

Hello Fellow CTE Commercial Photography Teachers,

I've created a folder here with some sample documents and files for you to review and have your kids practice to prepare for the SkillsUSA Photography contest. When I first started with SkillsUSA about 7 years ago, the only things I could find online were the technical standards (regs) and odd contests other states had run. Nothing was cohesive or consistent and I was frustrated. The way I got to learn and understand this contest was by participating and observing. The first couple years we fell on our faces. It wasn't until we won our first state championship in 2014 that we advanced to nationals and I there I was able to observe a national contest aligned with the technical standards. It was an amazing learning opportunity.

Follow the regs like a road map. Make sure your students know how to do everything listed. You can always bank on the district and state contest being aligned with the national contest.

It's really quite simple. Every contest know your student will do the following:

Field Assignment (sample in this folder) Here's a tip...don't have your kids shoot only in RAW. Sometimes especially for district we rotate schools and not all labs will have very plug-in available for RAW files. That's just how it is.

Written Test (teach your kids the fundamentals of photography, history of photography, and Adobe Photoshop)

Job Interview (always bring 2 copies of their resumes)

Digital Editing (Adobe Photoshop, some practice files are enclosed. This was a prompt at state one year, replicate the movie poster using only the files provided)

Studio Lighting (sample prompt enclosed)

Conceptual (Creative piece they create on site)

Photo Challenge (If we have enough judges we can do this. This varies, on-the-spot quick thinking demonstration)

Troubleshooting (Have your kids learn the key characteristic of the term and the ability to recognize it in an image)

Matted Prints (Bring 2, 11x14 prints mounted and matted into 16x20 BLACK matts)

See next page for State Contest info

FOR STATE

The more judges and advisors we have helping with scoring and facilitating the easier it is. I need at least 6 adults to help score written tests, troubleshooting, job exhibits, etc. and help input scores. I do not score any contest materials.

ADVISORS ARE WELCOME TO STAY SEATED AND OBSERVE, HOWEVER YOU MAY NOT ASSIST OR HELP YOUR STUDENT WHILE THEY ARE COMPETING.

Orientation is always on Friday with contest beginning immediately following. Kids should bring the following:

Camera and gear
Computers ready to edit
2 Matted Prints

See the contest agenda for times, sometimes they publish a different time than we request, contact me for up-to-date info (Shannon Oden 817-565-2742)

Orientation is USUALLY around 1:00 on Friday with contest beginning shortly after. We do the field assignment at this time to allow for files to be uploaded to dropbox and judges from industry to judge them remotely and get us results by the next day. Field assignment prompts will be drawn randomly at orientation.

DIGITAL DEVICES SUCH AS PHONES, SMART WATCHES, ETC. ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING CONTEST. SEARCHING THE INTERNET FOR IDEAS OR EXPLANATIONS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION. MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT LEAVES IT WITH YOU OR CHECKS IT IN WITH US AT THE FRONT.

KIDS ARE ALLOWED TO WEAR THEIR WHITE SKILLSUSA POLO, JEANS, AND COMFORTABLE SHOES FOR FRIDAY DURING THE FIELD ASSIGNMENT ONLY.

The kids will be near the sand, walking around in the sun and getting dirty. Save full-on contest attire for Saturday. Kids will come back to the contest site, edit and turn in files before leaving the contest site on Friday.

On Saturday the contest USUALLY starts at 9:00 am, and expect for them to be in contest all day until 4ish. They need to come in contest attire, black pants or knee-length black skirt, black closed-toe shoes, and white SkillsUSA polo shirt.

IT IS ALWAYS COLD IN THAT ROOM!!!! BRING A SWEATER OR JACKET SO YOU DON'T FREEZE!

They will be doing a lot on Saturday, send snacks, water lunch will be provided.