

Houston Press High School Photojournalism Contest Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I submit a picture I took before the contest started?

A: Yes, mainly because we have no way of telling when anybody took a picture for sure. So if you have a great shot in your portfolio, send it in.

Q: What if I have a series of shots on the same animal. Can I send them all in as one entry?

A: No. You could send in three shots to meet the three-picture limit. We'll do a contest later in the year that'll allow you to tell a story with multiple pictures.

Q: The theme for March is animals. Does that mean that only animals can be in the picture?

A: Nope. People can be in the picture with the animals.

Q: Does anything go in the pictures I send in?

A: No sorry. Keep your pornography at home in a special drawer. We don't want to see it. That includes animals having sex.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for success in your contest?

A: Try for the unusual. Your pet cat may be as cute as all get out, but remember that what's suitable for a family photo album will probably come across like a boring home movie. Go for the unusual. That doesn't mean the family pet can't produce as good a picture as a trip to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo or the Houston Zoo. But if your pets aren't all that unique, you might want to look elsewhere.

Q: Do the photos really need to be e-mailed to you?

A: Yes. It's the only way we can figure out to make this whole thing manageable.

Q: Why didn't you post my photos?

A: Probably because they weren't 72 dpi, with horizontal photos resized to a width of 450px and vertical photos resized to a width of 400px.

Q: How about cool pictures of dogs playing poker?

A: If your dog can actually play poker, bring it on. We do not, however, want any staged compositions.

Q: What about photos of my cat skydiving?

A: No Photoshopped images either. Tweaking the light levels is one thing. Superimposing the president's head into the composition is something else entirely.