Contest Description
Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton
May 6 & 7, 2026

EVENT: Photography	**LEVEL:** Secondary
LOCATION: Hall E, Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton	**REGIONALIZED:** In order to participate at the Provincial Skills Canada Competition a competitor must qualify through the Qualifying competition.
DURATION: 15 hours (Two Days)	**EQUIPMENT SET UP, TESTING, AND FLASH FAMILIARIZATION** **MAY 5:** 4:00PM – 5:30PM

COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

May 6:

ORIENTATION/COMPETITION	8:00AM-9:00AM
SHOOTING and EDITING	9:00AM-NOON
LUNCH	NOON-1:00PM
SHOOTING and EDITING	12:30PM-4:00PM

May 7:

SHOOTING AND EDITING	8:00AM-11:00AM
(Private) CLOSED JUDGING	8:30AM-NOON
LUNCH	11:00AM-NOON
(Student and Teacher) Workshop (more details to follow)	NOON-1:30PM
OPEN PANEL JUDGING and COMPETITORS AND JUDGES INTERACT	1:30PM-3:30PM

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:
- Public wi-fi is likely not available and competitors should be ready to use their phone (or their mentor's) to tether if their device requires updating or authentication.
- Ensure your computer is fully updated and functioning well. Verify that its technical specifications can efficiently handle large files in photo editing software.
- Update your editing software to the latest version for optimal performance.
- **Recommended:** Ensure that your editing software is updated to its latest version for optimal performance.

Camera Settings Verification:
- Ensure that the date and time settings on your camera are accurate for the time zone you are working in. Calibrate your camera before the competition starts.

PART 1 (PRE-ASSIGNMENT):

Part 1 (Pre-assignment): Lighting Magic

Due at Orientation Day 1 (2 Photographs)

Objective:
- Use ambient and artificial lighting to transform an ordinary scene into an extraordinary visual narrative, based on the theme "A Light Moment".

Lighting Setup:
- **First Photograph**: Use only the available **ambient light** at the time of capture.
- **Second Photograph**: Use **artificial lighting** (e.g., strobes, flash, LED, continuous lights) to replace or modify the ambient light.

Requirements:
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 1 must still be met.
- The **ambient light** in both photos must remain relatively constant. The only difference between the images should be the type of lighting used.
- Both photos should have the **same composition and framing**, with the camera fixed in place and subjects remaining in the same visual space. (We understand that people move, so please do your best to keep your subjects in the same position.)
- Both images must be taken within **an hour** of each other.
- There should be a **clear difference in mood and atmosphere** between the two images.
- Ensure that the **date and time settings** on your camera are accurate for the time zone you are working in. Calibrate your camera **before beginning this pre-assignment**.
- The final photographs must be submitted in JPEG format (1920px on the longest edge) and in **colour**.
- **Submission Method and Naming Convention:**
  - You are required to submit both photographs during the orientation session scheduled for May 6, 2026. Please ensure that you bring them on a thumb drive provided by you, which should have your name on it (e.g., "Jamie Burns").
  - Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:
    i. LastName_part1_01.jpg (ie, Burns__part1_01.jpg)
    ii. LastName_part1_02.jpg (ie, Burns__part12_01.jpg)

Preparation for Part 1:
- Learn how to work with strobes/flash units—including power settings, modifiers, and modeling lights.
- Practice syncing your strobes with your camera (using cables, wireless triggers, or built-in triggering systems).
- Experiment with the angle and position of your lights to control the direction and quality of light on your subject.
- Plan your scene: consider background, location, and lighting for impact.

Part 2: Mystery Object 1

Due End of Day 1 (1 Photograph)

Objective:
- Create a photograph featuring a **mystery object** revealed at the start of Day 1. This object must be the **main subject** or a major contributing element to the main subject.

Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 6)**.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part2_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 2:

- Practice brainstorming **quick ideas** and composing images with unexpected subjects.
- Experiment with background selection and lighting for **creative impact**.

Part 3: Double Exposure Image Assignment

Due End of Day 1 (3 Photographs)

Objective:

- Create a double exposure image using **photo editing software**, integrating a **silhouette of a human subject** with a unique background. The final image can be either in **color or black and white**.

Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 3 must still be met.
- All photographs must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 6)**.
- Competitors will be evaluated on their creativity, technical proficiency, and composition.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge) along with the **two original RAW files**.
- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your RAW submissions 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.

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part3_01.jpg
  - Lastname_part3_01.RAW
  - Lastname_part3_02.RAW

Preparation for Part 3:

- Practice creating **double exposures** using silhouettes and backgrounds.

- Plan your approach for **capturing and merging the images** within the competition area.
- Brainstorm creative ideas for **impactful compositions** and experiment with blending techniques in editing.

Part 4: Personal Project Triptych

Due End of Day 1 (3 Photographs)

Objective:
- Create a **series of three related photographs** that share a common theme, to be displayed as a unified collection.
- The theme for this project will be revealed during orientation.

Requirements:
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- All photographs must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 6)**.
- 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 left to right** in the order of their respective numbers, for viewing, judging, and scoring.
- The final photographs must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:
- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part4_01.jpg
  - Lastname_part4_02.jpg
  - Lastname_part4_03.jpg

Preparation for Part 4:
- Brainstorm ideas for a **cohesive theme**.
- Practice selecting backgrounds and experimenting with **composition** for storytelling.
- Plan and practice to ensure the series has a unified **visual flow**.

Part 5: Magazine Cover Assignment Due End of Day 1 (1 Photograph)

Objective:
- Capture an **innovative, artistic photograph** that complements a **pre-designed magazine cover layout**. The layout will include text and a theme, which must be aligned with your photograph.
- Magazine cover overlay will already contain a theme based upon **headlines, bylines and font layout**. The overlay will be provided to you.

- Competitors must make effective use of composition to create a visually appealing photograph that complements the magazine cover overlay, **adjusting cropping and positioning** as needed.

Requirements:
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 5 must still be met.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 6)**.
- The photograph must align with the **magazine's theme** and **composition**. Competitors will be **evaluated on their creativity, connection to theme, technical proficiency, composition, and alignment** with the magazine cover layout.
- Competitors **must request permission** from a National Technical Committee member responsible for the skill competition area they have chosen to photograph. Before accessing any other competition areas, **competitors must acquire the necessary safety equipment** from the safety office (e.g. hard hat, toe caps, etc) as required.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:
- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part5_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 5:
- Practice taking **styled photographs** that complement pre-existing layouts and designs.
- Focus on **composition and cropping** to fit within the given space.

Part 6: Portrait with Model in Studio

Due Day 1 - TBD (1 Photograph)

Objective:
- Create a **studio portrait** featuring a model provided by the competitor. Using a mentor or other model of your choosing is required. This means you should likely have the person prearranged for you before the competition starts.

Requirements:
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- 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.
- You may include additional elements, such as props, in your photograph. However, these props must either be items you brought with you to the competition or ones that are readily available on-site during the competition. The model's face must remain unaltered, with no physical modifications such as face paint, stickers, or makeup.

- The available studio space and equipment will include the following:
- A backdrop.
- Two studio strobes equipped with a transmitter.
- Two soft boxes.
- Two light stands.
- Competitors are allowed to bring their own equipment for use in the studio.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:
- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part6_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 6:
- Practice **studio lighting setups** and **posing**.
- Focus on effective **composition** and **lighting techniques** for a professional portrait.

Part 7: Minimalist Monochrome Assignment

Due End of Day 2 (1 Photograph)

Objective:
- Produce a striking black-and-white minimalist photograph that emphasizes the elegance, beauty, and simplicity of one subject: *Eyes* or *Hands* (choose only one).
- The composition must effectively utilize negative space to enhance the visual impact and convey a strong sense of minimalism.

Requirements:
- The unlimited use of editing software is permitted to adjust contrast, exposure, and tones to achieve the desired minimalist effect.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8)**.
- Competitors will be evaluated on their creativity, connection to minimalistic theme, technical proficiency, composition and impact.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:
- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part7_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 7:
- Choose a subject (Eyes or Hands) and brainstorm creative, minimalist compositions.
- Focus on **lighting and negative space** to emphasize your subject.

Part 8: Photojournalistic Style Triptych (in camera, no editing)

Due End of Day 2 (3 Photographs)

Objective:
- Capture **three images within one skill competition area** using only available light. Present the images as a photojournalistic-style triptych.
- **Requirements:**
- Photos must be captured **using only available light**.
- The use of photo editing software is **strictly prohibited**.
- 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 left to right** in the order of their respective numbers, for viewing, judging, and scoring.
- Competitors must **request permission** from a National Technical Committee member responsible for the skill competition area they have chosen to photograph.
- Before accessing any other skill competition areas, competitors must **acquire the necessary safety equipment** from the Safety Office (e.g. hard hat, toe caps, etc,) as required per competition area.
- Keep in mind that the evaluation of this photographic triptych will primarily focus on its **impact, originality, creativity, and adept utilization of available lighting.**
- The final photographs must be submitted in **RAW format**.
- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your RAW submissions 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.

 Naming Convention:
- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part8_01.RAW
  - Lastname_part8_02.RAW
  - Lastname_part8_03.RAW

Preparation for Part 8:
- Plan and practice capturing **natural, candid moments**.
- Experiment with **natural lighting** and **composition** to enhance the storytelling.

Part 9: Mystery Object 2

Due End of Day 2 (1 Photograph)

Objective:
- Create a photograph featuring a **mystery object** revealed at the start of Day 2. This object must be the **main subject** or a major contributing element to the main subject.

Requirements:
- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7)**.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:
- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
  - Lastname_part9_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 9:
- Practice brainstorming **quick ideas** and composing images with unexpected subjects.
- Experiment with background selection and lighting for **creative impact**.

Part 10: Entire Portfolio
- **No submission is required for this part**, as all necessary photographs have already been submitted in the previous nine parts.
- The entire portfolio will be reviewed for **quality, style, and consistency.**
- Each competitor's images will be displayed together on screen and judged as a cohesive body of work.

OVERALL SUBMISSION BREAKDOWN

Assignment	Due
Part 1: **Lighting Magic** – 2 photographs	Orientation. Beginning Day 1.
Part 2: **Mystery Object 1** – 1 photograph	End of Day 1
Part 3: **Double Exposure Image**– 3 photographs	End of Day 1
Part 4: **Personal Project Triptych** – 3 photographs	End of Day 1
Part 5: **Magazine Cover** – 1 photograph	End of Day 1
Part 6: **Studio Portrait Model** – 1 photograph	End of Day 1
Part 7: **Minimalist Monochrome** – 1 photograph	End of Day 2
Part 8: **Photojournalistic Triptych** – 3 photographs	End of Day 2
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: 9 photographs
Submissions end of Day 2: 5 photographs
Total Submissions Entire Competition: 16 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 <u>Skills Canada Alberta:</u>
- Table and 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 <u>Photography Competitor:</u>
- 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
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 are 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 so that 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 BYOD events)

Before the Opening Ceremonies and registration, competitors 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 it is fully functional and networked (where required) prior to the start of the competition. Only accredited competitors and educators will be permitted into the competition site for equipment drop off and testing. Students who miss the equipment setup and 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.

Equipment Set-Up and Testing will be held on Tuesday May 5, 2026, at 4:00PM.

Required Clothing Provided by Competitor

Competitors must supply and wear the appropriate clothing (no sleeveless 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.

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by Competitor

- Closed toe shoes

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by Skills Canada Alberta

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

Competition Specific Rules

The following Competition Specific rules along with SCA's overall Policies and Procedures provide specific details in competition areas that may vary from one another. Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the Competitor Orientation.

Topic/Task	Contest Specific Rule
Use of Technology	Competitors **are** allowed laptops, tablets, cameras, cell phones, ear buds, calculators or other personal electronics in the competition area unless specified by the committee for certain tasks.
Competition Access	Competitors will **not** be granted access into competition areas.
Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Competitors **cannot** use AI to develop/generate any of the submitted work for any aspects of the competition.
Project	Competitors are required to take all their photos within the competition area as defined by the photography PTC.

ASSESSMENT

Point Breakdown

TOTAL	/100
Pt. 1 – **Lighting Magic**	7
Pt. 2 - **Mystery Object 1**	7
Pt. 3 – **Double Exposure Image**	11
Pt. 4 – **Personal Project Triptych**	11
Pt. 5 - **Magazine Cover**	9
Pt. 6 - **Studio Portrait Model**	11
Pt. 7 – **Minimalist Monochrome**	11
Pt. 8 – **Photojournalistic Triptych**	11
Pt. 9 - **Mystery Object 2**	7
PT. 10 – **Entire Portfolio**	15

Tie (No ties are allowed)

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

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

Skillz & Thrillz Podcast
Check out our podcast – Skillz & Thrillz: Alberta's Trade & Tech Youth Podcast. Our talented alumni share tips and tricks on how to succeed in competitions and your career! Their insights can help you prepare for your Skills journey, and who knows, you might just be a future guest! https://skillsalberta.com/student-resources/skillz-thrillz-albertas-trade-tech-youth-podcast/

Project Change at the Competition
Where a Test Project has been circulated to competitors in advance, the PTC can change the project up to a maximum of 30% of the work content for the competition.

Competitor Registration
Registration for regionalized and qualifying events will open online on January 7, 2026 @ 3:30 PM. Please refer to this competitions event page for additional registration and competition information: https://skillsalberta.com/competition/

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

Parking & Venue Maps
Parking is FREE for all attendees.
Attendees **MUST** register for FREE parking by clicking the below link. Attendees can pre-register their vehicle at anytime prior to the PSCC or register onsite at the PSCC.
https://www.offstreet.io/events/CBLHM7U1
http://edmontonexpocentre.com/attend/parking/

Opening Ceremonies / Competitor Onsite Registration
Opening Ceremonies for the PSCC will take place on Tuesday May 5, 2026, 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 7, 2026, 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- May 30, 2026, in Toronto, Ont. It is recommended that

competitors review and become familiar with the SCNC contest description and project at
https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/event/skills-canada-national-competition-2026/

During the PSCC Awards Ceremony on Thursday May 7, 2026, 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 highest-ranking individual will be asked to participate. If a student is not able to attend the Awards Ceremony an email confirming the student's interest in Team Alberta participation must be emailed to javierad@skillsalberta.com prior to the start of competition on May 6, 2026.

Please prepare your students in advance to accept a position on Team Alberta and review how your school will support their participation.
Please see this link for additional Team Alberta information: https://skillsalberta.com/team-alberta/

Questions?
Please contact Mike Sury MikeS@SkillsAlberta.com

Committee Members

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