

# Criteria for our judges to determine an image's Star-Rating

Members compete within three peer groups based on their skills and experience during the previous year.

## Color Groups: Red - Green - Blue

A member's **adjusted average STAR RATING** for competitions during the prior Club year determine where that member falls on the distribution curve for all members. At the beginning of a new Club year that distribution is analyzed and new cutoff points are determined. Lower third falls to **RED**, middle third to **GREEN**, and Top third to **BLUE**.

**Place Awards:** Within each competition Group, our judge awards a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and HMs as appropriate.

**Assigning Star-Ratings**  
Each image receives a star-rating based on the judge's assessment.

<b>Aesthetic Design:</b>	<p><i>Items to consider:</i></p> <hr/> Impact/Interest, visual presence <hr/> Creativity, imagination, freshness of approach <hr/> Lifts the work into the realm of art <hr/> Style sets the work apart from others <hr/> Clarity of artist's intent <hr/> Aesthetic design <hr/> Subject matter <hr/> Composition, framing, center of interest <hr/> Ability to navigate viewer's eye <hr/> Ability to hold viewer attention <hr/> Attention to details <hr/> Story-telling, makes a statement or sets a mood <hr/>
<b>Technical Aspects:</b>	<p><i>Items to consider:</i></p> <hr/> Sharpness, focus, depth of field, or intended soft focus <hr/> Color rendition, tonal range, contrast <hr/> Use or quality of lighting to enhance the subject <hr/> Proper exposure for the intent of the photographer <hr/> Creates visual depth through lighting, focus, or contrast <hr/>
<b>Awarding of stars:</b>	<hr/> Five Stars: Outstanding quality in artistic and technical considerations <hr/> Four Stars: Excellent in artistic and technical considerations <hr/> Three Stars: Very good in artistic or technical considerations <hr/> Two Stars: Acceptable in artistic or technical considerations <hr/> One Star: Limited in artistic and technical considerations <hr/>