

Definitions, Awards & Scores

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The purpose of this page is to define terms, describe the awards given and specify scoring guidelines for NJFCC competitions.

Definitions

The following is a list of definitions associated with NJFCC competitions.

Term	Definition
Print	A competition where the image has been printed on a paper medium
Monochrome	Images consisting of only shades of a single color; e.g. grayscale or sepia. Accent colors are not permitted.
Pictorial	A competition wherein the subject matter, composition and style of the image are not NATURE images
Creative (Pictorial)	An NJFCC competition sub-category of pictorial photography. This consists of images presented in such a manner that post processing or in-camera manipulation is obvious to the average viewer.
Pictorial Nature	An NJFCC competition sub-category of pictorial photography. It consists of nature 'type' images that do not otherwise meet the entry requirements for NJFCC Nature Competitions. If an image is eligible to be entered into NJFCC Nature, it will be disqualified/excluded from this category.
Open (Pictorial)	An NJFCC competition sub-category of pictorial photography. This includes all other images not eligible for entry elsewhere.
Nature Photography	Nature photography depicts observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology. Nature competitions are supposed to depict natural, not man-made situations.
Botanical	An NJFCC competition sub-category of nature photography. Images having living plant life as their main subject are admissible for these competitions. This category includes plants and fungi.
General Nature	An NJFCC competition sub-category of nature photography. This category includes landscapes, seascapes, rock formations and anything else that does not fall into Botanical, Ornithological or Zoological.
Ornithological	An NJFCC competition sub-category of nature photography. This category includes birds.
Zoological	An NJFCC competition sub-category of nature photography. This category includes all animals except for birds. Basically, if it walks, crawls, flies or swims, it is an animal and must be entered in this category.

Award Descriptions

The following table describes the awards given in NJFCC competitions.

Award	Award Description
Plaque	This award is given to the best image as determined by the judges. Currently, a plaque award is only given in the TOPS in New Jersey competitions.
Medal	In non-TOPS competitions, this award is given to the best image as determined by the judges. In TOPS competitions, this award is given to the second best image as determined by the judges.

Merit Award	This award is given to all of the other images in a competition that received the same combined score as the image receiving the medal award. If no entries receive the same score as the medal award winner, then merit awards are given to images receiving the next lower combined score.
Honorable Mention	The total number of awards given in a competition is about 20% of the total images entered. This award is given to all those images that have achieved combined scores in the top 20% that did not receive a plaque, medal or merit award.

Suggested Scoring Guidelines

Judges review every image entered in the competition and assign a score in the range of 6 to 9, to an image according to the guidelines given in the table below.

Score	Score Interpretation
8 or 9	Merit Award/Medal/Plaque candidate
7	Honorable Mention candidate
6	Average