

Optolong - 2018 Wide Field Astrophotography Competition

Overview

To encourage astrophotography amateurs to take more innovative night sky photos, Optolong specially organized our 1st. Wide Field Astrophotography Competition;

- The subject of the competition: Starryscape Dream;
- The competition is owned and organised by Optolong Optics Co.,Ltd.
- The competition is open to everyone.

1. Prizes

- 1st Prize: (Two winners to be selected) Optolong L-Pro clip filter engraved with each winner's name, plus \$160 discount voucher and 1 Optolong T-shirt for each winner;
- 2nd Prize: (Three second placed winners to be selected) Optolong Clear Sky filter 77mm or 82mm for each place winner, plus \$100 discount voucher and 1 Optolong T-shirt for each place winner;
- 3rd Prize: (Five winners to be selected) 5 x \$100 discount voucher for 5 people;
- The prizes offered are final and cannot be exchanged for a cash;
- Electronic discount vouchers can only be redeemed when purchasing Optolong filters from authorized Optolong dealers within 2018.

2. Category

- The competition has a single category for all submissions: Wide Field Images. Wide field images include subjects such as Milky Way, star trails, landscapes, foreground objects, twilight images, but these must include starry skies; Any other types of images but these must include starry night skies.

3. Conditions of Entry

- The entrant must have taken all images submitted; All images must be taken using a **DLSR and a camera lens** ; Composite images are permitted;
- The stacking of images to create the final image is permitted;
- There is no restriction on when and where the image was taken;
- Each entrant is limited to a maximum of **2 images**;
- Each image must include the **entrant's name and the date** the image was taken. The details must be included on the bottom left corner of the image and must be legible when the image is viewed at 100%;
- Entries must be submitted in electronic format (JPG, PNG, TIF);
- Maximum size of images are **2M**, width or height larger or equal to **1000px**;
- Images only can be submitted as **ATTACHMENT** by email to astrofilter@optolong.com with the following information:
 - Your name
 - Your country
 - Title of your Astro photo
 - Equipment used
 - Imaging target and time
 - Briefly describe your photo, location of the photography included
 - Digital processing methods employed (if any);
- The decisions of the judge will be final and no correspondence will be entered into;
- Copyright will remain with the photographers. The Optolong reserves the right to use the images for non-commercial purposes with acknowledgement to the photographer;
- By submitting an image to this competition you agree that the image is an original piece of work taken for the purpose of this competition and does not infringe anyone

else's copyright;

- Please do not submit your image to the competition if you do not wish to grant these rights to Optolong Optics. Limited;
- Winners will be announced on our website and through social media.

4. Image submission deadline:

| Date | Importance |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 30 th June, 2018 | Image submission deadline |
| Friday 13 th July, 2018 | Judges decision finalized and Winners announced at Optolong Facebook page and homepage |

5. Judging process.

All entries are assessed via our expert judges, who make the final decision regarding entries selected for awards. Judges intend to showcase as many of the entrants as possible and there is a preference for recent or timely images, but entries are not restricted to recent work.

6. Some tips about selecting images for the prize

- Colour balance. Good colour balance is essential with astrophotos. Poorly colour balanced astrophotos often appear with greenish or excessive magenta tints. Well colour-balanced astrophotos look very natural and are pleasing to the eye. It is recommended that entrants use calibrated monitors to process their images.
- Focus. Astro-photos should be precisely focused on infinity, and appear very sharp.
- Lighting. Note that astrophotos tend to print darkly if not properly exposed and adjusted (this is mainly due to the difference between the dynamic range available from monitors and that available from printing). In general, ensure that your image is well exposed and adjusted to achieve a good brightness.
- Contrast. Adequate contrast, and not extreme contrast, should be applied to astrophotos.
- Composition. Care taken for well composed images can be the difference between an OK image and an excellent image. For strong TWAN (The World at Night) style images, moonlight is usually used to illuminate scenes, and a strong area of interest positioned in the foreground.
- Image processing. Virtually all digital images are subject to some form of image processing, however, authenticity and integrity are essential and any processing must not distort or misrepresent the image data. While image montages (i.e. panoramas, mosaics and digital star-trail images) are acceptable, inserting image components from other, unrelated frames, are not. Image processing should be done sensitively with attention to image authenticity and integrity. Entrants are requested to briefly describe what image processing has been applied to each entry.