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# KITSAP PHOTOGRAPHY GUILD

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## PHOTO CRITIQUE GUIDELINE

### FOR PHOTO CRITIQUE NIGHT

PREPARED: OCTOBER, 2011

REVISED: MARCH 2017

**Overview:** Sharing, teaching and exploring all aspects of photography are key goals of the Kitsap Photography Guild. Our "Photo Critique Night" is one way we accomplish these goals. Each year three of our monthly meetings are normally scheduled as a Photo Critique Night where members bring either mounted prints or submit digital images for sharing and critique. This guideline explains the purpose and procedures for Photo Critique Night and is intended for both KPG members and the person doing the critique.

**Purpose:** The focus of critiquing is always to provide feedback that will help the photographer and the onlookers learn to take better photos. A critique is intended to help you gain valuable insights and to develop your own critical eye. It is also a great way to share your work with other members.

**Philosophy:** It takes courage to show your work to club members while listening to it being critiqued. Keep in mind the person critiquing is trying to help you be a better photographer. You don't have to agree with the opinion, but remember there is rarely any benefit in becoming defensive. The club's philosophy and desire is for Photo Critique Night to be a light-hearted and enjoyable way to share photos yet be a valuable educational tool.

**Choosing Images:** When selecting which images to be critiqued you will benefit most by submitting your best work. You are encouraged to choose current images rather than photos that were taken years ago, and not to submit work that has been previously critiqued.

**Image Categories:** Each Photo Critique Night will have a "General" category and a special "Theme" category. You may submit images for both or either category but no more than the total number given below.

**How Many Images:** You may enter both prints and digital, or all prints, or all digital but no more than three images total. In the future the maximum number of images may be changed based on the number of club members entering as well as the amount of time scheduled for the critiquing.

**Procedure:** The Photo Critique facilitator shall send an email announcement to KPG members prior to each Photo Critique Night. The announcement will let members know:

- The date for the next Photo Critique Night and deadline for submitting digital photos.
- The special Theme category and how many images you can submit.
- Who (email address) to send digital images to.
- Reference to this guideline (e.g. hyperlink to webpage)

The Photo Critique facilitator schedules a knowledgeable critic and sends a copy of this guideline to the critic.

**Digital Submissions:** Only jpeg files no larger than 1280 pixels on the long side will be accepted.

**Naming your files - Important!** There are four elements to the file name:

The number 1, 2 or 3, to indicate your desired order in which your photos will be critiqued.

\_CAT (for critique CATegory) or \_GEN (for GENeral)

\_Your name

\_A brief title

Note, the separator character is an "underscore" not a "dash."

Underscores\_look\_like\_this, Dashes-look-like-this (The underscore is generally the shifted character of the dash on your keyboard)

Example: John will submit three images. His first two are for the CATegory, and his third is for GENeral. He names them:

1\_CAT\_JohnDoe\_JohnsTitle.jpg (this is the photograph John wants to be critiqued first)

2\_CAT\_JohnDoe\_JohnsTitle.jpg

3\_GEN\_JohnDoe\_JohnsTitle.jpg

Please note in your email that you are submitting photos for Photo Critique Night. Your digital files may be forwarded to the person scheduled to do the critique for the purpose of preparing comments. Your digital files shall not be used or distributed in any other way and all copies shall be promptly deleted after the Photo Critique Night.

**Print Submissions:** Bring your prints to the Photo Critique Night. Prints should be mounted on foam core, poster board or other support for ease of viewing. Your prints may be displayed with a matt if you choose. The minimum print size shall be no smaller than 8 inches on the short side. Maximum print size shall be no more than 16 x 24 inches. The overall vertical dimension, including matt, must be no higher than 20 inches in order to fit in the club's lighted print display stand.

**Identify Prints:** Make certain each print is identified with your **NAME, TITLE & "CAT"** or **"GEN"** similar to Digital Submissions.

**Critique Attributes:** The following are preferred attributes to be used as a minimum for Photo Critique Night listed in order of importance:

- *Immediate Impact:* Does the image have the "Wow Factor" at first glimpse? For example: Is it an extraordinary photograph of an ordinary subject? Is it amazing that the photographer was able take or create the image?

- *Composition:* Does the photograph have a pleasing composition that illustrates good use and understanding of compositional standards? Does the photo ignore traditional "rules" of composition yet has an eye-catching and creative composition?

- *Technical*: Does the photo illustrate technical excellence through proper or creative use of camera equipment or image processing software?

- *Originality*: Did the photographer effectively use a creative or new way to photograph a familiar subject?

- *Message*: Does the image clearly tell a story, communicate a concept, meaning or symbolism to the viewer?

**Notes for the Critic:** We hope your critique will be a thoughtful, reasoned response to each photograph. We would like the process to be light-hearted and enjoyable but primarily educational. We ask that you try to balance any perceived problems with an appreciation of the good points of the image and to encourage more useful discussion from other members. Your critique can be positive comments and/or constructive, well articulated negative comments. It can be as simple as stating there is nothing wrong (which can be a good confidence builder for the photographer). On the other hand we are not asking you to puff up egos by giving undeserving praise. It is important that you know how many photographs have been submitted so that you can control the timing and pace such that all the photos (prints and digital photos) have a chance to be critiqued during the allotted meeting time (usually about an hour). Your advice on how to improve an image is welcomed. It will be best if you give your advice in simple terms such that a beginner could understand. Let us know if you wish to review the digital images in advance of meeting night. Please delete all review copies when you have completed your review. Also let us know if you would like a KPG member to assist you in the critique process by giving additional comments or different viewpoints.