



MERIT SYSTEM

Professional Photographers of America

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1. The Merit System shall be under the authority of Council.
2. Changes to the Merit Rules must be approved by a majority affirmative vote of Council.
3. Merits shall be awarded under the aegis of the Bylaws, Rules and Ethics Committee, as approved by Council, and according to the Merit Rules.
 - 3.1 Merits shall be awarded only to members of this Association. Merits can be applied toward a Degree only if the recipient is a member of this Association.
 - 3.2 PPA merits shall be awarded as follows:
 - 3.1.1 One (1) Exhibition merit for each photograph, motion picture, video tape, candid series, visual aid, engineering reproduction, technical report or other evidence of unique photographic accomplishment accepted in the Annual Exhibition of Professional Photography. No individual may receive more than four Exhibition merits in any one calendar year under this subsection (Merit code 110).
 - 3.1.2 One (1) additional Exhibition Merit for each approved entry selected for the Loan Collection from the same Annual Exhibition of Professional Photography. No individual may receive more than four (4) Exhibition Merits in any one calendar year under this subsection (Merit code 120).
 - 3.1.2.1 Juries for their Exhibition shall be selected by the Photographic Exhibition Committee based on a rotating Schedule.
 - 3.1.2.2 Rules for this Exhibit shall be made by the Photographic Exhibition Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors.
 - 3.1.3 One (1) Artist Exhibition Merit for each entry accepted in the Annual Exhibition of Professional Photography. No individual may receive more than four Artist Exhibition Merits in any one calendar year under this subsection (Merit code 150).
 - 3.1.4 One (1) additional Artist Exhibition Merit for each entry selected for the Loan Collection from the same Annual Exhibition of Professional Photography. No individual may receive more than four Artist Exhibition Merits in any one calendar year under this subsection (Merit code 160).
 - 3.1.5 One (1) Wedding Exhibition Merit for each entry accepted in the Annual Exhibition of Professional Photography. No individual may receive more than four Wedding Exhibition Merits in any one calendar year under this subsection (Merit code 170).
 - 3.1.6 One (1) additional Wedding Exhibition Merit for each entry selected for the Loan Collection from the same Annual Exhibition of Professional Photography. No individual may receive more than four Wedding Exhibition Merits in any one

calendar year under this subsection (Merit code 180).

- 3.1.7 Service Merits are all merits with the exception of Speaking, Exhibition and Artist Exhibition merits.
- 3.1.8 Speaking Merits are awarded for lectures on approved programs, instructor or lecturer at PPA School of Professional Photography or an approved school sponsored by an Affiliate as stated in the Merit Chart. For having an article published in official publications of this Association, or for service as editor of an affiliate publication, published a minimum of three times per calendar year.

4. Degrees

- 4.1 Exceptional ability in photography and exceptional services to the profession or this Association shall be recognized by the awarding of Degrees to individuals.

- 4.2 There shall be five (5) Degrees, the awarding of which shall be attested to by the presentation of diplomas and insignia. A Degree shall become effective at the time of presentation of the certificate.
 - 4.2.1 The Degree of *Honorary Master of Photography* (abbreviated "Hon. M.Photos.") shall only be awarded to individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the photographic profession or this Association. Recipients of this Degree need not be members of this Association.
 - 4.2.1.1 Rules for proposals for, and award of, the Degree of Honorary Master of Photography shall be set by the Board. A three-fourths vote of the Board shall be required for approval.
 - 4.2.1.2 Upon completion of his or her term of office, the President shall automatically be awarded the degree of Honorary Master of Photography.

 - 4.2.2 The Degree of *Master of Photography* (abbreviated "M.Photos.") shall only be awarded to participating photographers who are Professional Active, Additional Active, International, Retired, Additional Associate or Life members of this Association and who meet the requirements outlined herein. To qualify for this Degree, the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Exhibition Merits. The other merits of the twenty-five (25) shall be Exhibition, Artist Exhibition, Speaking, Specialist or Service Merits.

 - 4.2.3 The degree of *Master Artist* (abbreviated "M.Artist") may only be awarded to individuals who are Professional Active, Additional Active, International, Retired, Additional Associate or Life members of this Association, and who meet the requirements outlined herein. To qualify for this degree the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Artist Exhibition Merits, or Specialist Merits. The other merits of the twenty-five (25) shall be Exhibition, Artist Exhibition, Speaking, Specialist or Service Merits.

4.2.4 The degree of *Honorary Photographic Craftsman* (abbreviated “Hon.Cr.Photog”) shall be awarded by the Board of Directors. This degree requires a three-fourths vote of the Board.

4.2.4.1 Rules for Proposals for, and award of, the degree of Honorary Photographic Craftsman shall be set by the Board. A three-fourths vote of the board shall be required for approval.

4.2.5 The degree of *Photographic Craftsman* (abbreviated “Cr.Photog.”) shall only be awarded to individuals who are Professional Active, Additional Active, International, Retired, Additional Associate, or Life members of this Association and who meet the requirements outlined herein. To qualify for this degree, the applicant must have been awarded at least twenty-five (25) total Merits, of which a minimum of thirteen (13) must be Speaking Merits. The other merits of the twenty-five (25) total may be Exhibition, Specialist Exhibition, Artist Exhibition, or Service Merits.

4.3 An individual holding the degree of Master of Photography, Master Artist, Master of Electronic Imaging, or Photographic Craftsman may, if qualified, be awarded other degrees. Under this provision, the applicant must have been awarded a total of fifty (50) or more appropriate merits for two degrees, and twenty-five (25) or more appropriate merits for each additional degree. Once a Merit is applied toward a degree, the merits used to obtain that degree are considered void for future application, and may not be used again. Holders of multiple degrees must use the following abbreviations in this order followed by any other credentials as appropriate.

4.3.1	Master of Photography	M.Photog.
4.3.2	Honorary Master of Photography	Hon.M.Photog.
4.3.3	Master Artist	M.Artist.
4.3.4	Master of Electronic Imaging	MEI.
4.3.5	Photographic Craftsman	Cr.
4.3.6	Honorary Photographic Craftsman	Hon.Cr.Photog.

4.4 The Insignia for the degrees shall be hung on ribbons to be worn around the neck.

4.4.1 Ribbons for combined degrees will be a combination of colors. The colors will appear in the order shown above, with the uppermost degree appearing on the outside of the ribbon.

4.4.2 The ribbon Colors are as follows:

4.4.2.1 Honorary Master of Photography (maroon and gold)

4.4.2.2 Master of Photography (gold)

4.4.2.3 Master Artist (red)

4.4.2.4 Honorary Photographic Craftsman (maroon and blue)

4.4.2.5 Photographic Craftsman (blue)

4.4.2.6 Master Artist (white -retired January 2011)

4.4.2.7 Master of Electronic Imaging (red - retired January 2011)

- 4.5 A bar to be worn on the ribbons shall be awarded for each additional twenty-five (25) Merits earned beyond a degree. A silver star shall be placed midway on the right hand ribbon as the insignia of a Past President. A small "25" may be worn midway on the left hand ribbon as the insignia of members of the Twenty-Five year Club. A national Award pin or other PPA earned award may also be worn on the ribbon. No other insignia shall be worn on or attached to the ribbons.
- 4.6 The Board, upon recommendation of the Bylaws, Rules and Ethics Committee, may deprive individuals of Merits and Degrees for improper conduct.

[MERIT CHART BEGINS NEXT PAGE]

PPA MERIT SYSTEM CHART

ANNUAL CONFERENCE	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Speaker	5 Speaking	202
Moderator, Member of program panel	3 Speaking	210
Special Program Speaker (non-platform)	1 Speaking	203
Convention Committee Chairman	5 Service	207
Assistant Convention Committee Chairman	3 Service	352
Props Manager	3 Service	211
Assistant Props Manager	3 Service	215
Speaker Host	3 Service	213
Student Volunteer Coordinator	3 Service	223
PPA Member Volunteer Coordinator	3 Service	214
Assistant PPA Member Volunteer Coordinator	3 Service	353
Convention Volunteer Worker	2 Service	224
Attendee (Paid Registrants) – except those listed above	1 Service	308
Convention Volunteer (One-Day)	1 Service	354
Affiliate Leaders Training Attendee	1 Service	379
PPA Pre-Convention Attendee (per day)	1 Service	222
PPA Pre-Convention Speaker (per day)	2 Speaking	204
Pre-Convention Volunteer Worker (per day)	1 Service	354

1. Maximum of five Merits per person, per year.
2. Special Program Speaker (non-platform) can receive a maximum of 3 merits per convention
3. Pre-Convention Volunteers can receive a maximum of 2 merits per convention

CONFERENCE – NOT ANNUAL	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Moderator of program panel	3 Speaking	210
Speaker	5 Speaking	261

1. No less than TWO full days programming. Minimum 6 ½ hours per day.
2. Maximum of five merits per person, per conference.

PPAedu	AWARDED	CODE
Video Speaker/Instructor (1 Day)	2 Speaking	259
Video Speaker/Instructor (2 Days)	4 Speaking	255

Workshops	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Speaker/Instructor (1 Day)	2 Speaking	227
Speaker/Instructor (2 Days)	4 Speaking	228
Attendee	2 Service	229

MERITS MERIT

<u>SUPER ONE DAY</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>CODE</u>
Speaker	2 Speaking	300
Attendee	1 Service	296
	MERITS	MERIT

<u>SEMINAR – 6 ½ hours or more education</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>CODE</u>
Chairman	2 Service	272
Speaker	2 Speaking	273

1. Maximum of two merits per person, per seminar.

<u>SEMINAR – less than 6 ½ hours education</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>CODE</u>
Chairman	1 Service	270
Speaker	1 Speaking	269

1. Maximum of one merit per person, per seminar.

<u>INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>CODE</u>
Jury Chairman	5 Service	225
Juror	5 Service	208
Jury Chairman in Training	5 Service	309
PEC Volunteer	1 Service	252
District Judging Jury Chairman	3 Service	231
District Judging Juror	2 Service	234
Chairman of PPA District Exhibition	2 Service	275
District Judging Volunteer – 1 day	1 Service	292

1. District judging volunteers may earn 1 service merit per day, maximum of 5 service merits per year.
2. PEC volunteers may earn a maximum of 5 service merits per year.

<u>PPA CHARITIES</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>CODE</u>
Board of Trustees	3 Service	367
Committee Chairman	2 Service	368
Committee Member	1 Service	369
Volunteer (Not IUSA)	1 Service	370

1. Maximum of 3 Merits per person, per year.

<u>PPA SERVICE</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>CODE</u>
Each year service as President	10 Service	206
Each year service as member of Board	3 Service	220
Each year service - PPA Committee Chair	3 Service	221
Each year service - Nominating Committee Chair	3 Service	313
Each year of service - PPA Committee Member	2 Service	251
Nominating Committee member	2 Service	262
Each year of service - Our PPA.com Moderator	3 Service	326
Action Team Leader	2 Service	322
Action team Member	1 Service	323
Non-Elected Councilor	2 Service	271
Elected Councilor (<i>each year</i>)	2 Service	246

1. Action team leaders and members receive merits for the term of Action Team, even if the team carries over into another year.

- Those Action Team members currently serving on the Board of Directors are NOT eligible for merits.
 2. Non-elected councilors must attend all Council Sessions.

<u>CERTIFICATION</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Re-certification	2 Service	306
Certification Judge	2 Service	288
Certification Liaison	2 Service	212
CPP Prep Class Instructor (per day)	2 Speaking	365
CPP Prep Class Attendee	3 Service	216

1. Maximum 5 merits per class, per person.

<u>PUBLICATION – PPA MAGAZINE</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Unpaid Illustrated Article	2 Speaking	232
Unpaid, illustration (not accompanied by an article)	1 Service	298
Unpaid, Non-illustrated Article	1 Speaking	242
Photograph used on cover of PPA magazine	1 Service	254

1. Maximum 8 merits per year, per person.
 2. Articles must consist of a minimum 600 published words. Eligible for merits for first publication only.

<u>PUBLICATION – NOT PP MAGAZINE</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Unpaid original article (published in PPA publication other than magazine)	1 Speaking	267

1. Maximum 8 merits per year, per person.
 2. Articles must consist of a minimum 600 published words. Eligible for merits for first publication only.

<u>PUBLICATION – PPA WEB SITE</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Unpaid original article with graphics - Minimum 300 words	2 Speaking	318
Unpaid original article without graphics - Minimum 300 words	1 Speaking	317

1. Cannot have been previously published in any other PPA publication placed with any necessary graphics or illustrations on the PPA website.
 2. Maximum 8 merits per person, per year.

INTERNATIONAL (COUNTRY) AFFILIATE MERIT CHART

NOTES:

1. Number of Merits allowed per year in addition to annual meeting depends on number of PPA members in affiliate. Base of 15 merits plus one additional merit for every 5 PPA members over 20 PPA members, with a maximum of 30 merits per calendar year.
2. Maximum of four Merits in any one Calendar year to any one person except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
3. President ineligible for Merits other than for service as President except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
4. International members ARE eligible to receive Merits for Participation within their own Affiliate.
5. All Merits must be applied for on an individual basis.

<u>ANNUAL MEETING (unlimited merits as requested by applicant)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Speaker	2 Speaking	249
All Program Panel Participants	1 Speaking	279
Convention Chairman	2 Service	236
Convention Co-Chairman	1 Service	233
Photographic Competition Chairman	2 Service	275
Jury Chairman	2 Service	331
Juror	2 Service	265
Each year service as President (issued at end of term)	2 Service	280
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service	373

1. Panel participants may receive a maximum of one merit per meeting.
2. In the case of Co-chairman for annual meeting, meeting or seminar, chairmen may take one merit each for total of two merits.
3. Maximum of four Merits per person, per annual meeting.

<u>MEETING OR SEMINAR - NOT ANNUAL (6 ½ hours education per day)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Chairman	2 Service	281
Speaker	2 Speaker	282
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service	374

1. Maximum of two merits per person, per meeting or seminar.

<u>PROGRAM – NOT ANNUAL (less than 6 ½ hours of education)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Chairman	1 Service	237
Speaker	1 Speaker	284

1. Maximum of one Merit per person, per meeting.

<u>PPA CONTINUING EDUCATION SYSTEM – MIN. ONE DAY COURSE</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Student	1 Service	335
Instructor	2 Speaking	273
Instructor Assistant	1 Service	334

1. Instructor Assistant merits will be available to classes with 8 or more students, with one assistant maximum per class.
2. Merits are in addition to Affiliate allotment.

<u>PPA DISTANCE LEARNING / ONLINE CLASSES</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Attendees – less than 3 hours duration	½ Service	339
Attendees – more than 3 hours duration	1 Service	365
Presenters – online education of less than 6 ½ hours	1 Speaking	340
Presenters – online education of MORE than 6 ½ hours	2 Speaking	341

1. Paid subscription webinars maximum 3 merits per year
2. Merits are awarded for live or first time presentation only

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AFFILIATE MERIT CHART

NOTES:

1. Maximum of four merits in any one calendar year to a member of the affiliate issuing merits except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
2. President ineligible for Merits other than for service as President except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
3. Regional and National Affiliate members ARE eligible to receive Merits for participation within their own affiliate.

ANNUAL MEETING (unlimited merits as requested by application)	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Speaker	2 Speaking	226
Program Panel Participants <i>(Maximum of one merit per meeting)</i>	1 Speaking	239
Convention Chairman	2 Service	236
Convention Co-Chairman	1 Service	233
Photographic Competition Chairman	2 Service	275
Jury Chairman	2 Service	331
Juror	2 Service	234
Each year Service as President <i>(Issued at end of term)</i>	2 Service	230
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service	375

1. In the case of Co-chairman for annual meeting, meeting or seminar, chairmen may take one merit each for total of two merits.
2. Maximum of four merits per person, per annual meeting.
3. Maximum of two speaker merits per person, per year.

MEETING OR SEMINAR – NOT ANNUAL (6 ½ hours education per day)	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Chairman	2 Service	243
Speaker	2 Speaker	241
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service	376

1. Maximum of two merits per person, per meeting or seminar.

PROGRAM – NOT ANNUAL (less than 6 ½ hours of education)	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Chairman	1 Service	237
Speaker	1 Speaker	238

1. Maximum one merit per person.

PPA CONTINUING EDUCATION SYSTEM – MIN. ONE DAY COURSE	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Student	1 Service	335
Instructor	2 Speaking	273
Instructor Assistant	1 Service	334

1. Instructor Assistant merits will be available to classes with 8 or more students, with one assistant maximum per class.
2. Merits are in addition to Affiliate allotment.

STATE AFFILIATE MERIT CHART

NOTES

1. Number of Merits allowed per year in addition to annual meeting depends on number of PPA members in state affiliate. Base of 20 merits plus one additional merit for every 5 PPA members over 10 PPA members, with a maximum of 40 merits per calendar year.
2. Maximum of two merits in any one calendar year to a member of the state affiliate issuing merits except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
3. President ineligible for Merits other than for service as President except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
4. State members ARE eligible to receive merits for participation within their own State.
5. PPA Continuing Education and Photographic Competition merits are issued in addition to allotment.

<u>ANNUAL MEETING (unlimited merits as requested by applicant)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Speaker	2 Speaking	226
Program Panel Participants (max of one merit per meeting)	1 Speaking	239
Convention Chairman	2 Service	236
Convention Co-Chairman	1 Service	233
Photographic Competition Chairman	2 Service	275
Jury Chairman	2 Service	331
Juror	2 Service	234
Each year Service as President (issued at end of term)	2 Service	230
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service	377

1. In the case of Co-chairman for annual meeting, meeting or seminar, chairmen may take one merit each for total of two merits.
2. Maximum of four merits per person, per annual meeting for NON-STATE members.
3. Maximum of 2 per person, per year for affiliate members (except PPA Continuing Education).

<u>PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION (NOT ANNUAL)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Photographic Competition Chairman	2 Service	371
Juror	1 Service	372

<u>MEETING OR SEMINAR – NOT ANNUAL (6 ½ hours education per day)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Chairman	2 Service	243
Speaker	2 Speaker	241
Attendee (PPA Continuing Education)	1 Service	378

1. Maximum of two merits per person, per meeting or seminar.

<u>PROGRAM – NOT ANNUAL (less than 6 ½ hours of education)</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Chairman	1 Service	237
Speaker	1 Speaker	238

1. Maximum of one Merit per person, per program.

<u>PPA CONTINUING EDUCATION – MIN. ONE DAY COURSE</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Student	1 Service	335
Instructor	2 Speaking	273
Instructor Assistant	1 Service	334

1. Instructor Assistant merits will be available to classes with 8 or more students, with one assistant maximum per class.
2. Merits are in addition to Affiliate allotment.

LOCAL AFFILIATE MERIT CHART

NOTES

1. Within merit allotment. Number of Speaking merits allowed per year depends on number of PPA members in affiliate. A base of 15 merits plus one additional merit for every 5 PPA members over 10 PPA members with a maximum of 40 merits per calendar year.
2. Photographic Competition and Juror merits limited to 12 merits per year, and one per juror. These merits are issued in addition to the merit allotment.
3. Maximum of two Merits in any one calendar year to any one individual except for PPA Continuing Education Merits.
4. Local affiliated chapter members may receive a maximum of 1 Speaking merit per year for Speaking with in their own affiliate.
5. Members are not eligible to receive merits for judging within their own affiliate.

MEETING OR SEMINAR	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Speaker	1 or 2 Speaking (at affiliate's discretion within allotment)	277/229
Program Panel Participant	1 Speaking	239
Juror for Photographic Competition	1 Service	250
Each year service as President (issued at end of term)	2 Service	230

PPA CONTINUING EDUCATION – MIN. ONE DAY COURSE	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Student	1 Service	335
Instructor	2 Speaking	273
Instructor Assistant	1 Service	334

1. Instructor Assistant merits will be available to classes with 8 or more students, with one assistant maximum per class.
2. Merits are in addition to Affiliate allotment.

CONTINUING EDUCATION MERIT CHART

1. Continuing Education courses hosted by Affiliates only.
2. Instructor Assistant merits will be available to classes with 8 or more students, with one assistant maximum per class.
3. Merits are in addition to Affiliate allotment.
4. Attendees receive one service merit regardless of course duration.
5. Multi-day courses must be on consecutive days.
6. For Continuing Education courses to be approved by PPA they must adhere to the rules defined in the PPA Education Requirements Document.
7. The decision to apply for Continuing Education merits is at the discretion of the affiliate.

PPA AFFILIATE SCHOOL MERIT CHART

INSTRUCTORS	MERITS AWARDED	MERIT CODE
Primary Instructor	5 Speaking	218
Guest Instructor (Per day)	1 Speaking	302
Student (Full-time enrollment)	2 Service	256
Instructor Assistant – 1 day	1 Service	293
Instructor Assistant – 2 days	2 Service	289
Instructor Assistant – 3 days	3 Service	240
Director of Affiliate School per calendar year *	5 Service	332
Trustee* (1 per day / 3 maximum)	1 Service	333

1. Instructor assistants may receive merits for a maximum of three days.
2. Sessions must be held for Directors or Trustees to receive merits.
3. All PPA affiliated schools must be approved by the PPA Board of Directors.

FULL TIME SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE MERIT CHART

PHOTOGRAPHY COURSES MUST BE NO LESS THAN ONE YEAR AND NO MORE THAN FOUR YEARS

<u>UPON COMPLETION OF ONE-YEAR STUDY</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Student (per year, 4 year maximum)	1 Service	258
Instructor	1 Service	327

<u>UPON GRADUATION</u>	<u>MERITS AWARDED</u>	<u>MERIT CODE</u>
Associate's Degree	6 Service	311
Bachelor's Degree	12 Service	362
Advanced graduate degree	3 Service	363
Upon Graduation from a technical school (per year of study)	3 Service	364

1. All schools in this category must be approved by the Board of Directors.
2. Graduates must apply for merits within one year of graduation.
3. Instructor must apply for merits within 3 months of completion of one school year of teaching.