

Photo Contest Categories - 2026

Best Portrait of...

1. **Man**
2. **Woman**
3. **Baby Boy** (up to 2 years old)
4. **Baby Girl** (up to 2 years old)
5. **Boy** (2-12 years old)
6. **Girl** (2-12 years old)
7. **Children**
8. **Two Persons**
9. **Group 4-9** people
10. **Group 10+** people
11. **Victorian** - 2 or more people
12. **Western** - 2 or more people
13. **'20's** – 2 or more people
14. **Civil War** – 2 or more people
15. **Wedding** – an Old-Time photo of 2 or more people
16. **Pirate**
17. **Boudoir** – one woman
18. **Any Other Era** – *Examples* include Native American, Pilgrims, Renaissance, Canadian Mounties, Old Time Baseball, WWII and 1950's. The category may not include Victorian, Western, Civil War, '20's, Pirate or Steam Punk.
19. **Senior Citizen** – one or more people, all must be 60 years or older
20. **Steam Punk** – a sub-genre of science fiction that typically features steam powered machinery, especially in a setting by industrialized Western civilization during the 19th century. Therefore, steam punk workers are often set in an alternate history of the 19th century's British Victorian Era or American "Wild West", in a post-apocalyptic future during which steam power has regained mainstream use, or in a fantasy world that similarly employees steam power. Steam Punk is not allowed in categories 11-19.
21. **Humorous**
22. **Matched Portrait & Poster Mat** – must be a separate stock poster mat (purchased from a vendor). Supply separate poster matte of your choice with portrait. This category and category 26 are the only categories that allow wording on the (separate) matte. Size of matte up to 12"X18".
23. **Pet(s)** – pets may appear in all categories along with their humans, this is the only category where they may appear without humans.
24. **Pet(s) with Owner(s)** – pets may appear in all categories along with their humans.
25. **Creative Not Enhanced** – photo should show creative posing, setup, lighting and/or special photographic effect without the use of Adobe Photoshop™ or other digital enhancement.
26. **Digitally Enhanced** - Be digitally experimental and show us your best work! May include, but not limited to... digitally created posters, movie posters, an enhanced studio portrait with a digital border, collages, Chromakey, Photoshop effects, any digital enhancements, etc. The work may include artificial intelligence (AI) imagery however all submitted works must depict a real subject captured by the entrant using a camera or other photographic device. Images that contain a subject that was generated entirely by artificial intelligence (AI) is not allowed.

The original unedited file of the subject **MUST BE SUBMITTED** along with the final work on your THUMB/FLASH DRIVE as described in Rule #1. If you enter Category 26, your original unedited “subject proof” file must be lettered A1 or B1 corresponding to the final work. (See the file naming convention required in Rule 1.) For example:
26_ **A1** _DocWenzels_2026_JeffMulvihill.jpg

The digital poster may include wording as long as it does not include studio names or locations. The entry can be printed on a single sheet or matted. Traditional paper mats are allowed but not required. This category and category 22 (best use of a portrait and poster mat) are the only categories that allow wording on the submission. This is the ONLY category that allows AI imagery (however the subject MUST be real as noted above). The entry must not exceed 12” x 18”. This category, as well as Self, Staff and Murder Mystery, allows employees and isn’t necessarily intended for sale to the public. All other categories are intended to be sold to the public and cannot contain staff.

- 27. Self** – photo of a studio employee/manager/owner using your own pose, lighting and props.
- 28. Staff** – all subjects within portrait must be studio staff and include the owner or senior management. Individual staff members may appear in multiple staff photos.
- 29. Cameo** – Subject must be one individual in the style of an antique brooch or similar jewelry. The subject should be photographed with an oval or medallion shape in mind. The photo should be bustline up as it would appear in a cameo jewelry piece. The photo must be displayed in an oval matte.
- 30. Murder on the AAPI Express (a murder mystery category)** - Use your imagination to create an entry incorporating three of the following props. Prop List: Poison, Baseball Bat, Heavy Vase, Golf Club, Rope, Gun, Lead Pipe, Wrench, Candlestick, Knife (dagger, sword, hatchet), Explosives (dynamite), Shovel.