

Number	Entry	Category	Registration Requirements
301-318	Photography	Early Entry, Display	Sign up on student registration form. Submit project info online. Dates on website.

PACKING

All contestants are responsible for the packaging, transporting and proper handling of their competition entries. No entry may exceed 40 pounds in weight or exceed more than two or three feet in its longest dimension (depending on the category entered.)

DELIVERY

All items must be brought to EXCEL Convention at registration and removed from the premises Friday night after award ceremony.

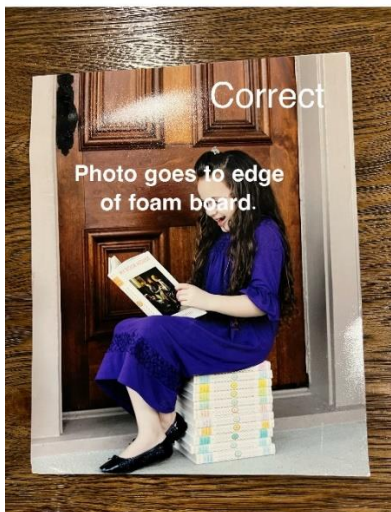
DISPLAY

Entries must have a typed or neatly printed display card or label securely attached and clearly visible in the following format:

Student Name
City, State
Division (Junior/Senior)
Category (i.e. Oil Painting)

All photos are submitted digitally and judged before convention, however to be eligible for awards, they must be prepared as follows and be brought for display at convention.

8" x 10" photo must be mounted on 8" x 10" foam board with adhesive. (Pre-cut pieces available at Michaels or Amazon.com)



TYPES OF ENTRIES

There are TWO photography classifications: Color and Black/White. Contestants may enter one or both classifications in the following categories:

(301/311) Character Trait Picture - A picture that portrays one of the forty character traits listed below. The Character Trait must be listed on the display card attached to your entry.

Appreciative	Creative	Generous	Persuasive
Attentive	Dependable	Gentle	Punctual
Available	Determined	Honest	Purposeful
Committed	Diligent	Humble	Resourceful
Compassionate	Efficient	Joyful	Respectful
Confident	Fair	Kind	Responsible
Considerate	Faithful	Loyal	Self-controlled
Content	Flexible	Optimistic	Sincere
Cooperative	Forgiving	Patient	Submissive
Courageous	Friendly	Peaceful	Tactful

(302/312) Scenic - A picturesque outdoor setting.

(303/313) Still life - A picturesque indoor arrangement of objects.

(304/314) Wildlife - A picture of animals, birds, flowers, insects, etc. No domestic animals

(305/315) Photo Journalism - A picture telling a story of a person, place, or thing that could be used as an article; i.e., current events.

(306/316) Studio Portrait – Studio portrait of a person or group of people.

(307/317) Candid Shot– A candid shot is a photo captured without creating a posed appearance. This can be achieved by avoiding prior preparation of the subject, and by not distracting the subject during the process of taking photos.

(308/318) Special Effects - A purposeful use of objects; use of lighting, lenses, or other equipment to create an illusion or unusual effect. Include a detailed description of how you created your special effect. Computers may not be used.

PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

- Entries must not have been entered in any other contest.
- Entries must be the sole work of the student.
- Entries may be processed by commercial labs or by the student.
- Entries must be submitted online for pre-judging by April 1st.
- When brought to convention, entries must be 8" x 10" mounted 8" x 10" photo mounted on an 8" x 10" foam core that must not exceed a thickness of ¼" (See illustration below.) **No frames.**
- Photograph submitted online must be the same photo that is brought to be displayed at convention.
- Entries must arrive for judging in satisfactory exhibition condition.
- Subjects in entries must conform to dress standards.
- Each photo may be entered in only one event.

CRITERIA

- Originality- The way the medium expresses the student's own idea rather than following the pattern of others.
- Content- The subject matter or topic treated must conform to EXCEL standards of what is acceptable in behavior, dress, etc.
- Focus - Sharpness of essential details in the photograph. Good use of depth of field or diffusion for special effect.
- Contrast - The difference between light and dark used to display the content to the best advantage.
- Density - The accuracy of exposure exhibited by overall tonal quality.
- Lighting - The placement of lighting to best exhibit the subject.
- Mounting - The color, texture, and permanence of the material on which the photograph is exhibited.

HINTS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGES

Judges will pay close attention to the technical qualities of your work. Next to content comes composition. This includes the number of subjects, their arrangement, and the background of the picture.

When composing, keep your photography simple. Too much symbolism or clutter is distracting to the viewer. Avoid placing the main subject "dead center." This produces a dull, static effect, which is not very pleasing to the eye.

After composing the photo, carefully check the background for distracting, objectionable elements. Ugly telephone wires or distracting blotches of color that detract from the main subject have ruined many fine shots.

Nothing in the photo, even though in the background and out of focus, should violate Christian standards.

Finally, pay close attention to the finishing touches. Your photo should be clean and free of scratches, dust specks, or wrinkles and should be matted attractively. Often these are the factors that are used to break ties.

JUDGING CRITERIA

AREAS OF EVALUATION	POSSIBLE POINTS
I. Originality	
A. Definite purpose of theme	5
B. Creativity and/or originality	10
II. Content	
A. Handling of subject matter	15
III. Composition	
A. Balance	5
B. Lines	5
C. Cropping	5
IV. Focus	
A. Sharpness of essential details	10
B. Use of depth of field or diffusion for special effects	5
V. Contrast - lights and darks used to display content to best advantage	10
VI. Density - Accuracy of exposure exhibited by overall tonal quality and/or grain	10
VII. Lighting - Placement of lighting	10
VIII. Mounting	
A. Size 8" x 10"	10
Total Points	100

EXCEL CONVENTION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTRIES LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED.