



**SpaceCon**

# **THROUGH MY LENS**

**Space themed  
photography showcase**

# **RULEBOOK**

## EVENT INTRODUCTION

Every star has a story, and Through My Lens is your chance to narrate it. This event brings together the precision of astronomy and the soul of photography, inviting you to document the wonders of the night sky. Whether you're a hobbyist with a mobile phone or a professional with a telescope or DSLR, we want to see how you view the universe. Dive into the enchanting world of astrophotography, connect with a community of fellow stargazers, and show us the cosmos through your lens, where passion, patience, and perspective collide.

## ROUND 1

**Portal:** All entries must be submitted exclusively via the official Unstop Portal.

**Categories:** The competition features three distinct categories:

- Mobile
- DSLR
- Telescope

**Entry Limit:** Participants may submit one photograph per category.

**Participation:** It is not mandatory to enter all categories; participants may choose their preferred categories.

**Mandatory Verification:** Every submission must be accompanied by the original RAW file (or an unedited, straight-out-of-camera version) for authentication purposes.

**Technical Metadata:** Participants must provide the following technical specifications:

- Device Name and Model (e.g., iPhone 15 Pro, Nikon D850).
- Capture Specifications: Additional details such as ISO, Shutter Speed, and Focal Length are required.

**Submission Deadline:** 26th January 2026

## ROUND 2

- **Shortlisting:** Based on technical merit and thematic integration, top entries will be shortlisted for round 2.
- **Winner Determination:** For each category, the final entry remaining in the bracket after all knockout rounds, after consultation with the judgement panel will be declared the winner. The final decision lies in the hands of the judges for ensuring fairness.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Originality: All entries must be your own original work. Use of stock images, Google-sourced photos, AI generated images or duplicate entries is strictly prohibited.
- Anonymity: Submissions must not include any watermarks, signatures, or identifying borders to ensure an unbiased evaluation.
- Identification: Each submission must also include the RAW photo with details like the device name and model used. For DSLR and Telescope categories, additional technical specifications (e.g., lens focal length) are required.
- ADDITIONS:
  - A portfolio link or links to previous works
  - An Instagram profile link (photography-related accounts only).

## RULES

- Eligibility: This is an individual competition, group entries are not permitted.
- Conduct: Participants must follow the official timeline strictly. Late submissions will not be considered.
- Ethical Standards: Photos must represent astronomical phenomena accurately. Excessive processing that misrepresents reality will lead to disqualification.

- Verification: Failure to provide the RAW or unedited image along with your submitted image(s) will result in immediate disqualification.
- Decision Finality: The Judges decision holds the final authority on all disqualifications and winner determinations based on the established technical and creative criteria.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- File Formats: Final edited images must be uploaded in high-resolution JPEG, TIFF, or HEIC formats.
- RAW Submission: A mandatory Google Drive link (set to "Anyone with the link can view") must be provided in the designated field for the corresponding original RAW or unedited file.
- Editing Limits: Allowed: Basic adjustments such as exposure, contrast, color balance, sharpening, and cropping.
- Prohibited: Heavy manipulation, including adding or removing objects and complex compositing.
- AI Policy: The use of AI-generated or AI-enhanced imagery is strictly forbidden and will result in automatic disqualification.

## THEME INTEGRATION:

Participants are encouraged to creatively weave the SpaceCon'26 themes: Spider-Man, Marvel, or Star Wars - into their captures to earn a "Thematic Bonus."

- The Bonus: Entries that successfully integrate these themes will receive a 10% score boost during the initial Jury evaluation, directly improving their Seed Position in the Round 2 Knockout Bracket.
- Creative Execution: This can be achieved through clever framing, silhouettes, or the inclusion of physical props that complement the night sky.
- No-Loophole Clause: All thematic elements must be captured in-camera during the original exposure. The use of digital overlays, stickers, or AI-generated theme elements is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification under the AI and Heavy Manipulation policies.
- Technical Priority: A thematic bonus will only be applied if the entry first meets the minimum technical standards for focus, exposure, and authenticity.

## WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Spacecon Day 1** : Mobile Devices category winners

**Spacecon Day 2** : DSLR Cameras & Telescope category winners

## NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Ensure all photos align with the stated guidelines to avoid disqualification.

- Respect originality and refrain from using unethical enhancements or nonowned images.
- Follow the timeline strictly to ensure smooth participation and fair assessment.

## DISQUALIFICATION

- Use of AI for generation or enhancement
- Submission of duplicate photos (e.g., already submitted by others)
- Use of Google images or stock images.

**Good luck! We look forward to seeing the cosmos through your lens and witnessing how you bridge the wonders of the night sky with the legends of the multiverse.**