



MENSA INTERNATIONAL

PhotoCup2026

Note: If the language used in your national Mensa is NOT English, please download a copy of this document and translate it into your own language.

KEY INFORMATION

- Theme: **“Spark of Evolution”**
- Deadline for [NM name] PhotoCup competition: [dd/mm/2026]
- [NM name] PhotoCup 2026 coordinator: [name & e-mail]

RULES: DOs ✓ & DON'Ts ✗

DOs ✓

1. ✓ You must be a Mensa member in good standing and you must remain a member in good standing for the duration of the competition.
2. ✓ When submitting your photo(s), you must include your **full name, membership number, e-mail address** and the **title(s) of your photo(s)**.
3. ✓ You may submit **up to 3** photos (maximum of 3). Each photo should:
 - be in **JPG/JPEG** format
 - have a resolution of **150 DPI** or higher
 - not exceed **10 MB**
4. ✓ Focus on the Theme: Each individual image should independently reflect the theme **"Spark of Evolution"**.
5. ✓ In order for the competition to be fair, and in order to allow the judging panel to accurately score your photo(s), you must provide **“EXIF data”** for each image you submit. Click [here](#) for an explanation of EXIF data and step-by-step instructions.
6. ✓ **“Global Editing”** is allowed. Global Editing involves applying changes across the whole image.

The following common edits are allowed: cropping, re-framing, straightening.

The other Global Editing techniques that we allow are:

- colour correction across the whole image; e.g. changing to sepia, greyscale, dust & noise, monochrome.
- changes to the following settings: light balance, brightness, exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, saturation, tint, temperature, sharpness, definition.

7. ✓ Each photograph you submit must be your own original work, and you must be the sole and exclusive owner of the copyright and all other intellectual property rights associated with each submitted image.

DON'Ts ❌

1. ❌ This is a Photography competition, not a Photostory contest. Do not submit a photo story or a series of images intended to be viewed in a specific order.
2. ❌ **Pre-dated images** (photos taken before 1st January 2026) may not be submitted. If you are using a Digital camera, please ensure it shows the correct date before taking a picture.
3. ❌ **AI-generated images** will not be accepted. Any such entry will be disqualified, and any member submitting such images will be banned from entering future competitions.
4. ❌ Your photo(s) must not include anything that was not naturally captured in the original camera image, such as labels, watermarks, tags, numbers, symbols, letters or words (e.g. your name/signature/initials).
5. ❌ Anything beyond the scope of "Global Editing" (see point 6 of DOs, above) is not allowed. Specifically, the following edits are not allowed: removing objects, masking or grading parts of photos, changing only the background colour, targeting your edits so they affect only certain areas, and the use of AI-powered editing.
6. ❌ **Any promotion of your entries** (or any promotion of your entries by other people or groups on your behalf) is not allowed.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

You consent to the publication of your name, photograph title(s), and the name of your national Mensa organisation (or, where applicable, your country of residence), both within and outside Mensa.

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