

2026 WPPA Image Judging & More Competition Awards

2026 WPPA Competition Summary

The Wisconsin Professional Photographers Association (WPPA) is proud to announce the 2026 Image Judging & More event, featuring three major competitions:

- Photographic Open Competition
- Artist Competition
- Senior Folio Competition

Participation and Eligibility

All photographers are encouraged to enter the competitions. Every participant has the opportunity to win one of the Sponsored Awards; however, only one Sponsored Award is permitted per entrant.

WPPA State Awards Eligibility

WPPA Members are eligible to compete for the prestigious WPPA State Awards. To qualify, you must have renewed your WPPA membership for 2026 or joined as a new member before entering the 2026 Image Judging & More event.

If you reside in Wisconsin or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and are not a current WPPA member, you must join WPPA before entering in order to be eligible for the WPPA State Awards.

If you live outside Wisconsin, you may join WPPA, but if you are already a member of your state or local affiliate, you will not be eligible to win WPPA State Awards until two years after your WPPA membership begins. During this period, you will still enjoy the benefits of discounted member event pricing.

Important Notice

Please ensure that you have thoroughly read and understood the 2026 WPPA Image Judging and More – Competition Rules before submitting your entry. Adherence to the rules is essential for participation and eligibility.

2026 WPPA State Awards – WPPA Members Only

Photographer of the Year – Photographic Open

Photographer of the Year is awarded to the individual with the highest cumulative case total in the Photographic Open Competition.

Recognition is awarded to the individuals ranked first, second, and third. In the event of a tie, all tied entrants shall receive the corresponding title.

The case total is determined by the sum of the four highest scoring images submitted in the Photographic Open Competition. To qualify, participants must achieve a minimum case score of 320.

Artist of the Year

The Artist of the Year is awarded to the individual with the highest cumulative case total in the Artist Competition.

Recognition is awarded to the individuals ranked first, second, and third. In the event of a tie, all tied entrants shall receive the corresponding title.

The case total is determined by the sum of the four highest scoring images submitted in the Artist Competition. To qualify, participants must achieve a minimum case score of 320.

Senior Photographer of the Year

The Senior Photographer of the Year awarded to the individual with the highest cumulative case total in the Senior Folio Competition,

Recognition is awarded to the individuals ranked first, second, and third. In the event of a tie, all tied entrants shall receive the corresponding title.

The case total is determined by the sum of the four highest scoring folios in the Senior Folio Competition. To qualify, participants must achieve a minimum case score of 320.

Wisconsin's Top Ten

The Wisconsin's Top Ten designation is awarded to the ten WPPA Members whose case totals are the highest across all competitions.

Each participant's case total is calculated by summing their four highest scoring images in each competition.

If a participant has entries in multiple competitions, only their highest scoring case will be considered for this recognition.

In the event that a tie leads to more than ten individuals, the tie will be resolved by examining the highest scoring image in the case from the respective competition. In all instances, precisely ten individuals will be recognized as Wisconsin's Top Ten each year.

Clean Sweep (4 for 4 Pin)

This honor is bestowed upon participants who achieve a score of 80 or higher on four images in a single competition.

Should a participant enter multiple competitions, they may receive multiple Clean Sweep recognitions, provided they meet the criteria in each case.

Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented to the non-master image case with the highest total score.

In the event of a tie, each individual will be recognized.

Elite Collection

Images selected for the Elite Collection are those that rank among the top 40 to 50 highest scores. The threshold for inclusion is no less than 80 points; however, in recent years, the cutoff has ranged from 82 to 84 points.

Recipients of this distinction are awarded Purple Ribbons.

Creative Genius Award

This award is reserved for images displaying exceptional creativity or presenting a novel concept never before seen in the competition.

The Creative Genius Award may not be presented every year, as recipients are selected by the panel of judges from all entries, irrespective of score.

Best of Show Awards

The Best of Show Awards are determined by the panel of judges, each of whom nominates their top one or two images.

The final recipients are selected collectively from those images earning a score of 80 or above.

Awards are presented in the following categories: Portrait, Illustrative, Wedding, Commercial, Artist, Reportage, Landscape, Wildlife, and Senior Folio. (1st Place)

Recipients are honored with a Purple Rosette.

Court of Honor Awards

The Court of Honor Awards are determined by the judges, who each nominate their preferred images.

Awards are presented in the following categories: Portrait, Illustrative, Wedding, Commercial, Artist, Reportage, Landscape, Wildlife, and Senior Folio. (2nd and 3rd Place)

Recipients are honored with Rosette Ribbons.

Judges Choice

Each judge and the jury chair are allotted a Judges Choice selection, awarded to their personal favorite image regardless of score.

Recipients receive a Pink Rosette Ribbon, which is preferably signed by the judge.

WPPA Members State Awards – Awards Presented by Other Organizations

The ASP (American Society of Photographers) State Elite Award

This accolade is bestowed upon the ASP member in good standing who achieves the highest scoring entry at their State Image Competition.

To qualify, the winning entry must achieve a minimum score of 80, signifying that it merits recognition.

To be eligible, the recipient must fulfill the requirements as a WPPA member, as stipulated in the association's Bylaws, and must maintain current ASP dues prior to the competition.

In the event of a tie, the total case score shall serve as the initial tiebreaker; should a tie persist, the second highest scoring entry in the case will be considered, followed by the third highest scoring entry if necessary. If a tie remains after applying these criteria, co-winners will be declared, and each will receive a trophy. Both individuals shall be formally recognized during the awards ceremony.

ASP members are eligible for this award only in the state of residence or their primary listed affiliation.

The ASP State Representative will present both the ASP Best of the Best video and the ASP State Elite Award.

CPP Award from PPA

This award is presented to a current Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) WPPA member whose image achieves the highest score in the competition.

In the event of a tie, the next highest scoring image in the case will determine the recipient.

To qualify, the winning entry must achieve a minimum score of 80, signifying that it merits recognition.

Certification as a CPP must be current prior to entering the 2026 Image Judging and More event.