



2027 Topics / Dates / Definitions

(FEB) Expressions/Emotions – The art of visual storytelling through feeling. This theme challenges SPC photographers to capture a compelling and genuine **moment of expression or emotion** in a subject (human or animal). Whether it's joy, grief, surprise, or concentration, the image must **clearly** communicate a deep **connection** between the subject and the viewer.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
1/09/2027	1/16/2027	2/08/2027

(APRIL) Curves & Spirals - An exercise in compositional design, this theme focuses on **curved and spiral lines** that *guide* the viewer's eye. Submissions should emphasize **form, flow, and visual movement**. For example, the graceful bend of a river, the intricate pattern of a seashell, the dynamic sweep of a winding staircase, or the elegant lines of the human body.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
3/06/2027	3/13/2027	4/12/2027

(JUNE) Landscapes – Capture the **vastness, beauty, and mood** of the natural world or urban skylines. This theme challenges SPC photographers to master **composition, light, and depth of field** to convey a powerful sense of place. Submissions can range from sweeping mountain vistas and serene seascapes to dramatic urban skylines.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
5/08/2027	5/15/2027	6/07/2027

(AUG) Nighttime Photography - Explore the world after the sun sets. This challenging theme requires skill in handling **low light conditions, long exposures, and managing noise**. Submissions can include astrophotography (stars, moon, Milky Way), cityscapes lit by artificial light, light painting, or moody environmental scenes. Focus on precise exposure settings, often utilizing low ISO settings for minimal noise and long shutter speeds (measured in seconds or minutes) to capture the scene's dynamic range.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
7/10/2027	7/17/2027	8/09/2027

(OCT) Black & White – Strip away color and rely on **tone, texture, contrast, and light** to tell your story. This theme demands exceptional technical skill to manage the full range of shades, from deep blacks to brilliant whites. Focus on creating impactful images where **shadows and highlights** become the main subjects, emphasizing the structural and emotional core of the scene *without the distraction of a colorful palette*. Popular B/W scenes include, but are not limited to historical scenes, portraits, artistic landscapes, nature and architecture.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
9/11/2027	9/18/2027	10/11/2027

(DEC) Birds in Flight - A rigorous test of a photographer's technical skill, timing, and patience. This category is dedicated to capturing birds as they are actively **flying, hunting, or maneuvering in the air**. Submissions must show sharp focus on the bird, often requiring very **fast shutter speeds** (e.g. 1/1000 sec and faster) and mastery of **continuous autofocus** to freeze the motion and capture the bird's form and grace. Static bird subjects will not be accepted.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/06/2027	11/13/2027	12/13/2027