

DEPT. N-PHOTOGRAPHY -2026



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Quick Reference – Photography

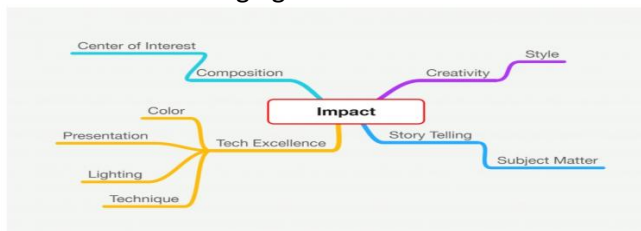
- Entries need to be at the fair office by August 10th with the photography entry form attached.
- Pick-up entries in Photography department August 23rd from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. Remaining entries will be in the fair office at noon August 24th and should be picked up by August 28th.

NOTE: The photography department is on the 2nd floor of the Four Seasons Centre. Please note the second floor is accessible by either stairs or an elevator and is air conditioned.

NOTE: Please READ and FOLLOW the RULES OF ENTRY below. **Failure to follow the RULES OF ENTRY may result in disqualification.** Pay special attention to **BOLD** and **UNDERLINED** notations. Thank you.

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE RULES OF ENTRY

1. Entries are open to all who enjoy photography. **NO OUT-OF-STATE ENTRIES.**
2. The appropriate class and lot must be listed on the back of each print. Special entry blanks may be obtained at the SCFF office or downloaded from www.scff.org. Use only one entry blank to list all entries. It must be enclosed with the pictures entered. Online entries will not be accepted. Entries picturing swearing or vulgarity are not allowed in this exhibit.
3. All prints must be securely mounted on **16"x 20" matboard or foam core. NOT THIN TAGBOARD.** It must be strong enough to keep the print flat; arranged to be exhibited with the 20" dimension VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL. **Exhibitor's name, address, county, print title, location of photo, class and lot must be legibly printed on the back of each mount.** Title on FRONT of the mount is NOT required, nor desired, since it's a picture distraction. It is suggested that the letters be no more than 1" high. Mountings must be secure, neat, and attractive. **NO SPECIAL MOUNTINGS: SUCH AS THOSE THAT ARE HEAVY, GLASS, FRAME MOUNTED OR WRAP AROUND WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
4. Entries must be mailed or hand delivered with the entry blank to the Steele County Free Fair Office, 1525 S. Cedar, Owatonna, MN 55060. **The entries must be received by August 10.** To protect the photos, submit entries in a labeled box or bag. **No late entries will be accepted.** If you want your bag or box returned, print your name or use an address label for proper identification.
5. Entries should be picked up at the exhibit space between 5:30 PM and 7 PM on Sunday, August 23. August 24 to August 28 pictures may be picked up at the fair office. If pictures are removed from the exhibit without permission, before 5:30 PM Sunday, August 23, the right to enter future competitions will be forfeited. If it is desired to have them returned by mail, packaging, postage and return label must be provided.
6. The Steele County Free Fair assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to prints; however, all reasonable care and diligence will be exercised to safeguard the exhibits.
7. The right to photograph, copy or reproduce any entry or group of entries for the purposes of Fair publicity is considered granted unless specifically denied on the entry form.
8. ALL Winning entries are NOT eligible for re-entry in competition again, although applicable to a different lot.
9. Judging is based on The 12 Merits of Photo Judging:



10. ALL judging decisions are FINAL, including the number and type of awards issued.
11. A People's Choice Award, sponsored by Tri M Graphics, will be selected by viewer votes. The voting will close at 12:00 PM Sunday, August 17. Please vote only once. A plaque will be awarded to the winner.
12. Gladys Wavrin Best in Steele County Plaque will be awarded.

PREMIUMS

First place in each lot \$10.00 and ribbon
Second place in each lot \$8.00 and ribbon
Third place in each lot \$6.00 and ribbon
Honorable Mention in each lot \$4.00 and ribbon (One honorable mention will be given for every 8 entries in each lot).
BEST IN EACH CLASS - Champion Ribbons & \$5.00

PHOTOGRAPHY DESCRIPTIONS

- There are EIGHT CLASSES in the Photography Department, defined as follows:
Adult (ages 18 & up), Junior (ages 17 & under), Master – one who has occasionally sold a photo or has won 2 or more blue ribbons in the previous year, Professional - one who owns a photography business or pays taxes on their photos.

ENLARGEMENTS – 80” or larger, Color or Black & White.

CLASS 1-Adult CLASS 2-Junior CLASS 3-Master CLASS 4 - Professional

SNAPSHOTS - 5x6” or smaller either in Color or Black & White.

CLASS 5 -Adult CLASS 6-Junior CLASS 7 -Master CLASS 8 - Professional

- Within each Class, exhibitors may submit up to TWO (2) entries in each lot. Limit of 20 entries per exhibitor.

MANIPULATION ALLOWED ONLY IN OPEN, PEOPLE AND SCENERY.

MANIPULATION: cropping, removing dust marks, minor contrast, sharpening, and minor color adjustments allowed.

LOTS are defined as follows:

Lot 1 - **OPEN** - Domestic animals, cultivated plants or flowers, still life, and all computer altered images. Manipulation allowed.

Lot 2 - **PEOPLE** - The person(s) must be the predominate center of interest. Manipulation allowed.

Lot 3 - **NATURE** - There should be no evidence of the influence of man, such as cultivated plants or flowers, domestic animals, fences, utility poles, road, trails, etc. ***NO MANIPULATION**

Lot 4 - **SCENERY** - Landscape, Seascape, Cityscapes also acceptable, but man’s influences may be in evidence. Manipulation allowed.

Lot 5 - **PHOTO JOURNALISM** - (Life in our World) Humans and their environment. Include spot news, sports, dramatic events, human interest that tell a story. Items that would be seen in a newspaper. ***NO MANIPULATION**

ENLARGEMENTS - 8x10” or larger. One print secured on one mount.

Class 1 - Adult (ages 18 & up)

Class 2 - Junior (ages 17 & under)

Class 3 - Master

Class 4 - Professional

SNAPSHOTS - Five or Six Photos on each entry. 5x6” or smaller. A board of 5 or 6 small photos = 1 entry.

No 8x10” allowed.

Class 5 - Adult (ages 18 & up)

Class 6 - Junior (ages 10-17)

Class 7 - Master

Class 8 - Professional

Photography Department Sponsored by



www.centralparkframing.com

August 18 - 23, 2026 -Steele County Free Fair Photography Exhibit Entry Form
This form must be submitted with your entries.

EXHIBITOR # _____

(Office Use Only)

●●●Limit of 2 entries in each lot for a total of 20 in all lots●●●

ENLARGEMENTS CLASS #

CLASSES: 1 -Adult 2-Junior 3 -Master 4 - Professional

One 8 x 10" or larger print placed on a 16 x 20 vertical or horizontal mount -**matboard, foam core.** B&W or Color

Limit 2 entries in each Lot

LOT 1-Open

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 2-People

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 3 -Nature (NO MANIPULATION)

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 4-Scenes

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 5-Photojournalism (NO MANIPULATION)

1. _____

2. _____

SNAPSHOTS CLASS #

CLASSES: 5 -Adult 6-Junior 7-Master 8- Professional

5 or 6 prints 5x6" or smaller is a single entry on a 16 x 20 vertical or horizontal mount - **matboard, foam core.**

B&W or Color

Limit 2 entries in each Lot

LOT 1-Open

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 2-People

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 3 -Nature (NO MANIPULATION)

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 4-Scenes

1. _____

2. _____

LOT 5-Photojournalism (NO MANIPULATION)

1. _____

2. _____

Exhibitor Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ County _____

Email address _____

Would you like to volunteer to sit at the booth during the fair? Yes _____ No _____

Day and time you would be available – hours vary from 10 AM – 9 PM _____