

Date Specific

more information can be found on the ATPI web site at www.atpi.org

6.9-11.2025

ATPI Summer Workshop for Instructors Only, Fort Worth, TX

8.27.2025

ATPI Social Media Contest Deadline #atpissummervibes

9.24.2025

ATPI Social Media Contest Deadline #atpipracticemakesperfect

10.18-20.2025

Texas Association of Journalism Educators Fall Fiesta, San Antonio, TX

10.29.2025

ATPI Social Media Contest Deadline #atpiorange

11.14.2025

ATPI Fall Contest Deadline

11.26.2025

ATPI Social Media Contest Deadline #atpifriendship

Do you know of some other important dates? If so, e-mail us at info@atpi.org and we'll pass them on.



Lamar Middle School (Austin) earned first place in Rising Star Documentary/Photojournalism. Evie Mathis, photographer. More photos on page 2.

Summer Workshop Registration Open

Professional development. Community. And all the snacks you can eat.

All of the above —and more — are offered at this year's Summer Workshop for Instructors Only, which will take place June 9-11 at Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth. Participants will be able to pick from three tracks with hands-on instruction.

Instructors hoping to learn how to develop their school's photography program (and maybe vie for Top Program) can take advantage of Building a Strong Publications Program. Clint Smith (Texas HS) and incoming ATPI President Josette Coker (Eaton HS) will

help participants collect ideas on organization, team building and assignments. Participants will need a laptop, a USB drive for files, a camera and any accessories and ideas to share. They promise time to sight-see and hone your photography skills as well.

Laura Veno (Glen Rose HS) will teach the Mixed Media class, which will combine photography with paint, pen, fiber, collage, and transfer. No art expertise is needed to take the class and participants will walk away with several completed pieces. Images to work with and a laptop (for editing) are needed for the class.

The last track will allow

participants to hone their photojournalism skills. ATPI Vice President John Skees (TAPPS) and Ian McVea (Arlington Martin HS) will lead The Art & Craft of Street Photography. John Knauer (retired) will be on hand as well. Participants will need:

- a mirrorless or DSLR camera (smaller is generally better, a tilting screen is very handy)

- a lens that's a 28mm or 35mm full-frame equivalent (18mm or 20mm on an APS-C sensor) and a lens of about 85mm or 90mm full-frame equivalent (55mm on an APS-C sensor). Alternative: a zoom lens that covers 28-90mm

(18-55mm on APS-C)

- extra batteries
- extra memory cards
- circular polarizing filter (optional)

- laptop and card readers

Large lenses and flashes are not recommended.

Classes will generally run from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. each day. Attendees who arrive June 8 are invited to join the group for dinner at 7 p.m. that evening, though each person will be responsible for their own tab. The final day of classes will run until 4 p.m.

Registration is \$275 and includes instruction, three meals, door prizes and, yes, plenty of snacks.

RISING STAR:
Fort Worth Country Day
Emily Arnold, instructor

Number of entries:
Architecture - 3
Commercial/
Advertising - 2
Documentary/
Photojournalism - 9
Landscape/Nature - 5
Portrait - 6
Sports - 9
Still Life - 3
Thematic - 4



TOP PROGRAM:
St. Mark's School of Texas
Scott Hunt, instructor

Number of entries:
Architecture - 4
Commercial/
Advertising - 3
Documentary/
Photojournalism - 6
Landscape/Nature - 5
Portrait - 6
Sports - 7
Still Life - 2
Thematic - 3

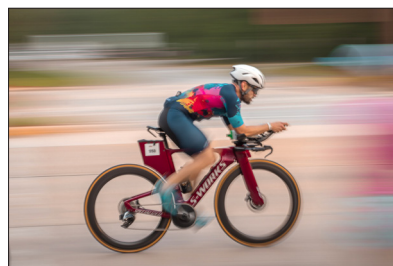


TOP VIDEO PROGRAM:
Prosper HS
Michael Hatch and
Michael Logan,
instructors

Number of entries:
Advertising - 4
Comedic Short Film - 4
Video Documentary - 4
Dramatic Short Film - 6
Feature Package - 6
News Package - 3
Sports Package - 4

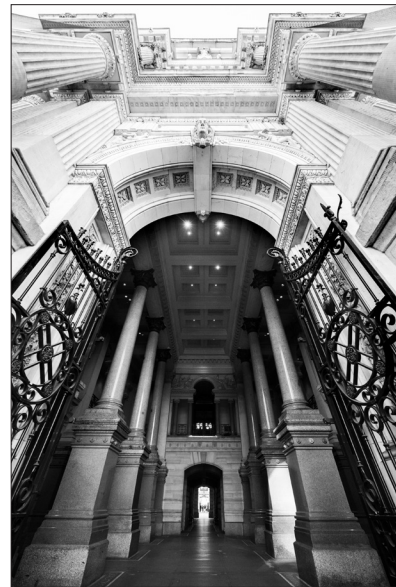
Third Place Rising Star
Portrait • V.R. Eaton
HS (Haslett) • Adrian
Rodriguez, photographer

Honorable Mention Hal
Fulgham Fine Art • Aiden
Fritsche - The Woodlands HS
(The Woodlands)



Second Place Top Program Landscape/Nature •
Westlake HS (Austin) • Reese Loo, photographer

First Place Rising Star Still Life • All Saints Episcopal School (Fort Worth) • Jax
Thomas, photographer



Third Place Top Program
Architecture • Texas HS
(Texarkana) • Anna Haley,
photographer

Second Place Hal Fulgham
Photojournalism • Jorge
Ventura - Caney Creek HS
(Conroe)



Spring Contest Winners

Script Happens

Automating the Stuff You Hate in Photoshop Using AI

By Stephen Green
Caney Creek HS

It had been seven years of students diligently taking notes on our photo workflow, practicing and assigning editors to managing our photo storage system. Yet, somewhere between the lesson and the lab, students encountered some sort of “Men in Black”-style, memory-wiping device that made them lose all hope of just naming a photo correctly.

The workflow is simple. It’s tried-and-true, especially because I stole and refined it from those who stole and refined it before me. So, why do students go full ostrich?

Laziness.

It’s human nature to find the shortest path from Point A to Point B, even if it requires cutting off one’s nose and ending up in Point F.

That’s why instead of talking myself blue in the face, I chose to lean into the lazy side of human nature. Enter generative AI and Photoshop (and other) scripts.

What is a Script?

If you’ve never heard of scripts before, a script in Adobe programs like Photoshop is a little list of instructions that tells the program what to do automatically instead of clicking around repeatedly.

Think of it like a recipe:

- You write out what ingredients (commands) you need.
- You put them in the right order.
- Photoshop follows it every time, exactly the same way.

They are written in a computer language called JavaScript. (Don’t worry. I don’t know how to code either. We’ll get to that.)

And for the folks who do like the nitty-gritty? Scripts can be customized, edited, and layered with options.

Why Write Scripts?

You may have used Photoshop actions before. However, a script is different. They allow you to automate repetitive tasks, enforce consistency and speed up production workflows. It’s more customizable than an action or a droplet.

While it’s important to still teach the process of editing, renaming, etc. manually, scripting cuts out a lot of time. There’s little sense in doing some processes the longer way “just because.” In the debate world, we call that circular logic.

Basically, let’s save some time on the minutiae and let me do the creative work as a photographer.

Kinds of Scripts You Should Write

Regardless of the flavor of photography you or your students dabble in, there’s a script you need that you never considered making.

Mine came from wanting to headbutt a nail after opening folder after folder where staffers seemed incapable, apathetic or just negligent of renaming photos correctly. A few have taken off from there:

- **Batch Renaming:** When our staffers download, install and activate the “Batch Rename” script we created, lots of things happen. They are asked if they have deleted unusable and duplicate photos, what the event was, when it was, and their name. From there, Photoshop renames all the photos in that folder exactly how I want. If they didn’t put the information in the right way, it’s rejected and they start over.

- **Web Quality:** When this script is selected, the image is resized so that no side is longer than 1600px and the resolution is reduced to make it make sense for the web, plus it saves a new file with “WEB” at the end so the original stays intact.

- **Anything Non-Creative That Saves You Time:** The name of the game here is time saving to do more of the fun stuff.

- **ATPI Contest Upload?** For this article, I’m going to create one that would prepare photos for the ATPI contests. See QR code.

How to Write Scripts Using AI

First, use ChatGPT or Claude. They are the (current) two best generative AI programs out there for coding.

Side note: If you’re hesitant for ethical reasons of taking away a coder’s job, ask yourself: Would you have otherwise legitimately paid a coder to write this for you? If not, you’re on safe ground. If you would have, go pay them!

- Write your prompt, channeling your inner Amelia Bedelia. Use your words carefully and describe in excruciating detail exactly what you want to happen when someone clicks the script button. Tell it also what you do not want to happen.

- Copy the script into a Notepad document and save on your Desktop as a .jsx file.

- Copy & paste that into the proper directory on your computer. (Usually, C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Photoshop [version]\Presets\Scripts)

- In Photoshop, go to File > Scripts > click on yours. (If you had Photoshop open when installed, you’ll need to close and reopen first.)

Tips for Writing a Good Script

- Create a folder of dummy photos to test the script BEFORE using it on real ones. You don’t want to goof up a bunch of photos because you got too eager. Wait to use it for real after testing rigorously on photos saved to a Desktop file or something similar.

- Imagine the dumbest human in your vicinity

plans on using the script. Write the instructions for them.

- Set limits on what to and not to do.
- Write it as a series of steps.
- Imagine that AI can do anything. Let it tell you what it can’t do.
- Don’t go for anything creative. Keep the tasks you’re asking clerical in nature.

What Happens When It Doesn’t Work?

Like any script-writer would tell you, very little works perfectly on the first go.

When I attempted to make the ATPI Photo Prep script, I first got an error that a bracket was missing from Line 105. I just gave it back to my friend ChatGPT.

Lo and behold, it works. *cue Dr. Frankenstein maniacal laughter*

Make It Better

Now that you have a working script, use it and think about where you can improve upon it. If you do, save the working script and your test script in a separate location so you don’t ruin your hard work.

For example, I realized that I can make an ATPI Fall Photo Contest script, and one that is generic for use in many contests. To convert for Fall Photo Contest, I just gave it the categories and made it a dropdown, so kids have less things to type... and mess up.

After a few more errors and corrections, it works. See the demo here:



<https://bit.ly/atpidemo>

Deploying to Students

We have a Google Folder labeled Automation and AI that all students have access to. Our school requires me to install the script, but students can download, drop it in the folder and just wait for me to put in my password.

Additionally, I had ChatGPT write a how-to guide for students to install and use the script. I also tested this out myself and retyped parts that didn’t work for us.

Start thinking about the things that bog you and your staffs down in terms of time. Then, see what Photoshop and the other Adobe products can do for you through scripts and the power of generative AI.

Briefs

Imagemaker Team Winners

Congratulations to this year's Imagemaker Team members:

- **Julia Copas** – McCallum HS, Austin
 - **Leah Crow** – Texas HS, Texarkana
 - **Taryn Farnsworth** – The Woodlands HS, The Woodlands
 - **Aiden Fritsche** – The Woodlands HS, The Woodlands
 - **Sebastian Gonzalez** – St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
 - **Lillian Gray** – McCallum HS, Austin
 - **Anna Haley** – Texas HS, Texarkana
 - **Jozlyn Oglesbee** – Port Neches-Groves HS, Port Neches
 - **Asher Ridzinski** – St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
 - **Annie Smith** – Texas HS, Texarkana
- The Imagemaker Team

recognizes the top 10 photography students in the state, based on points earned through contests throughout the year. This year's winners accumulated between 82 and 164 points. More than 30 students applied.

Contests included in this year's point totals were:

- ATPI: Fall Photo, Spring Portfolios, Winter Conference, Environmental Self Portrait, Social Media
- Balfour Great Shot
- Caney Creek Virtual Meet
- City of Richardson Photo Contest

Contest

- Drexel HS Contest
- Houston Livestock Show
- ILPC
- Kerens Cotton Festival
- Journalism Education

Association

- Jostens Photo Contest
- National Scholastic Press Association

Association

- Northwest College Wyoming
- Quill & Scroll
- Sam Houston Memorial

Museum

- Scholastic Art
- SIPA
- SkillsUSA
- State Fair of Texas
- TAJE: Best in Texas, Fall Fiesta
- Texas Mushroom Festival
- Texas Photographic Society
- Walsworth Photo Contest
- Young American Talent

Winter Conference Appreciation

Thank you to the following for their support at this year's Winter Conference:

• CADY, Canon, Dallas Society for Visual Communications Foundation, Jostens, PhotoVideoEDU, Red River Paper, Tamron, Arlington Camera and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Thanks also to Dr. August Davis, University of Texas at Arlington of Art/Art History department chair; Bryan Florentin, assistant chair and photography area coordinator; Calen Barnum, Barry Lancaster and Anamaria Perez for providing tech support; and faculty and students at the UTA for presenting sessions.

New ATPI Board

The new ATPI board will start its two-year term July 1.

Josette Coker (Eaton HS) is the newly elected president. Coker has a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Western Governors University. Now, she teaches CTE commercial photography and advises the Eaton Convocation Yearbook. Her biggest plans for ATPI include supporting photography instructors by organizing the plethora of curriculum resources into an easy to navigate format and to continue the work towards growing the contests and winter conference.

Current president Laura Spray (Trimble Tech HS) will continue on the board as a vice president for the next two years. This means Shannon Oden (Tuolumne County Schools, California) will continue to serve as past president.

The following officers were re-elected to their current positions:

• Vice presidents - Mark Dimmitt (Hallsville HS), Laura Veno (Glen Rose HS), John Skees (TAPPS), Matthew Koby (Dickinson HS)

• Secretary and newsletter editor - Andrea Negri (Cypress Woods HS)

Thank you to outgoing vice president Erica Garcia (Navasota HS) for her service to the association.

2025-2026 Social Media Prompts

Social media contest prompts and due dates for next school year have been set. Check out the rules at atpi.org/socialmedia.

- Aug. 27: Summer Vibes
#atpissummervibes
- Sept. 24: Practice Makes Perfect
#atpipracticemakesperfect
- Oct. 29: Orange
#atpiorange
- Nov. 26: Friendship
#atpifriendship
- Jan. 28: New Year's Resolution
#atpinewyearsresolution
- March 25: Spring Awakening
#atpispringawakening
- May 27: Sayonara Seniors
#atpisayonaraseniors

TAJE Fall Fiesta

Save the date for the annual Texas Association of Journalism Educators Fall Fiesta. This year's event returns to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Oct. 18-20. The hotel block will be at the Hyatt Regency, just a short walk down the Riverwalk to the convention center.

Students can participate in pre-convention as well as on-site photo and video contests, which count toward Imagemaker Team points, as well as learn from professionals in journalism and scholastic media. Information about the convention is available at taje.org.

**Association of Texas
Photography Instructors**
PO Box 157
Cedar Park, TX 78630

Imagemaker

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- Laura Spray, President
- Mark Dimmitt, Vice President
- Erica Garcia, Vice President
- Matt Koby, Vice President
- John Skees, Vice President
- Laura Veno, Vice President
- Andrea Negri, Secretary and Newsletter Editor
- Shannon Oden, Past President
- Bradley Wilson, Senior Consultant
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