

Rules for the 2019 Earth Day Photo Contest

- * All participants must be amateur photographers.
- * All photographs must be taken within Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, including the Coquina Beach
- * There will be two divisions, Adult and Youth (for ages 12 through 17). Youth submissions **must include** the signature of a parent/guardian.
- * Each entrant is permitted up to three entries.
- * Photographs must be **submitted by Sunday April 21st** in print and emailed to fowo6400@gmail.com in the following formats: JPEG, TIFF, or BMP. Prints must be 8"X10" in size, matted and/or mounted for display. The Photographers' name, address and phone number **MUST** be on the back of each photograph submitted.
- * Suggested categories are: 1) Landscape - beach and trails 2) Gardens - plant and wildlife, and 3) Historic structures.
- * Entry forms may be downloaded from the Friends web site www.washingtonoaks.org or obtained at the Friends Gift Shop at Washington Oaks Gardens or at the Ranger Station. A signed Entry form and release must accompany each submission.
- * Judges will base their decisions on the following qualities: focus, lighting, composition, impact, creativity and storytelling.
- * The Photographs will be judged prior to the Earth Day event and displayed at the visitor center. Winners will be announced, and prizes awarded at approximately 3:00 on the day of the event.
- * Prints may be picked up by the Photographer beginning one week after the Earth Day event. Digital images become the property of the Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, Inc. for future use in promoting the Park.

The Photographic Exhibitions Committee (PEC) of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) uses the 12 elements below as the “gold standard” to define a merit image. PEC trains judges to be mindful of these elements when judging images to the PPA merit level and to be placed in the International Print Exhibit at Imaging USA, the annual convention. The use of these 12 elements connects the modern practice of photography and its photographers to the historical practice of photography begun nearly two centuries ago.

Twelve elements have been defined as necessary for the success of an art piece or image. Any image, art piece, or photograph will reveal some measure of all twelve elements, while a visually superior example will reveal obvious consideration of each one.

- 1.) **Impact** is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.
- 2.) **Technical excellence** is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, printing, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.
- 3.) **Creativity** is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.
- 4.) **Style** is defined in many ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.
- 5.) **Composition** is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.
- 6.) **Presentation** affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.
- 7.) **Color Balance** supplies harmony to an image. An image in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.
- 8.) **Center of Interest** is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest, when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.
- 9.) **Lighting** —the use and control of light—refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.
- 10.) **Subject Matter** should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image.
- 11.) **Technique** is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.
- 12.) **Story Telling** refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.