

PSCC Education Survey Results

(as of 2/15/2020 – 25 submissions)

Would you like our club to offer more education opportunities to its members and visitors?

Yes – 24

No – 1

Should the following types of education be increased, decreased, or stay the same?

Presentations by accomplished photographers of their work

0 Decrease a lot

1 Decrease

12 Stay the same

11 Increase

1 Increase a lot

"How-to" tutorials of photographic techniques, for image capture, post-processing and/or printing

0 Decrease a lot

0 Decrease

3 Stay the same

14 Increase

8 Increase a lot

Mastering a particular genre of photography, such as wildlife, landscapes, street, portraiture, black and white, etc.

0 Decrease a lot

0 Decrease

5 Stay the same

16 Increase

4 Increase a lot

Combining education with field trips, similar to a workshop

1 Decrease a lot

0 Decrease

6 Stay the same

13 Increase

5 Increase a lot

What subjects are important to you?

Which types of photography are you most interested in? (0-5 averaged)

- 4.12 Wildlife
- 3.92 Travel Photography
- 3.84 Landscapes
- 3.76 Black and White Photography
- 3.48 Macro Photography
- 3.48 Creative (altered reality, abstracts, shapes, patterns, etc.)
- 3.28 Low Light Photography (astro, city lights, etc.)
- 3.12 Street Photography
- 2.8 Photojournalism
- 1.8 Portraiture

Other types of photography:

- Garden/Flowers
- Architecture/Urban Cityscapes
- Creative Blurs
- Infrared (2 votes)
- “Creative techniques (multiple exposures, slow shutter speed motion blur, time lapse, impressionism, post-processing with PS layers/masking and other software program filters and effects to create artful images, experiment with different creative lenses like LensBaby)”

Comment: “No, but I would like to add a comment. Our members are generally quite experienced, but I feel that there is real benefit from going deeper into particular genres of photography -- alongside others who also love the genre.”

Which skills and techniques are you most interested in? (0-5 averaged)

- 4.08 Focusing (autofocus, manual focus, focus stacking, lens calibration)
- 3.92 Composition
- 3.72 Printing (printer choices, soft proofing, paper selection)
- 3.4 Exposure (aperture, shutter speed, ISO, HDR, bracketing)
- 3.28 Lens selection and use
- 3.08 Use of graphics tablets for photo editing (Wacom, etc.)
- 3.04 Lighting (flashes, strobes, modifiers, ambient)
- 3.04 Color management and monitor calibration
- 3.0 DIY mounting, matting and framing your photos
- 2.36 Tripod selection and use

Other skills or techniques:

- Judging
- “under focusing, back button focusing”
- “I would particularly like to see some tutorials on printing and DIY matting and framing. Tutorials should allow for Q&A. Our members also have a treasure trove of tips and ideas to share.”
- Speedlight and handheld flash

- “How various photographer types do their work: portfolio, locations, camera techniques and post-processing. Just had a wonderful presentation at SPS by Richard Hamann on his Street Photography as an example.”
- Good handholding technique.

Which post-processing software are you most interested in learning? (0-5 averaged)

- 3.96 Photoshop CC
- 3.88 Topaz plug-ins
- 3.72 Lightroom Classic (desktop)
- 3.64 Nik Silver Efex Pro for black and white
- 3.16 Nik Collection for color
- 2.44 Lightroom CC/mobile (desktop and mobile devices)
- 2.32 On1 PhotoRaw
- 1.4 Photoshop Elements

Other post-processing software:

- Luminar (3 votes)
- “Lightroom on a phone”
- Capture One
- Affinity Photo

Comment: “I have made extensive use of online tutorials, on the YouTube Channel and Creative Live. Those sources are my "go-to" for post-processing software. For me, lots of good online sources are readily available. However, I realize that others may appreciate live tutorials on these subjects. “

Any other suggestions for topics?

- “I suggest that we consider occasionally using a field trip as the assignment for print night or digital projection night. It would be fun to compare images that were all taken at the same field trip. It might also enhance field trip participation.”
- “I’d like to hear more info about a Mentor program and what it would entail before I answer the last question.”
- “Resources within the PSA website”
- “Midday shooting (when light is harsh)”

Any other comments?

- “I think it is important to state my bias... I’m a bit "old school" in that I feel that printing a photo provides additional elements of interpretation that "screen presentation only" lacks. On the other hand, I agree that modern digital methods (post processing, screen presentation, etc., offers an almost limitless range of creativity for everyone. None the less, regardless of the genre, I lean towards the old saying that "It’s not really a photograph until its printed.”
- “I believe that combining field trips with education, on a particular genre of photography, would be of great help. For example, Bill Ray has led astrophotography expeditions; our flower field trips could include instruction on macro photography; portraiture could easily be made the basis of a workshop,

with live models and studio lighting; street photography might be difficult to do with a large group, but might work well with very small groups.”

- "I am not opposed to having more education nights but not monthly. I think bimonthly would work. There doesn't seem to be any way to add education to either print or digital night with the format we are currently using."
- "I would like to see details about the photos that are displayed. Meaning it would be nice to see details like what camera was used, the lens, focal length, shutter speed and ISO. A brief back story about where and or how the shot was taken any special techniques used to get the shot etc. There are some very talented people in this club who could and should share their expertise. We see their photos but rarely get the back stories about how they work."

Would you favor making the following changes to our monthly meetings to make room for more education?

Yes 17, No 8 Create a monthly education night (rather than the occasional 5th Monday)

Yes 8, No 17 Offering education at the beginning or end of Digital Night, possibly shortening the digital projection process to make time available

Yes 12, No 13 Offering education at the beginning or end of Print Night, possibly shortening the print review process to make time available

Do you have any other suggestions for changes to the current monthly meetings?

- "Alternate the monthly education night between digital and print nights."
- "How about gallery trips, either photo or other forms of art? Great way to introduce one's self to other art forms as well as provide ideas that may lead to improving one's own photography."
- "Please don't use 1st Mondays, I have another obligation."
- "I get very little out of the commentary and judging scores, but I love to see other people's images. I would like to hear more from the photographer who took the photo, or at least be encouraged to ask questions of the photographer. Commentary by a so-called "expert" may be helpful to beginning photographers, but we have very few if any beginners in our club. Most of our members are very experienced and capable of giving their own comments. It is fun to compete and submit photos for judging; however, differences between photos that are technically sound (good exposure, focus, framing, etc.) largely come down to subjective judgments on which people can differ widely. So, for all these reasons, I would prefer to spend more time exploring how the best photos were made including a discussion of whether our members (rather than expert commentator) see anything that might have been done to make it better. This could be accomplished by having the photos scored by a judging panel before the meeting. Then meeting time could be limited to sharing the photos with Q&A and extended discussion of a few photos that were given the highest scores. This could go more quickly than our current format, leaving more time for education."
- "I think the current method of critique for prints is taking too long, as members start talking about their image and easily get off track. I wonder if each person at the table had a 3x3 post it note to write their comments, if the time could be reduced and more comments made, or something similar. At this time there is no time for education on print night."
- "For print night suggest starting the meeting 30 minutes earlier to allow time for education/training. I agree the print review process could be shortened."

- "Have the third night of the month for Education, New equipment, Photo sequences, movies, new techniques."
- "A free open discussion of things that are important to the attending members."
- "Continue the first Monday for accomplished photographers to display their work and provide education."
- "Presentations are best on a screen that I why I said no to print night. I was not at the meeting this digital night, but it sounds like a lot of images were presented. If this continues, I would suggest limiting it to 2 images and having Education presentations limited to 10 minutes per meeting."
- "I think it would be very beneficial to have some sort of education at each meeting and find a way to blend a show of pictures and education at the same time."
- "Find commentators outside of the club to rotate every other month for digital night, provide training for judges."
- "Information on PSA resources like digital study groups, etc."
- "Perhaps a thirty-minute Q&A from 6:30 to 7 to ask photography-related questions."

Proposed Mentor Program

Should PSCC initiate a mentor program, whereby members can ask questions of more experienced photographers? Yes - 22, No - 2, n/a - 1.

Would you be interested in being a mentor? Yes - 10, No - 15