

Theme Class for 2012

Iowa Churches

As the early settlers set off across this great nation in search of land and freedom, most of them had very few, if any, personal possessions. They did, however, carry with them two very important and critical items that were some of the keys to their success. These two items were their abiding faith and hope for a better way of life for themselves and their families.



One can only imagine the fear that they faced as they headed out into the wilderness. After crossing the mighty Mississippi River they came upon the rolling hills and tall grass prairies of Iowa. Imagine what their first thoughts were upon finding a land so rich and a way of life so promising and encouraging. As the early settlers began building towns across this great state, one building stood out from all the rest. The town church could be seen from miles and miles away. Many of these symbols of the early settlers' abiding faith and hope still stand today.

Your assignment for 2012 is to capture and photograph the beauty and splendor of Iowa's Churches. Your assignment, however, is not strictly limited to churches. Iowa was settled by people from many different religious faiths and beliefs. There are some amazing temples and synagogues in Iowa as well. Do NOT limit yourself to just the outside of the buildings. You can find some amazing natural window light and stained glass inside. Likewise, do NOT limit yourself to a certain time of day or season. This is also a great time to test your black and white skills.

Now for the hardest part of your assignment, I do NOT want to see just snapshots of buildings. Your goal is to photograph these amazing Iowa landmarks. What is the difference? A snapshot is more of a casual photo without much thought or planning. A photograph is an image that you actually create. Judges love creativity. Your job as a photographer is to, "Show us the world as we have never seen it before!" How you accomplish this is the art of photography. In other words, "Show us Iowa Churches as we have never seen them before!"

*Charley W. Starnes, Superintendent
Iowa State Fair Photography Salon*

Note: Entry Forms will be online at www.iowastatefair.org by May 1, 2012.