



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:

Digital Portfolio - 5 images (3 must be colour) - Will be completed <u>before</u> the competition - Images must be no older than 1 year old from event month (February 2025) Successful images should: <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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Digital Production on-site editing Test (Adobe Photoshop CC) - To be completed during the competition <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
Photography Series (Photos Taken Day of Competition) *** - 7 edited images - To be completed during the competition (applicable to theme provided) <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 Visual and aesthetic criteria <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 Technical criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure Focus/sharpness • Depth of field • Colour and/or tonal rendition • Contrast • Lighting • File Management General characteristics <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.dsbns.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. **