

## 2026 Competition Topics & Schedule

*\*Where a contest description includes image/exposure settings or ranges, it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure submitted images meet description parameters. Examples may include aperture, exposure time, Black & White, or Cell Phone capture. All applicable EXIF data must reflect the settings and be visible to the competition chair and judge. Images not meeting settings or data requirements will be disqualified from competition by the competition chair.*

|            | TOPIC                           | Description  | Entry Deadline | Meeting Results |
|------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>JAN</b> | Open                            | <p>“Open” means no assigned topic – so why not try something new? Challenge yourself with camera techniques, different subject matter and/or creative post-processing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge: Website:</p>  | 1-1-26         | 1-26-26         |
| <b>FEB</b> | Macro and Close-Ups             | <p><i>Reveal the hidden world of detail that’s often unseen but unforgettable.</i></p> <p>Discover the world that exists just beyond ordinary sight. This category celebrates extreme detail — from the delicate veins of a leaf to the texture of fabric, metal, or skin. Subjects can be natural or man-made, but the viewer should be drawn into an intimate encounter with fine structure, color, or pattern. Think “smaller than life, larger than imagination.” Depth of field, lighting, and perspective are key to making your close-up composition come alive.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge: Website:</p> | 2-1-26         | 2-23-26         |
| <b>MAR</b> | Minimalist / Simplicity         | <p><i>Less is more — create impact through restraint, space, and clarity.</i></p> <p>Capture the power of simplicity through clean lines, open space, and uncluttered design. A minimalist image relies on composition, light, and mood rather than complexity — each element should have purpose. Consider isolation, repetition, and negative space to evoke calm, strength, or contemplation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strive for visual poetry where silence speaks louder than detail.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge: Website:</p>   | 3-1-26         | 3-23-26         |
| <b>APR</b> | Western Heritage in DFW metro * | <p><i>Celebrate North Texas’ enduring Western spirit — from Stockyards to open range.</i></p> <p>Celebrate the living legacy of the West right here in the Dallas–Fort Worth metro area. This category highlights the people, places, and traditions that keep Western spirit alive — from Fort Worth’s Stockyards and rodeos to rural ranch scenes, equestrian life, and frontier-inspired landmarks. Capture the blend of old and new that defines North Texas’ Western identity: its grit, pride, and enduring connection to the land.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge: Website:</p>                               | 4-1-26         | 4-27-26         |
| <b>MAY</b> | Open                            | <p>“Open” means no assigned topic – so why not try something new? Challenge yourself with camera techniques, different subject matter and/or creative post-processing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge: Website:</p>  | 5-1-26         | 5-26-26         |
| <b>JUN</b> | Black & White                   | <p><i>Strip away color to expose the power of light, shadow, and emotion.</i></p> <p>Stripped of color, the essence of tone, texture, and form is revealed. Explore the timeless beauty of monochrome photography — from soft grayscale subtleties to stark contrasts. Black and white imagery excels at drama, emotion, and story. Any subject is acceptable, but success comes from mastery of light, shadow, and composition to create a striking visual narrative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge: Website:</p>  | 6-1-26         | 6-22-26         |

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|------------|--|--|---------|--|
| <b>JUL</b> | Sports Action                          | <p><i>Capture the decisive moment — energy, motion, and emotion in full stride.</i></p> <p>Capture the thrill of movement and the spirit of competition. From the local ball field to extreme adventure sports, this category celebrates energy, emotion, and timing. Freeze the perfect moment — the leap, the catch, the splash — or convey motion through blur and perspective. Strong storytelling and dynamic composition are key: make the viewer feel they're in the action.</p> <p>Judge: Website:</p>   | 7-1-26  | 7-27-26                                      |
| <b>AUG</b> | Shadows                                | <p><i>Play with darkness and light to shape mystery, form, and mood.</i></p> <p>Explore the hidden art of darkness and definition. Shadows reveal shape and mystery while concealing detail — they can dramatize, distort, or define your subject. This category encourages creative use of light's absence: dappled light, repeating patterns, or long evening shadows. Whether playful or moody, let your shadow story intrigue the eye and spark the imagination.</p> <p>Judge: Website:</p>  | 8-1-26  | 8-24-26<br>Draw for Procrastinator's Delight |
| <b>SEP</b> | Open                                   | <p>"Open" means no assigned topic – so why not try something new? Challenge yourself with camera techniques, different subject matter and/or creative post-processing.</p> <p>Judge: Website:</p>  | 9-1-26  | 9-28-26                                      |
| <b>OCT</b> | Procrastinator's Delight               | <p>Topic will be chosen from a hat at the August meeting. <b>Photos must be taken between drawing and the October 1 competition deadline.</b></p> <p>No shooting ahead. No looking through archived photos. You have a limited window of time to take this competition topic.</p> <p>Judge: Website:</p>   | 10-1-26 | 10-26-26                                     |
| <b>NOV</b> | Small Town Main Streets in DFW metro * | <p><i>Capture the character and charm of North Texas' hometown hearts.</i></p> <p>Step off the interstate and rediscover the heartbeat of community life — the main streets that give small towns their identity. This category invites you to explore the distinctive charm, history, and rhythm of DFW metro's smaller towns and neighborhoods. Think weathered brick storefronts, vintage signs, local diners, and street scenes that reflect pride of place and a slower pace of life. Whether lively and colorful or quiet and nostalgic, your image should capture the personality and story of a town through its streetscape, architecture, and people. Highlight the local flavor that makes each small-town main street unique.</p> <p>Judge: Website:</p> | 11-1-26 | 11-23-26                                     |
| <b>DEC</b> | Christmas Party                        | No Competition in this month.  |         |  |

\* DFW metro includes the following counties - Hood, Johnson, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise, Palo Pinto, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman and Rockwall counties.