

BPPA Pictures of the Year 2015

Please read the rules carefully!

Deadline

Entries must be uploaded by the end of day on January 15, 2016.

Entries must be submitted electronically via FTP (See Final Preparation of Entry below)

Questions about entry submission status contact:

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Questions about rules contact:

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Eligibility

All entries must have been made by active or life members in good standing. All following year dues will be paid with your contest entry. For a new member of the BPPA to be eligible for the contest, they must pay their current 2015 dues (\$60.00) the contest entry fee and the 2016 dues (\$60.00).

Entries

All contest entries must be submitted as digital entries via FTP. Single entries must have been taken or first published between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. No images captured from video may be entered as still images. A picture story or video entry may contain images taken in other years IF the images have not previously been entered in this contest. While pre-2015 images are acceptable in a story, they should be an integral part of the story and not published before. The essential goal is to review and honor work from the past year, 2015.

Please respect the spirit of the competition.

Entries do not have to have been published. Previously entered images/videos or portions thereof, are not eligible. Photographs manipulated electronically or otherwise to alter content are not allowed, and images deemed excessively manipulated beyond professional parameters will be disqualified. Multiple exposure photographs will not be permitted – all images must have been made in a single exposure.

Images may be entered in two photographic modes: color and black & white. For color images, the goal is to replicate what the human eye experiences. Routine image correction for color toning, white balance, and exposure is acceptable. Flagrantly de-saturated or over saturated images may be disqualified. Black & white images should display a full gray scale range from deep-shadow blacks to highlight whites.

Photos from mobile-device cameras are eligible. However, the use of software capture filters (Hipstamatic, CameraBag, Instagram) that artificially impose on the integrity of the scene with excessive tonal aberrations, textures, vignette, or other artistic abstractions may be disqualified.

Diptychs, triptychs are not eligible. Film edges will be allowed if the original photograph was shot on film (negative or transparency) or Polaroid and the border is the true nature of the medium.

Each entry may be entered in one category only, although individual still images from a picture story or video project may also be entered in a single category. Only one image per entry file is allowed. No titles, words or borders are allowed on images, except in the Video category.

The contest committee reserves the right to disqualify images deemed excessively manipulated beyond professional parameters, and to request original files or negatives of images that have placed in the contest to verify their authenticity.

Entry Fees

There will be a fee of \$5.00 per entry. There is no limit to the number of entries you can submit. The contest entry payment is made via PayPal the online entry submission form and must be made for your entry to be eligible.

Annual Dues

The Annual dues of \$60.00 are to be paid with your entry. The dues will be automatically calculated and will reflect in the total amount due at the bottom of your entry form.

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Categories

- 01 **Spot News** - Photograph of an unscheduled event for which no advance planning was possible.
- 02 **General News** - Photograph from a news event for which planning was possible or that explores issues or news of the day distinct from breaking news.
- 03 **Feature** - A found situation with strong human interest.
- 04 **Sports Action** - Photographs showing participation in a game or athletic event on the field of play. This category seeks to honor photographs of peak action from sporting competitions. Photographs of jubilation, dejection and reaction should be entered in the Sports Feature category (05).
- 05 **Sports Feature** - A feature photograph that is sports-related, including reaction; this category should include photographs that show emotion, celebration, jubilation, dejection and reaction among athletes and fans, from sports at any level. Peak action photographs should be entered in the Sports Action category (04).
- 06 **Portrait/Personality** - Photograph that captures an aspect of the subject's character.
- 07 **Pictorial** - Photograph that exploits the graphic aesthetic qualities of the subject with emphasis on composition.
- 08 **Animal** - A photo where an animal is the featured subject.
- 09 **Politics** - A photo depicting a politician, campaign or a political event at any level.
- 10 **News Picture Story** - A collection of photos with a single theme that fits the description of the Spot News or General News category. Maximum of 12 images.
- 11 **Feature Picture Story** - A collection of photos with a single theme that fits the description of the Feature category. A standalone sports related picture story may be entered here. (If entered here, it may not be included in a Sports Portfolio entry.) Maximum of 12 images.
- 12 **Sports Portfolio** – A portfolio of images that fit the description of the Sports Action (04) or Sports Feature (05) category. The Portfolio may contain a maximum of 12 entries, and MUST contain images from at least 3 different sports. One of the entries may be (but is not required to be) a sports picture story containing up to 12 images, while the rest of the entries will be single images. The story may only be entered once – either in this category or the Feature Picture Story category (11). If entering a story within your sports portfolio, please include a black, blank slide to separate the story from the singles – the blank slide does not count towards the number of pictures in the story or the number of entries in the portfolio. A story is not required and, remember, EDITING COUNTS.
- 13 **Video / Multimedia** - Open to television and newspaper videographers and photographers. A story (news, socio-economic, political, feature or sports) no longer than four minutes in duration told in video format. Can include video, stills and audio and may include archival, supplemental and supporting material (e.g. graphics). News value, writing, sound (audio), overall organization and clarity will be the guiding criteria for the judges. A previously published video can be re-edited to fit the contest's time limit.
- 14 **Team** - A multiple-picture story team entry by an organization. All team entries will compete in this category. Entries in this category will not count toward the portfolio entry limits of the participating photographers. Maximum of 12 images per entry. Only 1st place will be awarded in this category.

Preparing Entries

Recommended Software: Camera Bits have provided the BPPA with temporary use of their photo editing and captioning software, Photo Mechanic. BPPA Members can download the latest version of Photo Mechanic at this link:

Camera Bits Photo Mechanic Download page:
<http://www.camerabits.com/try-photo-mechanic-for-free/>

If you already use Photo Mechanic to caption your images, and you have the latest version, you can download the XMP Caption Template file for filling in your required fields. Fields that are blank are to remain blank, replace the text in the other fields with the appropriate information.

This template will also work with Adobe Photoshop for your captioning process if you prefer to use Photoshop.

Download XMP Caption Template here:
[2105_BPPA_CAPTIONTEMPLATE.XMP .zip](#)

If that link does not load correctly then use this page:
[2015 Caption Template](#)

Entry Forms

The entry form for the contest can be downloaded from the following page. Click on the Download button on the right hand side of the page to save the entry form locally to your computer.

[Entry form link](#)

You must use Adobe Acrobat Reader to fill out this form and you can download the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader for your computer [here](#).

Image Sizing

It is recommended that each entry be 300 dpi with the longest dimension 12 inches. Save and compress each file as an RGB JPEG at level 10, baseline standard. Image orientation must read in normal viewing position; images will not be rotated or flopped. Note: Images that have been sized for other contests, such as the World Press Photo, POYi (Pictures of the Year International) or NPPA's Best of Photojournalism, are acceptable.

Photographer Code

Create your unique photographers code, which will be used to identify your images. Every photographer must have a unique individual code made up of five **letters**, all lower case. Do not spell words or use your initials, as hiding your name and organization is part of the goal. For team entries, create a new and separate five **letter** code for the team.

File names for single picture entries

The filenames for entries are made up of the two-digit category number, photographer's code, and number of photos in that category. Use hyphens to separate the sections of the filename. All entries must end in .jpg (except in the Video category), and you must use leading zeros for the first nine categories as well as for the number of photos entered. Entries in the Video and New Media categories should use this naming convention as well.

Example: 03-abcde-07.jpg. In this format “03” is the feature category, “abcde” is the photographer code, and “07” makes this the seventh image entered in features by this photographer.

File names for picture stories

For a picture story, file names will follow the same rules but add sequential letters for each story within that category and a number to indicate the image’s sequence within the story.

Example: 10-abcde-A-02.jpg. In this format “10” is the News Picture Story category, “abcde” is the photographer code, “A” is the first photo story entered by this photographer in this category, and “02” represents the second image in the story. Each picture story must have a plain black image at the end of the story to serve as a separator during the judging process and does not count toward the 12 image maximum. This blank image must also follow the naming convention.

Captions and IPTC information

Captions must be completed in file info on each entry, and must follow this format exactly:

Caption – Please be concise. Your name or organization may **NOT** be included, as this information could be displayed on screen during the judging.

Headline – Title of the photo or title of picture story/video project. If the image is part of a picture story then the synopsis is also in this field.

Author/Photographer – Photographer Code

Category – Contest category number (01-14)

Source – your email address

All other fields should be left empty. There will be a review period after entries are submitted during which captioning/IPTC mistakes can be corrected. In order for the contest to run properly, this information must be correct – if incorrect after the review period, images may be disqualified.

The review period concludes at the end of the day on January 18th, 2016.

FOR PICTURE STORIES: Every image has a caption in the Caption field. Additionally, the Headline field should include a brief synopsis of the story following the title of the image. **Please put this synopsis in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.**

Example Picture Story Headline field:

Image Title

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Synopsis: MCAS - EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN IN MASSACHUSETTS TAKE THE MCAS TESTS AND TEACHERS STRUGGLE WITH KEEPING STUDENTS UP TO SPEED FOR THE TESTS. ONE TEACHER AT THE KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL IS FORGING HER OWN METHODS OF TEACHING HER STUDENTS WHILE STAYING WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES.

Video / Multimedia – Video entries follow the same naming convention as the still image entries.

Example: 13-abcde-01.mov

Entries absolutely may NOT contain the name of the author(s) or the organization for which the piece was produced. Video/Multimedia entries must have a title and include a preview image. .MOV files are preferred and encouraged, though other formats will be accepted only if they will play as standalone files. If a format other than .mov is used, and the entry will not play in a standard viewing program such as Quicktime, the entry will not be judged. Use formats other than .mov at your own risk. URL links will not be accepted. While the visual elements of a Video/Multimedia entry must primarily be created by the BPPA member entering the project in the contest, please list on the entry form everyone who deserves credit for the entry. Video / Multimedia entries may be no longer than 4 minutes and, after compression, may not be more than 500 MB in file size. A previously published video can be re-edited to fit the contest’s time limit. Keep in mind, longer does not mean better; *editing counts*.

Portfolio - Photographer of the Year

A portfolio will determine the BPPA Photographer of the Year. A portfolio must contain photographs from at least 4 different single image categories and at least two stories. A story may be from categories 10, 11, 12 or 13. Portfolios may contain no more than 15 entries and no more than 50 images (a Video entry counts as 1 image toward the maximum of 50). Picture stories (categories 10, 11 and 12) are considered one entry and may contain no more than 12 images per story, except in the case of Sports Portfolio. If a Sports Portfolio (category 12) is included, follow the category rules (meaning the maximum number of images in the Sports Portfolio entry is 23 images – 11 singles and one 12 image sports picture story). *Remember the portfolio is limited to 50 total images and 15 entries.* Use plain black images as dividers at the **front and back** of each story; these do not count toward the maximum number of images in the story or the portfolio. All other rules apply, including captioning and rules on manipulation. Again, please note: EDITING COUNTS.

****PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENCE IN FILENAMING CONVENTION FOR PORTFOLIO:**

Filenames should follow the convention “15-abcde-02.jpg”, where “15” is the category for portfolio, the photographer’s code is “abcde” and “02” is the second image in the portfolio. While the category (01 thru 13) MUST be included in the “category” IPTC field, it does not appear in the filename. The photographer will be responsible for the sequencing of the images and stories in their portfolio.

****PLEASE NOTE THE CATEGORY FIELD REQUIREMENT:**

Category field is to correspond with the associated singles entry category for each individual image. Example, if the image is to fulfill the feature category requirement of the Portfolio, then the category should be 03, not 15.

Best of Show – Judges will select out of all of the first place winner in all categories (excluding portfolio).

Judging

All entries will be judged by three working photojournalists from outside this region. Judging will be open to any members in good standing. However, no comments, questions, or remarks of any kind will be allowed during the judging. Viewers may only enter and leave the room between categories.

Judges will determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each category except Team (only first place will be awarded in the Team category). Honorable mentions will be awarded at the judges’ discretion. If no honorable mentions are cited, then one alternate will also be chosen, but will only be identified in the case of a disqualified image. Entries in each category will be judged in random order. Photographer of the Year portfolios will be judged last.

Categories will NOT be combined. If there are not a minimum of 15 entries and five entrants in a category, the category will be judged, but the number of places awarded (if any) is at the discretion of the judges. Entries will be judged in the category in which they are entered, and will not be re-categorized.

Judging Date and Location will be announced on BPPA.NET

Final Preparation of Entry for FTP

Complete the entry form(s).

Pay your entry fee along with your annual dues of \$60.00

FOR ENTRY OF IMAGES (NO VIDEOS!):

Gather all your images into one folder. The folder name should be your photographers code made up of 5 letters, no numbers or special symbols.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE: When uploading your images, collect them all into one folder that has the same name as your unique id, then upload the whole folder and not the images individually.

Using an FTP client software, upload your images with the following settings

Server Address: <ftp.photoshelter.com>

Username: [bppa2016contest](#)

Password: 2016PoY

On completion of file transfer, send an email to cjgunther@cjgunther.com for confirmation of receipt of entry.

You will receive an email with a link to review your uploaded images. Please take the time to note if there are any errors you would like to correct. No corrections will be permitted after the end of the review period. **The review period concludes at the end of the day on January 18th, 2016.**

FOR ENTRY OF VIDEOS:

Server Address: <ftp://ftp.bppa.net>

Username: [bppa2016contest](#)

Password: 2016PoY

On completion of file transfer, send an email to cjgunther@cjgunther.com for confirmation of receipt of entry.

There is NO review period for Video Entries.

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Check List for Entry

- All entries taken or first published during the calendar year 2015
- Please include a headshot: *FirstNameLastName.jpg*
- Recommended size of each entry is 300 dpi, 12 inches on the long dimension
- Use the unique code you created to follow the File Naming conventions:
category-photographers code-image number in category.jpg
- Photo stories have a black, blank frame at the end
- IPTC Fields are filled out correctly:
- Caption: Clear and precise.
- Headline: Title of Photo, and synopsis in all caps if part of a story.
- Author/Photographer: Your unique photographer code.
- Category: Contest Category number 01, 02, 03...13.
- Source: your email address.
- All other fields left blank.
- Video / Multimedia entries must have a title and include a preview image. Video /
Multimedia may NOT include the creator or the creating organization's name anywhere in the entry. No longer than **4 minutes** in duration and no larger than **500mb**.

Portfolio Entry Check list

- Follow File Name convention: *15-photographers code-image number in portfolio.jpg*
- Black, blank frames separate each story.
- IPTC Fields are filled out correctly:
- Caption: Clear and precise.
- Headline: Title of Photo, and synopsis in all caps if part of a story.
- Author/Photographer: Your Photographer code.
- Category: Contest Category number 01, 02, 03...13.
- Source: your email address.

Electronic Submission of Entry:

- Jpg files only, NO ZIP Files
- Folder name is to be photographer's code.
- Include your headshot jpg as well.
- Upon completion of file transfer, send an email to cjgunther@cjgunther.com for confirmation of receipt of entry
- Pay contest fees via PayPal on the BPPA website. Submit button on bottom of entry form will direct you to the payment page and will ask to email your entryform.