



Thursday, April 9th, 2026
28th ANNUAL SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION CONTEST DESCRIPTION

CONTEST NAME: Digital Photography

CONTEST NO: 54

CONTEST LOCATION: Red River College – Notre Dame Campus – FM65

1. The Importance of Essential Skills for Careers in the Skilled Trades and Technology Skills Competences:

Manitoba is currently working with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to bring awareness to the importance of Essential Skills that are crucial for success in the workforce. This is part of a new initiative *by ESDC* that requires the integration and identification of Essential Skills in contest area descriptions and competition scopes. Essential skills are used in nearly every job and at different levels of complexity. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change. Good Essential Skills means you will understand and remember concepts introduced in technical training. The level of Essential Skills required for most trades is as important as it is for many office jobs.

1.2 The following nine skills have been identified and validated as key essential skills for the workplace (see 7.2 Definition for the 9 Essential Skills)

- 1- Numeracy
- 2- Oral Communication
- 3- Working with Others
- 4- Continuous Learning
- 5- Reading Text
- 6- Writing

- 7- Thinking
- 8- Document Use
- 9- Digital Technology

These essential skills have been identified in sections 2.3 and/or 3.2 of your Contest Description.

2. CONTEST INTRODUCTION

The contest contains two categories of competitors: 1) Secondary and 2) Post-Secondary competitors.

Each school may submit up to 3 competitors in the Secondary category and up to 2 in the Post-Secondary category. Thus, it is possible for one school to submit up to 5 competitors over two categories for competition.

Each competitor, during post-production, will be given assigned seating so no two competitors from the same school sit beside each other.

Any competitors helping another in any way will be disqualified from the competition.

2.1 **Contest Format**

(Please note: competitor, contestant and participant will be used interchangeably to mean the same thing)

The format of the contest consists of **four** parts: Two Competition Photographs, One Still Life Photograph (mystery object) and One Single Theme Photograph.

Part 1 – (In Camera, No Editing) (2 photographs) of 2 of the 9 essential skills.

Competition Photography requires the submission of two (2) photographs from the other many trade competition areas that are taking place at the same time. In this photograph, you will attempt to capture and highlight two of the nine essential skills being illustrated or demonstrated in the other trade competition areas. For example: you could capture a competitor in their competition reading an instruction manual in the automotive area.

This photograph would serve to illustrate essential skill 8 ie “Document Use”. Remember for this competition the primary person has to be a skills competitor. **All 4 competitions to be photographed by each competitor will be issued at 8 am on competition day.**

Part 2 – (In Camera, No Editing) (1photographs) Still Life Photography (mystery object brought to competition this involves the creation and submission of one photograph of a still life object (mystery object) given to each participant at the start of the competition. No judges or committee members know what the mystery object is.

Part 3 – (In Camera, No Editing) (1photographs) Various Photography themes – one (1) topic will be selected from the following themes: Lines, Shape, Textures and Abstract. The participants will produce 1 photo.

2.2 **Duration of contest.**

- April 9th, 2026 - Start 8:00 am to 12-noon Competition

Any competitor feeling that they will be arriving late must phone the Committee Chairman at (**204-227-1788**), or they will be disqualified from the competition.

- Judging is to commence at 12:30 pm. This will be open to committee members educators and competitors. As soon as it is completed, open evaluation (critique) of images will commence, and it will be completed by approximately 2:30 pm.

2.3 Skills and Knowledge to be tested.

- Composition – eg: visual elements, style, balance and harmony, cropping
- Technical – eg: focus, exposure, contrast, use of light, white balance etc
- Impact – eg: storytelling, the overall impression of the photograph

3. CONTEST DESCRIPTION

3.1 Documentation and a description of the three skills that participants will be photographing will be provided at the beginning of the competition by the committee.

3.2 Competition Timeline and Image Submission

A total of **3.5 hours** will be allocated for photography, and postproduction and delivery of final images. **Four** final images will be submitted for judging - **Two** from Essential Skills, **One** from “mystery object,” and **One** from the various photo themes. The **Four** final images must be submitted by thumb drive (provided) no later than **12-Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: LATE SUBMISSIONS (after 12 noon) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!

Contestants must photograph in **Raw format only, (In Camera, No Editing)**

The final four photographs submitted must be **(In Camera, No Editing)** . All

Cameras must be time coded the morning of the competition i.e. April 9th, 2026.

All Contestants must also remain on the Red River Campus (see Skills Competition Map for boundary) during the 4 hour duration of the competition.

Competitors will be given a personal code for each one of their four images.

4. EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

4.1 Equipment and material provided by Skills Compétences Manitoba include the following:

- Table and chair
- Thumb drive to deliver final images.
- Any elements of accommodation

Please note that **lunch** will be provided to Contestants, Committee Members and Judges ONLY.

4.2 Equipment and material to be brought by and provided by the competitor include

- Personal computer
- Software: To select your final image **Raw format only, (In Camera, No Editing.**
- Digital camera
- Camera Lens or lenses of the student’s choice
- Camera support where appropriate eg tripod, monopod etc.

- Card Readers
- Thumb drive to take images home (optional)
- Light meter (optional)
- Reflectors (optional)
- Speedlight Flashes (optional)
- *Carry a pen and paper to take notes during orientation. Also, have these ready for information briefings just before the start of the competition.*
- *Please note:* Each school is responsible for providing their competitor's computer and software and backup equipment in the case of equipment failure extra batteries, SD cards, and camera.

Please note: Post-Secondary Competitors are responsible for BOYD Bring Your Own Device and Equipment.

Coming in accordance with the National Competition, Post-Secondary and Secondary Competitors must bring their own BOYD (Bring Your Own Device) and software.

The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) will be held on May 27 - 30, 2026 in Toronto, Ontario. The gold medal winners will have to BOYD Bring Your Own Device (laptop or computer). This will be mandatory.

4.3 Required clothing provided by competitor

- **Contestants will be supplied with a Competition t-shirt, that is mandatory to be worn for safety and you must wear closed toe shoes and pants.**

5. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Competitor

- 5.1 • Long Pants (shorts, skirts or frayed/torn pants will not be permitted) Closed-toe shoes. Violation of the above rules will result in disqualification from the photography competition.

6. ASSESSMENT

Coming in line with The Skills Canada National Competition, the judges will view all images from each category simultaneously. The judges will then better understand the whole body of work from each category. This will give a better level of judging.

6.1 Score breakdown – Each image will be graded out of a scope of 300; three judges having 100 points each, the judges will determine Gold, Silver, and Bronze based on the entire portfolio of all four categories of photographs.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 Tie (No ties are allowed)

In the case of a tie, the judges will determine a winner based on the entire portfolio of all four photographs.

7.2 Definition of the 9 Essential Skills

1- Numeracy

Numeracy refers to the workers' use of numbers and their capability to think in quantitative terms. We use this skill when doing numerical estimating, money math, scheduling or budgeting math and analyzing measurements or data.

2- Oral Communication

Oral Communication pertains primarily to the use of speech to give and exchange thoughts and information by workers in an occupational group. We use this skill to greet people, take messages, reassure, persuade, seek information and resolve conflicts.

3- Working with others

This essential skill examines the extent to which employees work with others to carry out their tasks. We use this skill when we work as a member of a team or jointly with a partner, and when we engage in supervisory or leadership activities.

4- Continuous learning

We use this skill when we learn as part of regular work or from co-workers and when we access training in the workplace or off-site. All workers must continue learning to keep or to grow with their jobs.

5- Reading text

Reading refers to the ability to understand reading material in the form of sentences or paragraphs. We use this skill to scan for information, skim overall meaning, evaluate what we read and integrate information from multiple sources: forms and labels if they contain at least one paragraph; print and non-print media (for example, text on computer screens and microfiche); and paragraph-length text in charts, tables and graphs

6- Writing

The ability to write text and documents; it also includes non-paper-based writing such as typing on a computer. We use this skill when we organize, record, document, provide information to persuade, request information from others and justify a request such as writing texts and writing in documents (for example, filling in forms) and/or non-paper-based writing (for example, typing on a computer)

7- Thinking

Thinking is the ability to engage in the process of evaluating ideas or information to reach a rational decision. Thinking differentiates between six different types of interconnected cognitive functions:

- problem solving;
- decision making;
- critical thinking;
- job task planning and organizing;
- significant use of memory; and
- finding information.

8- Document use

Document Use involves a variety of information displays in which words, numbers, icons, and other visual characteristics (eg. line, colour, shape) are given meaning by their spatial arrangement. We use this skill when we read and interpret graphs, charts, lists, tables, blueprints, schematics, drawings, signs, and labels.

9- Digital

Digital skills are those needed to understand and process information from digital sources, use digital systems, technical tools, and applications. Digital sources and/or devices include cash registers, word processing software, and computers to send emails and create and modify spreadsheets.

Lines, images are an element of design and so add to the composition of an image. They direct the viewer's eye into and along a photo to the focal point. They also impact the mood of a photo, depending on the type of line and how it is used. Texture refers to the visual quality of the surface of an object, revealed through variances in shape, tone and color depth. Texture brings life and vibrance to images that would otherwise appear flat and uninspiring.

Shape, In basic words, shape defines a flat, enclosed area of space. Shapes are constructed with colors and lines, but all shapes are limited to two dimensions, i.e., width and length. Shape photography is the two-dimensional appearance of objects as your camera captures them.

Abstract, images often contain minimal subject matter. Consider the order, placement and balance between shapes, patterns, textures, and lines within an abstract image, as these factors affect the visual weight of a photo.

(In Camera, No Editing) For this competition, post-production will only refer to the process of loading your images to the computer for renaming only. It does not include any photo enhancements such as Bridge, Lightroom & Photoshop or any other third-party image manipulation software.

Any photography school wishing to take a tour of the Red River campus before the competition please contact Jocelyne M Hebert jhebert4@RRC.CA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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