

Number	Entry	Category	Registration Requirements
301-318	Photography	Display	Sign up on student registration form. Submit project info online. Dates on website.

PACKING

All contestants are responsible for the packaging, transporting and proper handling of their competition entries. No entry may exceed 40 pounds in weight or exceed more than two or three feet in its longest dimension (depending on the category entered.)

DELIVERY

All items must be brought to EXCEL Convention at registration and removed from the premises Friday night after award ceremony.

DISPLAY

Entries must have a display card securely attached to the project with the following information neatly printed or typed: Category of Entry, Student Name, School/City Name. Display card must be clearly visible.

TYPES OF ENTRIES

There are TWO photography classifications: Color and Black/White. Contestants may enter one or both classifications in the following categories:

(301/311) Character Trait Picture - A picture that portrays one of the sixty character traits listed below. The Character Trait must be listed on the display card attached to your entry.

Appreciative	Dependable	Honest	Purposeful
Attentive	Determined	Humble	Resourceful
Available	Diligent	Joyful	Respectful
Committed	Discerning	Kind	Responsible
Compassionate	Discreet	Loyal	Secure
Concerned	Efficient	Meek	Self-controlled
Confident	Equitable	Merciful	Sincere
Considerate	Fair	Observant	Submissive
Consistent	Faithful	Optimistic	Tactful
Content	Fearless	Patient	Temperate
Cooperative	Flexible	Peaceful	Thorough
Courageous	Forgiving	Perseverance	Thrifty
Creative	Friendly	Persuasive	Tolerant
Decisive	Generous	Prudent	Truthful
Deferent	Gentle	Punctual	Virtuous

(302/312) Scenic - A picturesque outdoor setting.

(303/313) Still life - A picturesque indoor arrangement of objects.

(304/314) Wildlife - A picture of animals, birds, flowers, insects, etc. No domestic animals

(305/315) Photo Journalism - A picture telling a story of a person, place, or thing that could be used as an article; i.e., current events.

(306/316) Studio Portrait – Studio portrait of a person or group of people.

(307/317) Candid Shot– A candid shot is a photo captured without creating a posed appearance. This can be achieved by avoiding prior preparation of the subject, and by not distracting the subject during the process of taking photos.

(308/318) Special Effects - A purposeful use of objects; use of lighting, lenses, or other equipment to create an illusion or unusual effect. Include a detailed description of how you created your special effect. Computers may not be used.

PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

- Entries must not have been entered in any other contest.

- Entries must be the sole work of the student.
- Entries may be processed by commercial labs or by the student.
- Entries must be submitted online for pre-judging by April 1st.
- When brought to convention, entries must be 8" x 10" mounted 8" x 10" photo mounted on an 8" x 10" foam core that must not exceed a thickness of ¼" (See illustration below.) No frames.
- Photograph submitted online must be the same photo that is brought to be displayed at convention.
- Entries must arrive for judging in satisfactory exhibition condition.
- Subjects in entries must conform to dress standards.
- Each photo may be entered in only one event.

CRITERIA

- Originality- The way the medium expresses the student's own idea rather than following the pattern of others.
- Content- The subject matter or topic treated must conform to EXCEL standards of what is acceptable in behavior, dress, etc.
- Focus - Sharpness of essential details in the photograph. Good use of depth of field or diffusion for special effect.
- Contrast - The difference between light and dark used to display the content to the best advantage.
- Density - The accuracy of exposure exhibited by overall tonal quality.
- Lighting - The placement of lighting to best exhibit the subject.
- Mounting - The color, texture, and permanence of the material on which the photograph is exhibited.

HINTS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGES

Judges will pay close attention to the technical qualities of your work. Next to content comes composition. This includes the number of subjects, their arrangement, and the background of the picture. When composing, keep your photography simple. Too much symbolism or clutter is distracting to the viewer. Avoid placing the main subject "dead center." This produces a dull, static effect, which is not very pleasing to the eye. After composing the photo, carefully check the background for distracting, objectionable elements. Ugly telephone wires or distracting blotches of color that detract from the main subject have ruined many fine shots. Nothing in the photo, even though in the background and out of focus, should violate Christian standards. Finally, pay close attention to the finishing touches. Your photo should be clean and free of scratches, dust specks, or wrinkles and should be matted attractively. Often these are the factors that are used to break ties.

JUDGING CRITERIA

AREAS OF EVALUATION

POSSIBLE POINTS

I. Originality

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| A. Definite purpose of theme | 5 |
| B. Creativity and/or originality | 10 |

II. Content

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| A. Handling of subject matter | 15 |
|-------------------------------|----|

III. Composition

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| A. Balance | 5 |
| B. Lines | 5 |
| C. Cropping | 5 |

IV. Focus

- | | |
|---|----|
| A. Sharpness of essential details | 10 |
| B. Use of depth of field or diffusion for special effects | 5 |

- | | |
|--|----|
| V. Contrast - lights and darks used to display content to best advantage | 10 |
|--|----|

- | | |
|--|----|
| VI. Density - Accuracy of exposure exhibited by overall tonal quality and/or grain | 10 |
|--|----|

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| VII. Lighting - Placement of lighting | 10 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

VIII. Mounting

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| A. Size 8" x 10" | 10 |
|------------------|----|

Total Points 100

EXCEL CONVENTION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTRIES LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED.

Photography preparation:

- 8" x 10" photo
- 8" x 10" foam board (Pre-cut pieces available at Michaels or Amazon.com)
- Adhesive

