

Toronto Digital Photography Club

Evaluation Groups

Purpose of Evaluation Groups

The purpose of Evaluation Groups is to share your photos in an informal setting and receive comments on your work from the other members of the group. It is also an opportunity for each member to learn how to look more “critically” not only at your own work, but also at the work of others. Generally the groups concentrate on a photograph’s impact, composition and technical aspects and provide input on all of these areas. Often the groups demonstrate and share ways to improve upon how a photograph can become more effective. Sometimes a group will decide to have an “assignment” or look at a special “technique”. Groups are organized as much as possible so that they all have advanced, intermediate and novice members so that every group has members with experience “judging” photographs.

Evaluation Groups are informal meetings of members in good standing of the TDPC, generally held in members’ homes. These groups usually have a membership of 8-12 persons. Evaluation Groups provide the opportunity to get to know the members of the club, share experiences and feel more a part of the larger group. It’s an opportunity that should not be missed. The TDPC will make every effort to place a member who wishes to participate, into an Evaluation Group.

Organization

Evaluation Groups generally are organized with “geography” in mind, that is, what is reasonably convenient for its members. Meetings are usually organized the same day or date of each month so that everyone has sufficient notice to plan their schedules. Most groups meet throughout the “club year”...September through April...although some groups meet in the summer and may decide to hold a “bar b cue” or a special meeting. Usually, the December evaluation meeting is a “holiday” type get together and members of the group may decide to have a “pot luck” dinner...something a bit more special.

All groups have someone in charge of coordination, sending out notices, arranging for equipment, scheduling of where meetings are to take place, etc. The number of images that each member brings for evaluation is usually decided by the “coordinator” and most often depends on how many people are attending the group meeting. Generally it can be from 6-10 images. Instructions are sent out on how to bring, size and name images etc.

If a member of a group does not have the “space” in his/her home to “host” a meeting, then this can be “offset” by helping to provide the “refreshments” for one of the meetings...usually some snacks or drinks....whatever the group decides it wants to do in this regard.

It is presumed that all members of Evaluation Groups will try to attend meetings unless of course previous commitments or other circumstances prevent members from doing so.

Organization (cont'd)

While Evaluation Groups are “self-governing”, they are nevertheless, held under the auspices of the TDPC. Therefore, all groups must be open to changes in membership and do their utmost to accommodate the requests of the Board to keep these groups functioning effectively. If a group, decides for example that it is only going to meet in “one” member’s home as opposed to the “usual” practice of “alternating” homes, and that practice is acceptable to the group, that is fine. It is important however that all groups remain open to reasonable requests concerning membership and any overall policies that the Board passes in the belief that such policies are in the best interests of all members of the club as a whole. If groups are having specific issues they can be referred to the Evaluation Group Chairperson.

Cost

While the club does not charge anything additional for participation in Evaluation Groups, all groups have usually invested in some equipment necessary to run these groups, specifically projectors and/or screens. Some groups share projectors and in such cases arrangements must be made to transfer the projector to a different group. There may also be a charge for the meeting room, if the group rents space for its meetings. It is expected that members of Evaluation Groups share equally the cost of meeting room rentals and equipment that the group has either purchased or decides to purchase. Every effort is made to keep costs down, but it is not possible to run these groups without some additional expense to our members.

Sign Up

At the beginning of the club year a form will be available for all members to fill out re: their interest in joining an Evaluation Group. All members are encouraged to sign up early as organization of sufficient groups takes time. Members will be notified by email of the group to which they have been assigned. A list will also be provided to the coordinator of each Evaluation Group. Members are encouraged to be open to joining new groups to share photographic experiences and knowledge.

Changes and Improvement

Whenever a change to member enrollment or a vacancy in an Evaluation Group occurs, it is the responsibility of the coordinator for that group to notify the Evaluation Group Chairperson. The coordinator should also inform the Evaluation Group Chairperson about any suggestions for improvement to the operation of that Evaluation Group, or Evaluation Groups, in general.