



Contest Description
Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton
May 8 & 9, 2024

EVENT: Photography	LEVEL: Secondary												
LOCATION: Hall B, Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton	REGIONALIZED: No												
DURATION: 15 hours (Two Days)	EQUIPMENT SET UP, TESTING, AND FLASH FAMILIARIZATION MAY 7: 4:00PM – 5:30PM												
<p>COMPETITION SCHEDULE:</p> <p>May 8:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>ORIENTATION/COMPETITION</i></td> <td>8:00AM-9:00AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHOOTING and EDITING</td> <td>9:00AM-NOON</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LUNCH</td> <td>NOON-1:00PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHOOTING and EDITING</td> <td>12:30PM-4:00PM</td> </tr> </table>		<i>ORIENTATION/COMPETITION</i>	8:00AM-9:00AM	SHOOTING and EDITING	9:00AM-NOON	LUNCH	NOON-1:00PM	SHOOTING and EDITING	12:30PM-4:00PM				
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CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Tasks that may be performed during the contest

- (Day 1) 7 hours will be allocated to photograph and postproduction and 1 hour for lunch
- (Day 2) 3 hours will be allocated for photography, postproduction, and delivery of final images and 1 hour for lunch
- You are only allowed to use an image once.
- Pictures should be shot in RAW.





- Incorrect images will be disqualified, and all judges’ decisions are final. Images that fail to meet the criteria and or circumvent the spirit and intent of the competition will be disqualified.

Duration of contest

Day 1	8:00am – 4:00pm	Competition
Day 2	8:00am – 11:00am	Competition * all photos must be exported and submitted
	12:00pm – 1:30pm	Workshop
	1:30pm – 3:30pm	Critique

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED

- Composition – eg: visual elements, style, balance and harmony, framing, DoF
- Technical – eg: focus, exposure, contrast, use of light, tonal range
- Impact – eg: overall impression of the photograph, tells a story, the emotion, meaning
- Respect of the theme or collection

Note: The competition area is set as the physical building that the competition is held in or the competition grounds, including eating areas, foyers, etc.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Orientation Information:

- **Hand In Pre-Assignment:** Submit your finished pre-assignment project to any member of the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC). Ensure it’s saved on a correctly labelled thumb drive, following the guidelines in Part 1. **Due during day 1 orientation at start of competition.**
- **Essential Equipment:**
 - Bring your camera and lighting gear.
 - Carry a pen and paper to take notes during orientation. Also, have these ready for information briefings just before the start of the competition on both days.
- **Documentation:**
 - Print copies of all competition documents or ensure easy access to electronic versions.
- **Technical Readiness:**
 - Ensure your computer is fully updated and functioning well. Verify that its technical specifications can efficiently handle large files in photo editing software.
 - **Recommended:** Ensure that your editing software is updated to its latest version for optimal performance.
- **Camera Settings Verification:**
 - Double-check that the date and time settings on your camera are accurate.





Part 1 (Pre-assignment):

Strobe Magic: Illuminating Contrasts - Due at the beginning of orientation (2 photographs)

- Your task is to use the power of artificial lighting to transform an ordinary scene into an extraordinary visual narrative.
- **The theme for the contest is "The Human Connection".** You will explore the complexities and nuances of human relationships, emotions, expressions, and interactions in diverse settings.
- Competitors are required to capture their chosen subject(s) or scene in two contrasting ways. The first exposure should rely solely on the available ambient light in the surroundings during the time of capture. For the second exposure, competitors are required to replace the available ambient light entirely or partially with strobes or flashes.
- There should be a noticeable difference in the atmosphere, mood, and visual impact between the image taken with strobe(s)/flash(es) and the one without.
- You are required to submit both photographs during the orientation on day 1. Please ensure that you bring them on a thumb drive provided by you, which should bear your name (First and Last).
- Each final photograph must have the same aspect ratio and orientation, meaning they should both be either horizontal or vertical, with identical pixel dimensions in both width and height.
- Each final photograph must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on its longest edge.
- Each final photograph must be in colour (no black and white, sepia, or any other creative tint effect).
- Ensure that both final photographs are named in the following format:
LastName_NoStrobe.jpg
LastName_Strobe.jpg

Preparation:

- Understand how strobe or flash units work, including power settings, modeling lights, additional features, and modifiers.
- Learn how to sync your strobes with your camera using either cables, wireless triggers, or built-in triggering systems.
- Consider the angle and position of your strobes to control the direction and quality of light on your subject.

Part 2:

Expose to The Right (in camera, no editing) – Due End of Day 1 (1 photograph)

- Competitors will be evaluated on their proficiency in using their camera equipment and settings.
- The photograph must be taken within the designated competition area (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 8).
- The use of any editing software is not permitted.
- Competitors are free to choose any subject they prefer for their photograph.
- Competitors must utilize one of the following camera modes: aperture priority, shutter priority, or manual mode.
- The final photograph must be submitted in RAW format.





- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your submission will vary according to the brand and model of the camera you use. For instance, it may be *.CR2 for Canon, *.NEF for Nikon, or *.ARW for Sony.
- Ensure that the final photograph is named in the following format:
Lastname_part2_01.RAW (your RAW postfix)

Preparation:

- Choose your camera settings carefully.
- Understand why these settings are important.
- Take a close look at your histogram, and understand what it tells you about your exposed image data.

Part 3:

Mystery Object 1 - Due End of Day 1 (1 photograph)

- Competitors will be challenged to create a photograph with no preparation or foreknowledge of the subject.
- The mystery object will be revealed at the start of competition day one.
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- Competitors must use the mystery object as the main subject, or as a major contributing element to the main subject.
- The photograph must be taken within the designated competition area (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 8).
- The final photograph must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on its longest edge.
- Ensure that the final photograph is named in the following format: **Lastname_Part3_01.jpg**

Preparation:

- Brainstorm ideas quickly.
- Purposefully select an appropriate background.
- Use effective composition for impact.

Part 4:

Personal Project Triptych - Due end of day 1 (3 photographs)

- Competitors must create a series of 3 thematically related photographs.
- The theme for this project will be revealed during orientation.
- All photographs must be taken within the designated competition area (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 8).
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- Each final photograph must have the same aspect ratio and orientation, meaning they must all be either horizontal or vertical, with identical pixel dimensions in both width and height.
- The 3-photograph series will be assessed as a unified collection, presented from left to right in the order of their respective numbers, for viewing, judging, and scoring.





- A single mark will be awarded for the entire set of three (3) photographs.
- All final photographs must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on their longest edge.
- Ensure that all final photographs are named in the following format:
Lastname_Part4_01.jpg
Lastname_Part4_02.jpg
Lastname_Part4_03.jpg

Preparation:

- Manage time effectively to plan, produce, and photograph this assignment.
- Carefully consider the theme and brainstorm ideas for impact.
- Scout locations to help communicate your message.

Part 5:

Composite Image - Due end of Day 1 (1 photograph)

- Competitors will be required to create a composite photograph from a common set of supplied photographs provided by the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC).
- All secondary competitors will receive identical supplied photographs, the sole images permitted for this assignment, distributed at the start of the competition on day one.
- The provided images will include both mandatory ones, clearly labelled, and optional images, also clearly labelled.
- The supplied photographs will be in JPEG format, and each competitor should carefully assess their individual sizes and resolutions.
- Competitors will then combine the provided photographs to create a compelling and believable composite photograph.
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The final photograph must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on its longest edge.
- Ensure that the final photograph is named in the following format:
Lastname_Part5_01.jpg

Preparation:

- Envision an engaging story.
- Carefully plan for the assembly of all necessary elements.
- Proficiency in using Photoshop selection tools, layers, masking, and colour correcting/matching.

Part 6:

Primary Shapes - Due end of Day 2 (1 photograph)

- Competitors will be tasked to create an image where only certain primary shapes are to be highlighted as the subject.





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- Competitors will need to find these basically simple and fundamental geometrical shapes within the designated competition area (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9).
- For the purposes of this project, there are only three primary shapes: circles, squares, and triangles.
- Competitors must select only one among the three primary shapes listed above and artfully emphasize it in their photograph.
- The evaluation of this photograph will primarily focus on your ability to compose an image that celebrates the elegance and simplicity inherent in your chosen geometric shape.
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The final photograph must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on its longest edge.
- Ensure that the final photograph is named in the following format:
Lastname_Part6_01.jpg

Preparation:

- Brainstorm ideas quickly.
- Purposefully select an appropriate background.
- Use effective composition techniques for maximum impact.

Part 7:

Photojournalistic Style Triptych - Due End of Day 2 (3 photographs)

- Competitors will produce three photographs within one competition area.
- All photographs must be taken within the designated competition area (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (8:00 am-12:30 pm, Thursday, May 9).
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- All photographs must be captured with available light only.
- Keep in mind that the evaluation of this photographic triptych will primarily focus on its impact, originality, creativity, and adept utilization of available lighting.
- Competitors must request permission from a National Technical Committee member responsible for the designated competition area they have chosen to photograph.
- Before accessing any other competition areas, competitors must acquire the necessary safety equipment from the Safety Office.
- Each final photograph must have the same aspect ratio and orientation, meaning they must all be either horizontal or vertical, with identical pixel dimensions in both width and height.
- The 3-photograph series will be assessed as a unified collection, presented from left to right in the order of their respective numbers, for viewing, judging, and scoring.
- A single mark will be awarded for the entire set of three (3) photographs.
- All final photographs must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on their longest edge.
- Ensure that all final photographs are named in the following format:
Lastname_Part7_01.jpg





Lastname_Part7_02.jpg

Lastname_Part7_03.jpg

Preparation:

- Manage time effectively to plan, produce, and photograph this assignment.
- Effectively tell an engaging story.
- Guide and direct your subjects into natural poses.

Part 8:

Portrait with Model in Studio - Due Day 2 (1 photograph)

- Competitors will create a single studio portrait featuring a model provided by the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC).
- The sequence in which competitors gain access to the model will be determined through a random draw during the orientation session.
- Competitors will be allocated time for studio setup, a dedicated session with the model (approximately 15 minutes), followed by an opportunity to disassemble the studio, and time to post-process their final image.
- It's important to note that the specific allocated time for each segment may vary depending on the final number of competitors in the competition.
- The available studio space and equipment will include the following:
 - A seamless paper backdrop.
 - Three studio strobes equipped with a transmitter.
 - A range of light modifiers, such as softboxes and umbrellas.
 - Three light stands.
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The final photograph must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on its longest edge.
- Ensure that the final photograph is named in the following format:
Lastname_Part8_01.jpg

Preparation:

- Proficiency in shooting under a specific timeline.
- Accurately set up studio lights for the desired effect.
- Effectively pose the model.

Part 9:

Mystery Object 2 - Due End of Day 2 (1 photograph)

- Competitors will be challenged to create a photograph with no preparation or foreknowledge of the subject.
- The mystery object will be revealed at the start of competition day two.
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.





- Competitors must use the mystery object as the main subject, or as a major contributing element to the main subject.
- The photograph must be taken within the designated competition area (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (8:00 am-12:30 pm, Thursday, May 9).
- The final photograph must be submitted in JPEG format with a precise dimension of 1920 pixels on its longest edge.
- Ensure that the final photograph is named in the following format:
Lastname_Part9_01.jpg

Preparation:

- Brainstorm ideas quickly.
- Purposefully select the appropriate background.
- Use effective composition for impact.

Part 10:

Entire Portfolio

- THERE IS NO NEED TO SUBMIT ANYTHING HERE. We already have all the necessary photographs from the previous seven parts.
- The entire body of work will be reviewed for quality, style, consistency, and strength.
- Each competitor’s images (14 total) will be displayed on a screen at 1 time and judged as a collective.

OVERALL BREAKDOWN

Assignment	Due
Part 1: Strobe Magic: Illuminating Contrasts - 2 Photographs	Orientation. Beginning Day 1.
Part 2: Expose to the Right - 1 Photograph	End of Day 1
Part 3: Mystery Object 1 - 1 Photograph	End of Day 1
Part 4: Personal Project Triptych – 3 photographs	End of Day 1
Part 5: Composite Image - 1 Photograph	End of Day 1
Part 6: Primary Shapes - 1 Photograph	End of Day 2
Part 7: Photojournalistic Triptych - 3 Photographs	End of Day 2





Part 8: Portrait with Model in Studio - 1 Photograph	Day 2 - Specific Time TBD
Part 9: Mystery Object 2 - 1 Photograph	End of Day 2
Part 10: Entire Portfolio (No submission required)	End of Day 2

Total Submissions:

- Submissions at Orientation: 2 photographs
- Submissions end of Day 1: 6 photographs
- Submissions end of Day 2: 6 photographs
- Total Submissions Entire Competition: 14 photographs**

Note: The competition area is set as the physical building that the competition is held in or the competition grounds, including eating areas, foyers, etc.

EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

Equipment and material provided by Skills Canada Alberta:

- Table and steno chair
- Any elements of accommodation.
- Studio equipped with 3 strobes, 3 soft boxes, and black acetate (only to be used for product photography)

Equipment and material provided by the photography competitor:

- COMPUTER AND EDITING SOFTWARE*
- Digital camera
- Camera Lens or lenses of the student’s choice
- Camera support where appropriate
- Card Readers
- Thumb drive to back up images and take images home
- Light meter (optional)
- Reflectors (optional)
- Tripod(s) (optional)
- Speedlight Flash(es) (optional)
- Transmitter and receivers for speedlight and strobe flashes
- Any lighting gear (LED, continuous lights, strobes, etc.)
- Wacom Tablets and required drivers on a thumb drive (optional)
- Power bar and extension cord





Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Information

IMPORTANT: Competitors are required to bring their own device and software that meets or exceeds the stated requirements for their competition. Each competitor can choose their own device and software so their workflow and process is what they are familiar with. If competitors are bringing a computer or laptop from their school (instead of their personal computer), please ensure that the computer is unlocked allowing for USB sticks, documents and possibly software to be saved/installed to the hard drive and IT support can be properly provided onsite. This may require administrator privileges to access the CMOS settings. All USB sticks provided for competition use will be cleared and inspected prior to being used.

Note, computers must remain inside the competition area for the duration of the competition from the time the competition begins on Day 1 to when the competition ends on Day 2 (including overnight). Competitors may supply their own locking cables if they wish.

Equipment Set-Up and Testing for all event areas that are Bring Your Own Device will be held on Tuesday May 7, 2024, at 4:00pm (before opening ceremonies/registration).

Equipment Set-up and Testing (for BYOD events)

Before the Opening Ceremonies and registration, students who are competing in technology-based events that are a BYOD event will be given an opportunity to set up and test their equipment to ensure their equipment is fully functional and networked (where required) prior to the start of the competition. Only accredited students and educators will be permitted into the competition site for equipment drop off and testing. Students who miss the equipment and setup testing opportunity will need to set up their equipment AFTER the mandatory COMPETITOR ORIENTATION time on the day of competition. Any time that is required to set up and test their equipment on the competition day will be part of their overall competition time. The competition time for these competitors will NOT be extended.

Test Project change at the Competition

Where the Test Project has been circulated to Competitors in advance, PTC can change a maximum of 30% of the work content.

Required clothing provided by competitor

Contestants must supply and wear the appropriate clothing (no muscle shirts, shorts etc). You must wear closed toe shoes.



SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The health, safety and welfare of all individuals involved with Skills Canada Alberta are of vital importance. Safety is a condition of participation with Skills Canada Alberta and shall not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency. At the discretion of the judges and technical committees, any competitor can be denied the right to participate should they not have the required proper safety equipment and/or act in an unsafe manner that can cause harm to themselves or others.

Please Note: Competitors will NOT be granted access into competition areas.

Safety workshop

Upon arrival at the Skill area, Competitors will participate in a Safety workshop and they will be expected to work and maintain a safe working area during the competition. Any Competitor breaking any health, safety and environment rules, may be required to undertake a second safety workshop, this will not affect the Competitor's competition time.

List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Competitor

- Closed toe shoes

List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Skills Canada Alberta

- Safety Glasses
- Hearing protection
- Safety Vest
- Hard Hat
- Toe Guards

ASSESSMENT

Point breakdown

TOTAL	/100
Pt. 1 – Strobe Magic	5
Pt. 2 - Expose to the Right	10
Pt. 3 – Mystery Object 1	8
Pt. 4 – Personal Project Triptych	12
Pt. 5 - Composite Image	10
Pt. 6 – Primary Shapes	10
Pt. 7 – Photojournalistic Triptych	12
Pt. 8 - Portrait with Model in Studio	10
Pt. 9 - Mystery Object 2	8
PT. 10 – Entire Portfolio	15



Tie (No ties are allowed)

In the event of a tie, the judges will reevaluate the overview of the entire portfolios. The competitor with the best portfolio will be declared the winner.

COURSES

Related Career and Technology Studies

Descriptions of all courses are located at the following website:

<https://education.alberta.ca/career-and-technology-studies/programs-of-study/>

COM1005: Visual Composition

COM1205: Photography – Introduction

COM1215: Photography – Exposure

COM1275: Photography – Digital Processing 1

COM2205: Photography – Composition

COM2215: Photography – Communication

COM2235: Photography – Lenses

COM3215: Photography – Photojournalism

Description of the associated work role(s) or occupation(s).

https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/skill_area/photography/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Skills Canada Alberta Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations

[Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations](#)

Competitor Registration

Registration for Provincial Skills Canada Competition (PSCC) will open online on January 17, 2024 @ 8:30 AM.

Please refer to this competitions event page for additional registration and competition information:

<https://skillsalberta.com/competition/>

Test Project change at the Competition

Where the Test Project has been circulated to competitors in advance, PTC can change a maximum of 30% of the work content.

Lunch

Lunch for accredited competitors will be provided by Skills Canada Alberta.

Parking & Venue Maps: <http://edmontonexpocentre.com/attend/parking/>

Parking is FREE for all attendees.





Opening Ceremonies / Competitor Registration

Opening Ceremonies for the PSCC will take place on Tuesday May 7, 2024, at 6:00 pm in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend. It is important to note that competitor registration will open immediately following the Opening Ceremonies.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday May 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. The Awards Ceremony will be shown live at <http://skillsalberta.com/>

Team Alberta Information

Team Alberta will be selected at the PSCC Awards Ceremony. Gold medalists will then be eligible to participate at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) on May 27- June 1, 2024, in Quebec City, QC. It is recommended that competitors review the SCNC contest description to be familiar with the national contest description and project at <http://www.skillscanada.com/>.

During the PSCC Awards Ceremony on Thursday May 9, 2024, gold medalists will be given their Team Alberta information package and will confirm their participation in the SCNC. Students must be present at the Awards Ceremony to claim their position on Team Alberta. If the Gold medalist is not able to attend SCNC, the next top ranking individual will be asked to participate. If a student is not able to attend the Awards Ceremony a letter confirming the student’s interest in Team Alberta participation must be emailed to javierad@skillsalberta.com prior to the start of competition on May 8, 2024.

Please prepare your students in advance to accept a position on Team Alberta and outline how your school will support their participation. Furthermore, it is very important that all fieldtrip/travel information for potential Team AB members is organized and completed prior to the selection of Team AB.

Questions?

Please contact Whitney Koop at whitneyk@skillsalberta.com if you have any questions regarding the Contest Description.

Committee Members

Lance Burns (chair) – Ross Shepard High School	Chris Thombs – One Step Beyond
Jamie Burns	





2023 Provincial Skills Canada Competition

