



TECHNOLOGICAL **SKILLS** CHALLENGES

EXPLORE
YOUR **INTERESTS.**
DISCOVER
YOUR **FUTURE.**
CREATE
YOUR **CAREER.**

2026 DSBN REGIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

SKILLS CHALLENGE SECONDARY LEVEL SCOPE

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PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST:

To test, evaluate and educate competitors in the necessary skills needed to compete in today's real and ever-changing world of photography. For more information about the OTSC, visit: www.skillsontario.com/index.php/en/competitions/otsc

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Wednesday, March 04, 2026

Time: 8 am - 3 pm

Location: Niagara College • Welland Campus

ENTRY: Please connect with a teacher advisor at your school to complete your registration for this competition to be eligible to participate.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED:

- **Photographic Eye** - Focus on composition, cropping, use of visual elements, and general creativity/recognition of overall aesthetics.
- **Digital Capture in RAW or JPEG** - Ability to capture images that are sharp/in focus. - **Post Production** - Editing, colour correction, retouching and manipulation of images.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

Safety is a priority at the DSBN Technological Skills Competition. Please be sure to review safe practices before students participate in the photoshoot portion of the competition. **At the discretion of the judges and technical chairs, any competitor can be removed from the competition for the submission of inappropriate subject matter.**

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND SUPPLIES:

If you have any questions about the requirements, please email the committee chairs (see above).

Equipment Supplied by the Competitor or School:

- Card Readers (USB-C Plug-in Head) ←
- Digital Camera (DSLR or Point and Shoot) and SD cards
- Camera Accessories (ie, flash, tripod, batteries, etc.)

Equipment Supplied by the Organizer/Committee:

- iMac computers to edit
- Software (Lightroom CC, Photoshop CC)

Note:

- No Phone Apps are to be used for the editing portion of the competition
- Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop stock/original factory software is only allowed to be used. No presets, plugins, etc are permitted.
- Students must use the provided computer by Niagara College. No personal computers are allowed.

Digital Portfolio *(this is completed and submitted before the day of competition)

The Digital Portfolio is to be 5 of your best images in digital format. The photos are to be JPEG files, correctly formatted to a maximum of 2000 pixels wide for on-screen viewing. **These files will not be printed.** This digital portfolio will be shared via Google Drive and presented to the judges. **See further info on the last page.** Please ensure at least 3 of the photos from the digital portfolio are in colour.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

<p>Digital Portfolio - 5 images (3 must be colour)</p> <p>- Will be completed <u>before</u> the competition</p> <p>- Images must be no older than 1 year old from event month (February 2025)</p> <p>Successful images should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contain varied, diverse subject matter• demonstrate creative composition and effective editing• demonstrate consistent and clear representation of personal style• contain criteria similar to "Photography Series" below***	30
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<p>Digital Production on-site editing Test (Adobe Photoshop CC)</p> <p>- To be completed during the competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete image - compositing, colour temperature correction, white levels and black levels, contrast, saturation, colour grading • quality of retouching and image clean-up 	20
<p>Photography Series (Photos Taken Day of Competition) *** - 7 edited images - To be completed during the competition (applicable to theme provided)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the theme will be provided on the day of DSBN Skills Challenge • the series is to be edited and processed in the format specified on the day of the competition <p>Visual and aesthetic criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition, framing and choice of viewpoint • Background • Design elements and principles • Appropriate application of photographic and/or manipulative techniques • Visual impact, composition • Visual elements - cropping, depth of field, use of light <p>Technical criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure Focus/sharpness • Depth of field • Colour and/or tonal rendition • Contrast • Lighting • File Management <p>General characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality • Subject impact • Interest • Style • Photographic vision • Emotion/Mood/Feeling 	50
Total	100

ENTRY:

Maximum of 2 students per school, please. Students must register online at <https://technological-skills-challenges.dsbn.org/> with all of the required information completed to be eligible to participate.

TEACHER'S ROLE:

Instructors are expected to acquaint their student participants with all of the technical and safety guidelines. Teachers may not assist the competitors during the challenge. Thank you.

*** DIGITAL PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION (PRIOR to competition):** A Google Drive folder will be shared with the competitor by Dan Ricci or Darryl Block on **Feb. 20th** (the week before the competition) for digital portfolio submission. Teachers will also be emailed on Feb. 20th to remind their students to upload their digital portfolios into this shared folder. **Thanks! ****
Each competitor will be given a number by their coordinator after registration and will be judged anonymously during the competition. **