



Iimagemaker

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Association of Texas
Photography Instructors



Erika Edwards (Duncanville HS) shot this portrait as part of The Art & Craft of Street Photography during the 2025 Summer Workshop for Instructors Only.

Instructors Gain Hands-On Experience Participants Reflect on Summer Workshop

Building a Strong Publications Program

“As a new publications teacher, this made the scariest part for me (photography) so much less scary and also attainable and enjoyable!”

— Leilani Cantu (Mayde Creek HS)

“The ATPI Summer Workshop allowed me the opportunity to meet other advisers/photo instructors and collaborate on ideas for how we’d like our programs to run. I walked away with so many new resources and ideas to bring back to my programs.” —

Madalyn Cooper, Hebron HS

Mixed Media

“This was the most fun I’ve ever had at a PD workshop. I felt supported, encouraged and inspired by not only the instructors, but other participants.” — Emily Pyeatt Arnold,

Fort Worth Country Day

“I loved the Mixed Media class. I learned new things and also why I taught journalism and not art.” — Sue Jett (retired)

“I am going home with loads of new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to share with my students.” — Danielle Patteson, Geneva

School of Boerne

The Art & Craft of Street Photography

“I came thinking I would learn a few tips and tricks to slightly improve my skills, but I ended up learning something that changes my game completely!” — Matt Griesmyer

(St. Thomas HS)

“As a novice photographer, I felt no judgment, only support from colleagues and facilitators. I was showered with knowledge — information, ideas, inspiration and a bit more confidence.” — James Eubanks,

Chaparral HS

Upcoming Events

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

9.24.2025

ATPI Social Media Contest
Deadline
#atpipracticemakes
perfect

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.*

Gearing Up

One Solution For Making Photographers More 'Official'

*By Andrea Negri
Cypress Wood HS*

For the first time last year, I faced a new foe on the sidelines at varsity events: Students photographing games for a side business.

Social media chatter tells me I'm not alone. Multiple instructors have asked for advice in groups on dealing with students in and out of their programs who are gaining sideline access.

I'm not opposed to students using the skills they've learned to make a little spending money. (And I know whether students in our programs should be able to double-dip and sell photos from assignments is another hot topic.) But frequently, the students outside the program stood beyond approved areas to photograph or interfered with my own students' ability to shoot for the publications. Weekly, I fielded questions like "did you send 10 students to photograph a varsity basketball game?" or "is that blonde girl talking to the players yours?" — a no in both cases. To make matters even more confusing to district personnel, sometimes students in my program were hired on by the team, so who they were actually shooting for varied on a weekly basis.

Because it was my first year in the school, I thought it was important to be clear I had trained my students to follow photo guidelines. So I set out to find a solution that would help people spot from a distance which students were affiliated with my program. (Sideline passes are too tiny.) Staff shirts were one option, but that would require someone to remember to do laundry each week. I needed something official-looking, but low-maintenance.

While looking for solutions, an Instagram photo of Port Neches-Groves HS photographers popped up. The students were wearing program-branded vests that would definitely fit the bill. Mike Tobias, their instructor, said he got the idea after shooting an NFL game, which issued them to media working the game. No one is allowed on the PNG sidelines without the district-issued



Above: 2025 Port Neches-Groves photo editors Celia Ruiz, Jozlyn Oglesbee and Izzy Teig work the sidelines at a game. Photo by Mike Tobias, Port Neches-Groves HS.

Left: Before the first varsity football game, Cypress Woods publications students Addison Loveless and Sophia Puzon model their new media vests. Photo by Zoey McMullen, Cypress Woods HS

pass or a student media vest.

While I didn't end up getting the exact same vests Tobias did, I found black high-vis vests that could have our program name on the front and "Wildcat Press" on the back that are easy to clean. They also have a pocket we can clip the district-issued pass to.

Students actually accepted the idea of wearing them better than I thought; some said it makes them look more professional. And the color ensures they'll still stand out from the crowd during our spirit days.

While I don't have any say on outside students popping up on the

sidelines, this has helped me avoid one headache. Vests are packed up with gear on game days and returned the next school day. Photographers are visible whether I'm in the stands or on the sidelines. And finally, I'm experiencing games without having to field questions about who that random kid is.

Briefs



Emily Arnold (Fort Worth Country Day) created this piece as part of the Summer Workshop Mixed Media class.

Summer Workshop Acknowledgements

Thank you to the administration and staff at Green B. Trimble Technical High School, especially Mr. Jose Lara, principal, Stephanie Elkins, Mark Reynolds and Laura Spray, for hosting this year's workshop.

Additional thanks go to the following companies, organizations and individuals for registration bag items, supplies and door prizes:

- Arlington Camera/Nanlite
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- John Isaac
- Jostens
- John Knaur
- PhotoVideoEDU
- Red River Paper/Drew Hendrix
- TAJE
- Tamron
- Walsworth
- Western Kentucky University

Member Feedback Requested

Please help the board out by giving your feedback on a few questions. Access the survey at bit.ly/atpisurvey or at the QR code below:



Survey will be open until Oct. 14.

Social Media Contest Update

Instagram's algorithm seems to be hiding some hashtagged images, allowing users to only see the top tagged posts. For this reason, students and instructors who enter the upcoming contests should also tag @ATPI_TX in hopes this ensures their entries are seen.

Upcoming prompts:

- Sept. 24: Practice Makes Perfect

#atpipracticemakesperfect

- Oct. 29: Orange

#atpiorange

- Nov. 26: Friendship

#atpifriendship

Board Meeting Update

During its August board meeting, officers discussed member engagement, fall and spring photo contest judging, Winter Conference updates and potential Summer Workshop locations. Updates of note:

- Engagement on X/Twitter has dropped well below other platforms and the board will be discontinuing its use. The board is also looking at ways to increase engagement/information for members on its remaining platforms.

- Fall photo contest judging will take place Dec. 6. The board is looking at options to avoid the issues with BlueSky and Instagram experienced last year. In addition, there will be an online form that will allow immediate credit card payments this year. Instructors will need to know if they are already a member or email info@atpi.org.

- Spring contests will be due April 10, with judging on April 26.

- Language in the bylaws about committee structures needs to be updated and voted on by members. This language will be included in a future newsletter and members will vote during the general membership meeting at the Winter Conference.

Winter Conference Preview

The 2026 Winter Conference will take place Feb. 20-21 in Austin. Texas Country Reporter's Jay B. Saucedo will be this year's keynote speaker.

Attendees can look forward to contests, one-hour sessions and the keynote at the Texas Capitol Complex on Friday before moving to the Austin Community College Highland Campus on Saturday for hands-on classes and awards.

This year's conference will see a few changes from the last visit to Austin:

- The base registration will increase to \$45, but will come with meals included on both days. Attendees will receive a voucher to the Capitol Grill in the extension, which means no more having to hunt down food choices outside the building.

- Instructors will have the opportunity to show off their skills and compete in this year's Cropped contest.

- This year's conference will feature a new contest — Photo Relay. This event will challenge students from different schools to work together to create images based off a prompt.

More information about the Winter Conference will be available in the November newsletter.

TAJE Contest Opportunities

The Texas Association of Journalism Educators has two contest opportunities approaching.

This year's Fall Fiesta 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 Iimagemaker Team points, as well as learn from professionals in journalism and scholastic media.

Entries for the Best in Texas Yearbook contest are also open. Content published in the 2025 yearbook and not entered in Fall Fiesta contests is eligible for submission. Eight photo categories are available to TAJE members, along with theme, writing and design categories. Entries are due Oct. 31. Like the Fall Fiesta competitions, the photo categories can be counted toward Iimagemaker Team (and most categories do not have an entry limit). Information about the convention and Best in Texas contests is available at taje.org.

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Briefs

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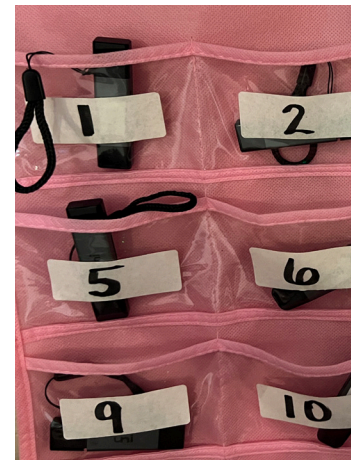
Keynote Speaker Inspires Student

In 2018, a quiet, soft-spoken student attended a Winter Conference talk by environmental photographer James Balog, whose documentary “Chasing Ice” (2012) and “Extreme Ice Survey” revealed the rapid retreat of glaciers. That moment proved pivotal for Trimble Tech HS graduate Mariela Garcia Arredondo.

She went on to earn a B.S. in Science of Earth Systems: Biogeochemistry at Cornell University, followed by an M.S. and Ph.D. in Soil Biochemistry at UMass Amherst. Her research bridges rigorous science with an urgency to understand and protect Earth’s changing systems.

In 2023, she presented at the Nobel Prize Summit, contributing to Poets for Science and sharing “Origin Story,” a piece that blends scientific insight with creative expression.

From a single spark of inspiration to international platforms, her journey shows how one powerful



Art teachers at Cypress Woods HS have transformed unneeded cell phone pockets into class materials storage. Photos by Andrea Negri, Cypress Woods HS

presentation can shape a life’s work—and how today’s listeners can become tomorrow’s leaders. — Shannon Oden, Past President

Uses for Empty Cell Phone Holders

As teachers in many states adjust to newly enacted cell phone bans, they also

might look for a few ways to repurpose cell phone holders. Here are a few ideas:

- Technology holder - Computer mice, charging cables, SD card readers and even some headphones fit.

- Charging area - Depending on your access to outlets and charger configuration, the pockets may work as a station to charge what tech you can use. And if that’s not an option, they’re

a decent spot to hold charged batteries.

- Location tracker - Label each pocket with a location on campus. Grab clothespins and label these with student names as well. Students can clip their pin to the appropriate location as needed.

- Supplies storage - Place frequently needed items, such as pencils, highlighters or other materials in an easy-to-grab location.

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Photography Instructors
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