

ATLANTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
DIGITAL

**RETURN
OF THE
A to Z!
COMPETITION**

Proposal for Digital A to Z Experimental (DAZE) Competition – V3.1

- What is an A to Z Competition?

For many years, beginning in the 1970's, the A to Z Competition was one of the biggest events of our camera club (Alpine Camera Club at that time) competition year. As photography transitioned from analog (film) to digital, the competition fell by the wayside. With guidance from Helene Mewborn, who has knowledge of, and records from that time, we are proposing a revival of this very popular competition.

Briefly stated, for the A to Z Competition, a subject is assigned for each letter of the alphabet, and the subject can be either a noun or a verb, a person, place or thing, or a concept or idea (e.g., A=Apple, B=Beauty, C=Crystal...), and the participant makes ONE exposure for each subject, IN ORDER, on a photographic media (an SD card or other digital media in our case, previously a roll of slide film). The participant submits the SD card for judging, WITHOUT post-processing (sorry – no PhotoShop!). The competition is unusual, in that it is designed to test the knowledge, skills and experience of the photographer in making a single in-camera exposure for each subject, and not their skills in post-processing or operation of generative AI, etc. Although participants are allowed to make practice shots using another camera, or by removing the “A to Z Competition Card” from their camera temporarily, ultimately, they must make **one exposure** for each subject on the Competition Card for submission to the judges. While we will make some forensic efforts to ensure participants “play by the rules,” clearly, we must rely on the ethics and character of the participants to respect and comply with the rules (e.g., don't make 20 exposures of one subject, erase 19 and keep the best shot!).

The A to Z competition is designed to be a “fun” competition – part scavenger hunt and part serious photographic effort. Often family and friends are recruited to serve as models or to participate in travels to that “perfect spot for the perfect shot.” It's one reason that the “reveal” meeting that presents all the images taken and announces award winners has in the past had the largest attendance of the year. It's fun to see how everyone interpreted each subject!

- The Particulars:

1. Entrants will submit a fee to receive an entry form with instructions and subjects, and with their entrant number on the form.
2. Any conventional digital camera can be used that records exposures on an SD Card. If your camera only records on other media, such as a Compact Flash card, we can accept that media. However, a film camera cannot be used. So sorry, but this competition precludes smart phones, tablets or other devices that are not conventional cameras.
3. You must shoot .jpg files -- not raw files or camera-specific files
4. You must record your Entrant Number on your Competition Media Card using a Sharpie or other suitable pen (for simplicity, we will refer to this as the Competition Card).
5. Be sure to use a Competition Media Card that will accommodate the 26 .jpg pictures that you will take.
6. Subjects must be taken **in order – only one shot per subject!**
7. Participants must use the subjects listed on the A to Z Entry Form. The subjects listed are required (i.e., you cannot make up your own subjects for each letter).

8. Each subject can be interpreted as either single or plural (e.g., either one needle or many needles)
9. Participants must follow the Honor system – making 1 shot per subject, IN ORDER. However, you are allowed to make practice shots with other cameras, or to remove the Competition Card from your camera temporarily and use other media to practice. Note that you cannot make multiple shots of one subject on the Competition Card and erase all the shots except your favorite. You are also not allowed to make multiple practice shots and then transfer your favorite to the competition card. You are on your honor to press the shutter release **once** to record the image directly onto the Competition Card in your camera (note, however that you are allowed to make a double or multiple exposure for a subject (letter) if that is an artistic choice you wish to make). You are allowed to use your Competition Card in different camera bodies if you choose.
10. Each subject image must be your original work- YOUR PIXELS- but no pictures of past pictures, even if it's your work..
11. NO PHOTOSHOP or other post-processing is allowed (even if that's available on-camera)- This competition is designed to test the skill & daring of the photographer- not their post-processing skills.
12. How much time is available? About 2 months, to correspond with APS meeting dates
13. The A to Z competition is available for APS members or non-members
14. Your A to Z Competition SD Card must be submitted for judging at the Atlanta Photographic Society in-person meeting in April 2026. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may mail in your Competition Card, but it *must be received* no later than four calendar days after the APS April meeting date. We recommend using a protective case for your media when mailing. Your Competition Card will be returned to you at the A to Z Reveal meeting.
15. One or more Judges will evaluate all images and will evaluate and score each image. Results will be presented at an "A to Z Reveal Meeting" after the April Turn-In meeting. All "A" subjects will be presented together, followed by all "B" subjects, and so forth, so that each participant can see how others interpreted the subject.
16. We can accept Competition Cards with fewer than 26 images (sometimes a participant may accidentally skip a subject or may run out of time to finish all the subjects at the end of the list). Competition Cards with fewer than 26 exposures will be ineligible for a Total Score award, since they did not complete the competition, however, they could still win an individual letter award and/or best of show.
17. If subjects are skipped- judges will do their best to interpret/guess what subject is intended, but they cannot be held responsible for guessing incorrectly. This is why we ask each participant to briefly describe each shot on the A to Z Entry Form.
18. Decisions of the judges will be final.
19. The Copyright ownership of submitted images will remain with the shooter EXCEPT- APS can publish winners' images on our website, etc.
20. All images must reside within the bounds of good taste, please, or are subject to disqualification.

JUDGING:

Judges are able to disqualify any image that is, in the opinion of the judge, not in good taste, does not fit the subject specified, or does not comply with the A to Z rules and/or requirements (e.g., shot taken out of order, evidence of more than one shot taken per subject, etc.).

Judges will review all submitted images by category groups (i.e., review all the A's, all the B's, and so on) and will assign scores for each image, considering:

- impact,
- composition,
- technical quality

The scoring is on a scale of 3 to 9, according to the following criteria:

9 points*=Tops, near perfect photograph

8 points*=Very good, could hardly be better

7 points*= Well above average

6 points= Above average, needs just a bit more

5 points=Average

4 points=Below average, try again

3 points=Weak

Awards will be made for:

- Total Points – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention
- Best in Show
- Best in Subject

Please Note: Because of the unusual nature of the A to Z Competition, awards, points, etc. will not be used in the calculation of conventional APS competition awards/scoring for the APS competition year (i.e., A to Z points will not be used in the calculation of eligibility for Masters status, total awards/points for the year, etc.).

2025 Digital A to Z Competition Form

[Please enter a brief description of the photo taken for each A to Z subject (letter) to help judges resolve any questions arising from skipped subjects, blank images, etc.]

Name: _____

Entrant #: _____ Phone or email address (in case we need to contact you): _____

2025 A to Z Subject Assignments:

<i><u>Subject</u></i>	<i><u>Brief Description</u></i>
A-	_____
B-	_____
C- Cloud	_____
D-	_____
E-	_____
F-	_____
G-	_____
H-	_____
I-	_____
J- Jump	_____
K-	_____
L-	_____
M-	_____
N-	_____
O- Old	_____
P-	_____
Q-	_____
R-	_____
S-	_____
T-	_____
U-	_____
V-	_____
W-	_____
X-	_____
Y-	_____
Z-	_____

[If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may mail in your Competition Card to: Grady Barnhill, 5895 N Eton Ct., Johns Creek, GA 30097, but it *must* be **received** no later than four calendar days after the APS April meeting date.]