

How to Enter the Photography Division of a GCA Flower Show

1. How to find a GCA Flower Show

- a. Sign in to the GCA website
- b. Go to the Photography page under GCA Committee Pages in the Members area
- c. On the left side under Resources, click Photography Resources
- d. Under Photography Resources, scroll down to Photography & Flower Shows, then click on [Upcoming Flower Shows](#) and look for shows with photography divisions.
- e. You will get a list of shows, by date. Click on the show schedule to view or download.
- f. Some shows require that your entry be sent in, with others you can register online

2. Reading the schedule

- a. **Read the GCA rules** and general information first to make sure the show is open to you. Some shows are restricted to alone.
- b. Next **read the Photography Guidelines** under the Photography Division, as they are different for each show
- c. Note the advance registration date
- d. Read through the Photography Classes and decide which class you would like to enter
- e. If you have any questions, call the class Chairman whose name and contact will be listed in the schedule.

3. Registering for the show

- a. There will be an entry form in the schedule, usually at the back. Some shows have an online registration and some shows may be entered by completing the registration form and sending by email or snail mail.
- b. Once you are registered, you will be noticed as to which class you have been accepted. Do not be discouraged if the classes are full and you are waitlisted. It pays to be the early bird when registering.
- c. Some shows are Juried Shows. In this case, you will be asked to send a JPEG image of your photo to be judged by a jury. If you pass the jury, you will be notified and then you must send in your printed photo. (See special note on juried shows below.)

4. Entering the Show

- a. Your entry or your juried photo has been accepted and you are now required to print, or mat and send your photo to the appropriate person by the deadline date for entries. All that information will be in the Photography Guidelines.
- b. There are size guidelines as well as how the photograph should be mounted. Some photographs are matted, some are not, depending on the show guidelines.

5. Printing and Mounting your Photograph

- a. You may print your photo yourself or use a photo store. The surface finish/paper is usually the choice of the photographer. Leave plenty of time to do this as you may want to reprint. Those details are in the guidelines.
- b. The photograph will need to be mounted, usually on foam core. Again, a frame store or photo store can help or you may do it yourself. Note the requirements of mounting and matting in the guidelines.

6. Time to send in your photo

- a. Where to send the photo and details of how to have your photo returned will be in the Guidelines. Pack your photograph well and especially protect the corners. Review [mailing suggestions](#).

7. A Note on Juried Shows

- a. The JPEG image that you enter should be between 2 and 5 MG. Make sure it is cropped and tweaked exactly as you will want to print it if you are selected. No changes are allowed.
- b. Rename the image according to the rules in the
- c. To send your digital image reference the [Photography 101 Lectures & Videos](#) on emailing photos in the Members Area of the GCA website.

Good luck! Do not be disappointed if your photo doesn't win a ribbon. Every show is different and often there are many excellent photos in the same class. Hopefully, you will find the judges' comments helpful and educational.