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Image Evaluations

One of the best benefits of PSA membership is the ability to have a few of your images evaluated by an experienced evaluator. This free service allows members to select one of five image evaluators: Nature, Photojournalism, Photo Travel, Pictorial Image or, the new evaluation: Street Photography.

Up to three images at a time are sent to the evaluator who sends a commentary back on what was good and what might be improved such as lighting, composition, subject and a host of other criteria on each of the images.

Evaluators usually get back to you within a few weeks of receiving the images.

How do you get an image evaluation?

Since image evaluation is a PSA Individual Member benefit only, requests for evaluations must be made through the Members Only (My PSA) login. Select PSA Education from the toggle down list of options after login and then choose Image Evaluation.

This will lead you to a list of all possible evaluations you can get and images/emails of the evaluators. If you'd like to see a list of all evaluators at once and what they have to offer, choose "Show All" and you'll see the name, email and description of the area. Some evaluators include helpful references on that page, which may help you improve your photography as well. Not sure if the particular evaluator would work for you? Feel free to click the evaluator's name (in red) and this will open an email to him or her.

Why would you want an image evaluation?

Image evaluations are not for those who just want to be praised for their achievements—that is better left to your friends and relatives. An image evaluator is going to give you an honest assessment of an image but since there are only three sent, you have to choose wisely. Pick an image that you might be considering to enter for an exhibition or a competition. Choose one that you think might make a good print.

Is there a limit to how many images can get evaluated?

Yes and no—you can only send three images at a time to each evaluator but once the images are evaluated, you can send another three. Should you keep sending images to the same evaluator over and over? Maybe not—these are volunteer positions, after all, and you should allow the evaluator time to evaluate images from other photographers as well. In other words, be judicious in your use of the evaluators but by all means, use the service.

What is the process of sending an image?

Images are sent via an upload form that requests both the file name of the image and a brief description of it. Without that description it is difficult for the evaluator to give you a proper evaluation, so be prepared to fill out all the fields requested. Images should be in .jpeg form and no more than 1920 pixels horizontal or 1200 pixels vertical. The final image should be about 2mb total.

Most importantly, you need to choose an evaluator—if you do not fill out this particular field, no evaluation request will be sent.

Sending in an evaluation request generates an email that is sent directly to the evaluator with your three images attached. If there are any questions about what you were sent, an email will be sent to you, otherwise, expect to hear from your evaluator in a few weeks. ■