, including the physical elements of landforms, water bodies, living elements of landcover including vegetation and human elements (crops, buildings, and roads), transitory lighting, weather elements.

**7. Nature** (photo-realistic category) – Image must be shot in a natural environment. The hand of man, such as buildings, fences, roads, etc., must not be present. Domesticated animals must not be present. Images containing a plant/animal found in nature must have been photographed in its natural environment. A beautiful plant found in nature but brought into a studio to be photographed would not fit in the Nature category.

**8. People** (photo-realistic category) – Main point of interest must be an individual person or a group of people.

**9. Youth Division: no entry fee** – All youth entries (except for strongly manipulated images which will be judged in the General category) will be judged in a single general category. Youth wishing to have their entries judged in the adult categories can pay the appropriate entry fees and enter those categories. All youth entrants will be awarded a Certificate of Participation at the end of the competition. The youth category is open to children ages 17 and younger and 18-year-olds currently enrolled in high school. Mounting assistance is available for those in need!

**PRIZES** Each of the nine categories will have a "Best in Show" winner along with a 2nd and 3rd place winner as well as multiple Honorable Mentions. In other words, there will be nine people who will receive "Best in Show" awards which amount to a combination of cash and prizes, excepting the Club category which is eligible for ribbons only. There will be no single image chosen as the "Best in Show" overall. The 2nd and 3rd place winners in each of the non-club categories will receive cash awards. Honorable Mention winners may or may not receive cash awards, depending on the total number of entries. Total cash and retail value of prizes is expected to exceed \$2000. No entrant will receive more than one cash/ merchandise prize. An entrant winning more than one ribbon will receive only the highest valued award.

**EXHIBITION GUIDELINES** Not all entries will necessarily be placed on public display; the Best in Show Committee will exercise sole discretion in determining which prints to exhibit. Special requests by exhibitors regarding placement of their work will not be accepted. The committee reserves the right to change the category in which a print has been entered if it believes the print has been entered in an incorrect category. All decisions by the committee are final.

**Exhibit dates:** Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 12 noon through Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 12 noon

**Exhibit hours:** Monday through Friday: 10 am to 8 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday: Noon to 5 pm

**Public Critique by Judges:** A live Public Critique with the judges and award presentation will be held at 1 pm on Sunday, February 23 at Lincoln Square.

**Check-out:** Prints and awards will be picked up directly after the critique. Leftovers will be held at the Phillips Rec Center for two weeks following the Show. Please DO NOT remove prints early from Lincoln Square. To make special arrangements, call 217-367-1544, ext. 277 prior to Feb. 24, 2025.

**INSURANCE** Although reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent exhibit theft or damage, neither the show committee nor any sponsor/co-sponsor will assume any liability for damage to, or theft of, an entry. Personal property insurance or homeowner's comprehensive insurance can cover exhibited pieces. (Consult your insurer about such coverage.)

**PUBLICITY** Permission to photograph or otherwise use an item for publicity is implied unless a statement to the contrary is attached to the exhibit piece. The News-Gazette is expected to publish a selection of prints following the competition and they will also appear on the Champaign County Camera Club website: [champaigncameraclub.org](http://champaigncameraclub.org).