

## Photography

### Description

The NYC SkillsUSA Photography contest is developed to evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of (still) photography.

### Clothing Requirements

- NYC SkillsUSA T-Shirt
- Black Dress Slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose).
- Black leather shoes that are not backless or open toe

### Equipment and Materials

#### 1. Supplied by contestant:

- a. System for Printing
- b. Portrait Studio
- c. System for Troubleshooting and Color Correction
- d. Judge's supplies for Job Interview section

#### 2. Supplied by contestant:

- a. One DSLR or mirrorless camera with removable lens capabilities (bridge or compacts not accepted)
- b. Minimum: two batteries with charger
- c. Minimum: two 16 GB memory cards
- d. One speedlight flash with wireless transmitter (be sure they work together)
- e. One hand-held flash meter
- f. USB card reader or camera USB cable
- g. Computer with USB and/or SD card slot (laptop preferred). Please record the school's login password for the student.
- h. Adobe Photoshop (be sure Photoshop can open the camera's RAW files)
- i. Two images for Print Competition (see guidelines in "Scope of Competition")
- j. One 6' multiple-outlet surge protector
- k. All competitors must create a one-page resume.

### Scope of the Competition

The competition will include a series of hands-on performance activities assessing overall photographic mechanics and techniques.

1. **Written Test:** The test has a series of multiple-choice questions that assess photographic knowledge. Topics covered include:
  - 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.
  
2. **Field Assignment:** The assignment evaluates the competitor's creative ability and adherence to competition guidelines. Competitors are brought to an undisclosed location to capture images based on a theme chosen by the technical committee. Competitors will then choose their best images and apply global edits and light editing before producing a contact sheet for judging. Scoring is based on:
  - a. Technical: exposure and focus control
  - b. Creative: overall use of composition, lighting, impact, etc.
  - c. Level of editing (edits must be global in nature and must not be overdone)
  - d. Competitor's adherence to time limits, location and theme
  
3. **Conceptual Assignment:** Competitors will use Adobe Photoshop to combine a minimum of three images from their chosen field assignment to produce a creative conceptual piece of art. Very few parameters are put on this competition, as it is meant to evaluate creativity.
  
4. **Digital Editing:** Competitors will be given images to manipulate in Adobe Photoshop. This competition evaluates the student's knowledge of professional editing techniques, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Selections and refine edge
  - b. Layer masks and adjustment layers
  - c. Green screen extractions
  - d. Color correction
  - e. Resizing layers
  - f. Correct naming and formatting
  
5. **Troubleshooting:** Competitors will be shown a series of images that have issues commonly found in today's digital processing. Competitors must correctly identify these problems from the list provided. 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
  
6. **Print Competition:** Competitors must submit two prints produced before the competition in any category of their choice. Prints will be on public display and must not contain any questionable content including but not limited to: drugs, sex, violence, illegal activity, etc.

Prints must adhere to the following criteria:

- a. Print size must be an 11"x14" or 10"x15"
  - b. Both prints must be mounted to a 16"x20" black foam core board (¼" thick) with a 16"x20" black over mat
  - c. Each print must have a label placed on the back upper middle section that includes the following information:
    - i. Competitor number (given at the competition)
    - ii. Cell phone number
  - d. Prints must be brought to the first orientation meeting of the competition (Tuesday, unless otherwise announced). Prints received after the meeting will receive a penalty
7. **Job Interview:** Competitors will be interviewed to assess their communication skills and overall job readiness.

## STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

1. **Apply and implement overall photographic knowledge through a multiple-choice written test**
  1. Identify advancements in photographic history
  2. Define a variety of camera functions
  3. Explain studio lighting patterns and settings
  4. Define a variety of digital photographic terms and terminologies
2. **Apply the knowledge and skill needed to conduct a photographic field assignment and produce a contact sheet for judging**
  1. Demonstrate technical proficiency in the areas of proper manual exposure and focus
  2. Demonstrate artistic ability through use of standard rules of art and design including, but not limited to: rule of thirds, balance, leading lines, worm's/bird's eye, etc.
  3. Demonstrate an ability to capture images that adhere to the theme of the assignment
  4. Demonstrate the ability to format, edit and save the contact sheet using competition guidelines
3. **Apply the artistic techniques to manipulate multiple images in a free-form conceptual assignment**
  1. Demonstrate the ability to use various manipulative tools in Adobe Photoshop
  2. Show an ability to adhere to competition guidelines by using the minimum number of chosen field assignment images for this assignment stated by the chairperson
  3. Show a creative relationship between the elements used in the assignment
4. **Apply the knowledge and skill needed to create a standard studio portrait or commercial image**

1. Show an understanding of proper lighting patterns on a subject's face in a head and- shoulder portrait (e.g., split, Rembrandt, loop, butterfly, broad, short)
2. Demonstrate the ability to professionally light and capture a product for use in a commercial ad
3. Demonstrate correct placement of main and fill lights
4. Demonstrate correct lighting ratios by the setting of main and fill lights (i.e., main light = f/8 and fill light = f/4)
5. Demonstrate understanding of correct camera settings (e.g., white balance, ISO, aperture, shutter speed)
6. Demonstrate the ability to correctly crop the image in-camera (e.g., head/product placement, horizontal/vertical)
7. Demonstrate the ability to professionally pose a portrait subject
8. Demonstrate the ability to use creative compositional techniques in creating a commercial image

**5. Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of tools and techniques in Adobe Photoshop**

1. Apply the knowledge of manipulating a digital image through various techniques, Including:
  - 1.1. Change orientation of an image
  - 1.2. Change image size and/or crop
  - 1.3. Use selection tools
  - 1.4. Transform selections
  - 1.5. Create layer masks
  - 1.6. Use adjustment layers
  - 1.7. Make tonal adjustments
  - 1.8. Save and correctly name file

**6. Show the ability to identify common problems in the processing and printing of digital images**

1. Apply knowledge of troubleshooting digital images by distinguishing between a series of images. Examples may include:
  - 1.1. Identify over-exposure
  - 1.2. Identify blooming
  - 1.3. Identify aliasing
  - 1.4. Identify JPEG artifacts
  - 1.5. Identify noise
  - 1.6. Identify white balance incorrect setting
  - 1.7. Identify over-sharpening
  - 1.8. Identify color-fringing
  - 1.9. Identify posterization
  - 1.10. Identify under-exposure
  - 1.11. Identify camera shake
  - 1.12. Identify barrel distortion
  - 1.13. Identify halos
  - 1.14. Identify improper gamma
  - 1.15. Identify flash synch – too fast

- 1.16. Identify over saturation
- 1.17. Identify perspective shift (keystoning)
- 1.18. Identify HDR (over done)
- 1.19. Identify parallax
- 1.20. Identify dirty sensor
- 1.21. Identify clogged printer nozzle
- 1.22. Identify lens vignetting

**7. Apply the knowledge and skill to submit two portfolio prints that are consistent with the following criteria:**

1. Meet required image size of 11"x14"
2. Show ability to present all prints mounted to a black 16"x20" foam core board (¼" preferred)
3. Show ability to use black over mat on each print
4. Demonstrate technical proficiency through proper exposure, focus, etc.
5. Demonstrate artistic ability through use of standard rules of art and design such as rule of thirds, leading lines, texture and use of positive-negative space

**8. Demonstrate the knowledge skills necessary for a job interview**

1. Present a resume for the interview
2. Present a digital or print portfolio of photographic work
3. Demonstrate an ability to communicate knowledge of the field of photography
4. Demonstrate soft skills necessary for the workplace