

TIPS FOR EXHIBITION ENTRIES

By Carol Bailey, FPSA

- 1) Determine what the photograph is eligible for (color, nature, etc.)
- 2) Be sure the photograph is the required subject (if any).
- 3) Exposure must be very good.
- 4) Focus must be sharp unless selective focus enhances the picture.
- 5) Slide must be clean and free of scratches.
- 6) Subject must fill the frame.
- 7) Record shots, snapshots, etc. do not do well in most contests.
- 8) The picture must tell a story to the viewer.
- 9) The picture must be interesting.
- 10) A picture may do well with one judge but poorly with the next. Give it two or three tries if you think it is good.
- 11) Don't compete with yourself - i.e. do not enter two similar pictures in the same contest.
- 12) Prints mounts must be neat and clean.
- 13) Nature titles should be descriptive - not cute or catchy.
- 14) Keep titles short (normally 15 to 20 characters).(Remember the story should be in the picture not in the title.)
- 15) Spot slides in the lower left hand corner as you want the slide viewed when holding it to a light or when it is on a light box. You can make a large dot with a pen but the self-adhesive color coding dots are inexpensive and easy to use.
- 16) Other people are not always careful with your slides. Fingerprints and scratches can ruin a good slide. If it is good enough to enter in a contest, it is good enough to mount in glass to protect it. If the glass gets broken or scratched, you can replace it.