SkillsUSA Kansas Photography Contest 2024

Schedule
Tentative Schedule: The final schedule will be announced during orientation. Please make sure you have everything for both days on each day.

Day 1 (Dress – SkillsUSA Official T-shirt and Jean or Official Attire):

Orientation - Make sure to bring two resumes, competition prints, and photography equipment.

Print Competition - This is the opportunity for you to show the judges your best work. All photos submitted must be school-appropriate. All images must have been taken in the past year. Photos may be Black and White or Color. No composites are allowed.

Images need to be printed & matted before the contest.

Requirements (Make sure to refer to Technical Standards):
1. Prints must be either 11"x14" or 10"x15" mounted to a 16"x20" black foam core board
2. Each print must have a label placed on the back that includes the following information:
    a. Contestant Name
    b. Title of Photo (Ex: Kansas Sunrise)
3. Points will be deducted for scratches, pencil marks, bent corners, etc.

Written Test - This test has a series of 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.

Troubleshooting - This will be a matching test. Contestants are given a series of images and will be required to identify each image's problem(s). These problems include but are not limited to:
    a. Chromatic aberration
    b. Barrel distortion
    c. Aliasing
    d. White balance
    e. Halos
    f. Posterization
    g. JPEG artifacts
    h. Parallax

Interview - Contestants will be given an interview to assess their communication skills and overall job readiness. Make sure to have your resume ready for the interview. We will do this during the print competition.

Day 2 **(Dress - Business Comfortable - Wear something that you can move and take pictures in (no sweats, joggers, or shorts). A comfortable pair of shoes that you can walk around in for an hour or two):**

Field Assignment - Contestants will be given a theme and two hours to photograph those prompts at the competition. You will be asked to format your memory card and set your camera's date & time correctly. All photos must be taken in manual mode on your camera. Once done with capturing your images, You may edit the pictures with global edits. No spot healing or manipulation. You will turn in the photos as JPG images.

> Judging is based on, but not limited to:
> - Technical: exposure and focus control
> - Creative: overall use of composition, lighting, impact, etc.
> - Level of editing (Edits must be global in nature and must not be overdone)
> - Competitor's adherence to time limits, location, and theme

Conceptual Assignment - Contestants will choose three images from the Field Assignment to produce a creative conceptual piece. Very few parameters are added for this assignment to promote creativity of the contestant

Portrait Studio - Contestants will be evaluated on their use of studio lighting and the interaction and posing quality with a model.

> Judging is based on, but not limited to:
> - Standard studio portrait lighting patterns
> - Lighting Ratios
> - Use of hand-held light/flash meter
> - Interaction with the model and posing quality

Digital Editing - During this assignment, you will be given a composited photo for you to recreate it with the images provided. The photo provided has been done in Photoshop. *Depending on time, we may do this Day 1*

> Judging is based on, but not limited to:
> - Selection and refine edge
> - Layer masks and adjustment layers
> - Green screen extractions
> - Color correction
> - Resizing Layers
> - Correct naming and formatting.

Commercial Studio - You will be given a product to photograph as if you were tasked to create an advertisement for that product. This image will be submitted straight from the camera with no edits.

Judging is based on, but not limited to:
- Product Placement
- Lighting of Product
- Clarity of product name
- Use of props
- Overall creativity and impact of image

* Adobe Lightroom is allowed for the Field Assignment. Make sure that it does not need internet as there will be no internet at the competition.

Equipment Needed:
- 2x Resume for Interview
- 2x Prints for Print Competitions
- Pencil(s)
- DSLR or Mirrorless Camera
- Lenses
- Computer with Photoshop Installed (Must be able to read RAW files)
- Memory Card
- Speedlight Flash
- USB SD Reader (If computer does not have SD reader)
- Any other camera accessories you want to use.