OVERVIEW

Participants produce a digital album consisting of color or black and white digital photographs that represent or relate to a chosen theme (posted on the TSA website under Competitions/Themes and Problems) and place the album on a storage device (USB flash drive) for submission. Semifinalists produce a series of digital photographs taken at the conference site that are edited appropriately for the on-site task.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) individuals per state may participate.

TIME LIMITS

Semifinal Round:

1. One half (½) hour is allowed to set up equipment and receive the on-site task and procedures.
2. Two and one half (2½) hours are permitted to complete the on-site task.
3. Semifinalists must be available for evaluation after the on-site task is completed.

LEAP

An individual LEAP Response is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in (see LEAP Program).

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

PROCEDURE

Preliminary Round

1. Participants check in their entry and LEAP Response at the time and place stated in the conference program.
2. The USB flash drive must be submitted in a sealed envelope, which is labeled with the contest name (Digital Photography), and the student identification number. No other identifying information is to be included.
3. Entries are reviewed by judges. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.
4. A list of twelve (12) semifinalists (in random order) will be posted.

Semifinal Round

1. Semifinalists report with their equipment to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program.
2. Each participant, with one (1) assistant (an advisor, fellow student, or adult chaperone), is allowed ½ hour to set up and test the equipment.
3. At the end of the set-up time, the event coordinator and judges present the on-site task and related procedure with the semifinalists.

4. Each year the task involves students taking photographs surrounding a specific theme or documenting a current, appropriate aspect of the conference, such as a competitive event, a special focus of the site, a general session, etc.

5. Semifinalists are given 2½ hours to complete the task, including taking their pictures and editing or enhancing them.

6. As each semifinalist finishes the task, s/he informs the judges and completes a written questionnaire.

7. The LEAP Response will be judged for semifinalists.

8. Students must pick up their equipment when the judging is finished.

9. Ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference award ceremony.

REGULATIONS

Preliminary Round

A. Students use their interpretation of the theme to unify the photographs included in the album.

B. The participant is solely responsible for all aspects of participation, including taking pictures, editing pictures, and completing the album.

C. Preparing the album

   1. The finished album must be saved as a single, multi-page PDF document to a USB flash drive with the pages presented in the following order:

      a. Cover page - must include the event title, the conference city and state, the year, the participant's ID number, and a collage of photographs related to the current theme.

      b. Summary of theme – a detailed description of how the theme was interpreted by the participant, why the particular subjects were chosen, as well as what challenges were faced in the selection of the subjects, in taking the photos, and selecting and editing the final images.

      c. Photos – For each photo type (candid, still life, posed portrait, student choice), the original photo and the edited version, each no larger than 5"x7" and should appear together on the same page. On the following page, should be a description of the original photos and the edited version, along with how the photo was edited/changed from its original form, and how the theme specifically is addressed by both the style and content of the photo. The photos should include:

         * One (1) candid

         * One (1) still life

         * One (1) posed portrait

         * One (1) photo of the student's choice

      d. Resource page - a list of resources used to complete the album, including camera, software, and hardware, etc.

      e. Recognizable individuals selected and pictured in the images must give their written consent before the images can be used in this event. (See Photo/Film/Video Consent and Release form in Forms Appendix.) All consent forms must be included in the single, multi-page PDF album. NOTE: If consent forms are missing, the entry will not be judged.

   2. Digital photographs

      a. Must be taken, edited, and saved digitally

      b. Can be either black and white or color photographs

      c. Should be edited and enhanced using appropriate software

  d. Enhancements and/or editing should be done ethically and in a way that makes a better picture.

Semifinal Round

A. Semifinalists must follow procedures and guidelines as set forth in the task.

B. Semifinalists may not seek help or guidance from any individual.

C. The task must be completed within the specified time frame.

D. Participants are responsible for providing all necessary equipment, including:

  1. a digital camera
  2. computer system
  3. power strip
  4. software
  5. fifty foot (50') extension cord
  6. A printer is not required

E. The event coordinator supplies tables, chairs, and electricity.

F. Participants must submit images in a presentation slideshow format with the unedited and edited photographs in each of the six (6) slides.

G. Entries are judged from each semifinalist's computer system, which must be capable of displaying the images in a slideshow format.

H. Semifinalists will have a brief interview about their slide show in which they may be asked to explain their solution to the on-site task.

I. Semifinalist images may be saved by the judges and become the property of national TSA, Inc. and may or may not be used in future promotional materials and publications.

J. Recognizable individuals selected and pictured in the images must give their written consent before the images can be used in this event. (See Photo/Film/Video Consent and Release form in Forms Appendix). All consent forms must be turned in to the judges when the entry is judged. NOTE: If consent forms are needed (because of an identifiable individual) and are missing, the entry will not be judged.

K. The LEAP Response:

  1. Participants document the leadership skills they have developed and demonstrated while working on this event, and on a non-competitive event leadership experience.

  2. Find specific LEAP Response regulations in the LEAP Program section of this guide, and on the TSA website.

EVALUATION

1. Preliminary round evaluation is based on the effectiveness and quality of the album and how it addresses the current theme.

2. Semifinal Round: evaluation is based on the participant's ability to use digital photography technology, systems, and themes to complete an on-site task, and the content and quality of the LEAP Response

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event has connections to the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

This competition connects to one or more of the career areas below:

- Animator
- Photojournalist
- Research and development scientist
- Reporter
- Website designer

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator
B. Judges:
    1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more
    2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more

MATERIALS

A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
    1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and each judge
    2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
    3. List of judges/assistants
    4. Stick-on labels for identifying entries
    5. Results envelope with coordinator forms
B. Semifinal round materials (coordinator must create these)
    1. Evaluation schedule
    2. Task and guidelines
    3. Interview questions

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. At the conference:
    1. Attend the mandatory coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.
    2. Report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet.
    3. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough judges/assistants have been scheduled.
    4. Inspect the area or room in which the event is to be held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.
    5. At least one (1) hour before the event is to begin, review the time limits, procedures, and regulations with judges. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.
B. Event check-in:
    1. Check in the entries at the time and place stated in the conference program.
    2. Anyone reporting who is not on the entry list may check in only after official notification is received from the CRC.
    3. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by events beyond the participant's control.
    4. Requirements for attire do NOT apply during check-in only on the first day of the conference.
    5. Secure the entries in the designated area.

C. Preliminary Round:

1. Judges independently review the entries.

2. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either

   • to deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or

   • to disqualify the entry

   • The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of these actions on the rating form.

3. Judges determine the twelve (12) semifinalists and discuss and break any ties.

4. Submit semifinalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

5. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.

D. Semifinal Round:

1. Create the semifinalist task statements and plan the procedure. Semifinalists may be given the same task, or share a combination of tasks, depending on the availability of suitable activities.

2. Before the on-site task session, check the room set-up. There should be enough seating, table space, and access to electricity for twelve (12) semifinalists.

3. Students must bring their own computers.

4. Review procedures and the semifinalist task with judges.

5. Manage the semifinalist session with judges, who may observe participants taking pictures.

6. Manage the semifinalist evaluation and the removal of participants' equipment.

7. Judges determine the ten (10) finalists and discuss and break any ties that affect the top three (3) placements.

8. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either

   • to deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or

   • to disqualify the entry

   • The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of these actions on the rating form.

9. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

10. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.

Participant/Team ID# _____

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

2018 & 2019 OFFICIAL RATING FORM	MIDDLE SCHOOL

Go/No Go Specifications

Before judging an entry, ensure that all items are present; indicate presence with an "X" in the box. If an item is missing, leave the box blank and place an "X" in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED; this disqualifies the entry and it is not to be judged.

- ☐ Digital album is present on a USB flash drive
- ☐ Consent/Release forms are present (if required)
- ☐ Completed LEAP Response is present
- ☐ ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

Criterion Performance Levels

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points	Record scores in the column spaces below.
Evaluators: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.				

Album (60 points)

Contents See Regulation C (X1)	Album is unorganized and missing two or more components; the album is not correctly formatted.	Album is organized and formatted, and/or missing only one component.	Album is exceptionally organized and contains all required components.	
Summary (X1)	Theme communicated is difficult to understand; explanation of how theme and style are represented by photos is illogical; definition and/or explanation of the theme is unclear.	Theme is communicated, defined, and the style of photographs is explained appropriately.	Theme is clearly and concisely communicated; definition, and explanation of the theme and style represented in photographs interests the reader.	
Candid photos (X1)	Photos do not adhere to basic photography principles (composition, rule of thirds, distraction, framing, balance, contrast, and lighting); photos do not connect with the theme.	Photos adhere to basic photography principles, with only a few exceptions; photos somewhat connect with theme, and creativity is evident.	All photos hold to basic photography principles, and creativity and theme are exemplified in each photograph.	
Still life photos (X1)	Photos do not adhere to basic photography principles (composition, rule of thirds, distraction, framing, balance, contrast, and lighting); photos do not connect with theme.	Photos adhere to basic photography principles, with only a few exceptions; photos somewhat connect with theme, and creativity is evident.	All photos hold to basic photography principles, and creativity and theme are exemplified in each photograph.	
Posed portraits (X1)	Photos do not adhere to basic photography principles (composition, rule of thirds, distraction, framing, balance, contrast, and lighting); photos do not connect with theme.	Photos adhere to basic photography principles, with only a few exceptions; photos somewhat connect with theme, and creativity is evident.	All photos hold to basic photography principles, and creativity and theme are exemplified in each photograph.	

Album (60 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Student's choice photos (X1)	Photos do not adhere to basic photography principles (composition, rule of thirds, distraction, framing, balance, contrast, and lighting); photos do not connect with theme.	Photos adhere to basic photography principles, with only few exceptions; photos somewhat connect with theme, and creativity is evident.	All photos hold to the basic photography principles, and creativity and theme are exemplified in each photograph.
			ALBUM SUBTOTAL (60 points)

Photographic Principles and Image Editing (40 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Image enhancements (X2)	Three or fewer image editing principles (size alteration, cropping, in-painting, color change, photo orientation, softening, sharpening, etc.) are usefully incorporated into photographs.	Multiple and correct use of the proper image editing principles are incorporated into most of the photographs.	All photographs are enhanced using proper image editing principles, which aid in making enhanced photographs more visually appealing.
Editing ability (X2)	Very little difference is noticed between edited and original photographs, and/or no evidence of image editing is observed.	Most edited photographs are easily recognized as being different from the original; proper editing principles are used.	All photographs exhibit the use of proper editing principles and allow for easy distinction between original and edited versions.
			PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINCIPLES AND IMAGE EDITING SUBTOTAL (40 points)

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

			PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (100 points)

On-Site Semifinal Problem (65 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Solution (X2)	Three or more attributes of the solution's criteria are missing.	Most attributes of the solution's criteria are evident.	Only one or no attributes of the solution's criteria is/are missing.
Photos (X1)	Photos do not adhere to basic photography principles (composition, rule of thirds, distraction, framing, balance, contrast, and lighting); photos do not connect with theme.	Photos adhere to basic photography principles, with only a few exceptions; photos somewhat connect with theme, and some creativity is evident.	All photos hold to basic photography principles, and creativity and theme are exemplified in each photograph.
Image enhancements (X1)	Three or fewer image editing principles (size alteration, cropping, in-painting, color change, photo orientation, softening, sharpening, etc.) are effectively incorporated into photographs.	Multiple and correct use of proper image editing principles are incorporated into most of the photographs.	Multiple and correct use of proper image editing principles are incorporated into all photographs.
Written questionnaire (X1)	Information communicated is difficult to understand; an illogical explanation is presented.	Information is communicated, and thoughts are mostly organized and/or concise.	Information is communicated in an organized, clear, and concise manner.

On-Site Semifinal Problem continued (65 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
LEAP Response (10% of the total event points)	The individual's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and incorporate the SLC Practices.	The individual's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and are generally convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are satisfactory.	The individual's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are excellent.

ON-SITE SEMIFINAL PROBLEM SUBTOTAL (65 points)	
Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the semifinalist section) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right. Indicate the rule violated: _____	
SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (65 points)	
(To arrive at the TOTAL score, add the PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL and the SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL.) **TOTAL (165 points)**	.

Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Evaluator

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____