



NORTH BAY - MATTAWA
**CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**

1972-2022 | 50 Years of Conservation

SCORING GUIDE

Photos must be taken within the **Nipissing or Parry Sound district**.

Photo submission must include **CONSENT FORM** if person is visible in photo.

THE BASICS OF JUDGING CRITERIA

Technical
Composition
Subject Matter

TECHNICAL ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

Proper Exposure: Focus, Sharpness, Detail, ISO, Shutter Speed, Aperture, Depth of Field,
Brightness & Contrast
Highlights-Shadow

Color - Cast - Saturation
Usage of Light

Camera shake – to high ISO makes it grainy – blown out highlights
Eyes should be in focus

COMPOSITION

Rule of Thirds Framing
Viewpoint
Balance
Where is the Eye Lead?

SUBJECT MATTER

Informative
Emotion-Mood-Feeling
Symbolism
Creativity
Impact

BREAK DOWN OF 9 POINT SCORING SYSTEM

1. Disqualified: This score is used to disqualify a photograph that is of copyrighted material, a blatant copy of another photo or other artwork, or does not meet the requirements of the competition category.

2-3-4. Poor: The photo has at least one major defect, such as bad focus, gross exposure error, or very poor composition. A photo with one major defect that is otherwise okay should score a 4. A photo with multiple defects should score a 3. A photo that lacks any redeeming features should score a 2.

5. Okay: This photo meets the minimum technical standards, with good focus and exposure. The photo lacks strong impact, center of interest, or composition. Usually, these photos are described as snapshots.

6. Good: This photo meets the minimum technical standards, with good focus and exposure and shows originality and good composition. The photo lacks impact, center of interest, or has multiple subjects distracting elements.

7. Very Good: The photo has no technical deficiencies and shows good composition, strong impact, and has a compelling subject and center of interest.

8. Exceptional: The photo is excellent technically and worthy of special recognition because of extraordinary impact, composition, or portrayal of subject matter. This score is awarded to the top photos in most competitions.

9. Superior: The photo is technically perfect and equal to the “best of the best.” It has all the attributes of the top photographs (i.e., strong impact, excellent composition) plus artistic merits (e.g., beauty, emotion) that make it worthy of public display. This score is rare in most competitions.

PHOTO EXAMPLES

Photo example

Poor 2-3

Out of focus

Bad composition

Photo Example

OKAY 5

Meets minimal technical requirements

No other elements

Photo Example

Good 6

Meets technical standards

Interesting use of framing

Good composition

Photo Example

Very Good – 7

No technical deficiencies,

Good composition,

Compelling subject

Photo Example

Exceptional 8

Beautifully Exposed

Exceptional Composition

Rule of thirds, balance, leads eye, level horizon, and design triangles