the monterey SHOOTOUT
PRESENTED BY NCUPS

PHOTOGRAPHER ENTRANT PACKET
ADVANCED CATEGORY

THE MONTEREY SHOOTOUT 2012

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF UNDERWATER FUN IN MONTEREY, CA!

In 1981 NCUPS started an underwater photo competition as an event to gather around old friends and invite new people to the club. In 1994 a similar event called the Monterey Shootout ran for ten years as an educational event and contest. Both groups united under the Monterey Shootout name in 2011 with a program focused on fun, education, and the goal to inspire new underwater image makers. Are you new to underwater photography or Monterey diving? Come meet a supportive group of die-hard Monterey divers, learn new shooting techniques in our shooting seminars, and maybe even discover a new dive site. Our friendly shooting competition not only rewards advanced shooters with amazing prizes, but also bestows fantastic prizes to the newest shooters in the ranks. Add in a cocktail party and imaging festival supported by our sponsors and this is a weekend worth booking a flight and a hotel room to attend.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012		LOCATION
9:00AM – 10:00AM	**Getting the Most From Your Camera for Registered Beginners – Instructor: Jim Decker** (Must register for class through Backscatter. Please Call: (831) 645-1082) Class size limited to 15.	Backscatter
10:00AM – 12:00PM	**Introduction to Video Workflow Seminar – Instructor: Mary Lynn Price** (Must register for class through Backscatter Please Call: (831) 645-1082) Class size limited to 15.	Backscatter
11:00AM	**Competition Begins**	
11:00AM – 5:00PM	**Event Registration**	Backscatter
1:00PM – 1:30PM	**Monterey Dive Boats Depart**	Monterey Harbor
6:30PM – 9:00PM	**Cocktail Party & Late Registration**	Backscatter

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2012		LOCATION
6:30AM - 7:00AM	**Monterey Dive Boats Depart**	Monterey Harbor
7:30AM - 9:00AM	**Late Registration**	Backscatter
9:00AM - 5:00PM	**Official Image Drop-off**	Backscatter
7:00PM - 7:30PM	**Late Official Image Drop-off**	MIIS
7:30PM - 10:00PM	**Imaging Festival with Featured Speakers:** Jason Bradley, Eric Cheng, Berkley White	MIIS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012		LOCATION
9:00AM - 11:00AM	**Seminar TBD**	MIIS
11:00AM - 11:30AM	**Break and Networking**	MIIS
11:30AM - 1:00PM	**Diving into the Digital Darkroom - Essential Post Processing for Underwater Photographers - Seminar by Erin Quigley**	MIIS
3:00PM - 5:00PM	**Winners Show and Prize Selection**	MIIS

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE

	BEFORE JULY 20	AFTER JULY 20
PHOTO ONLY Competitor	$75	$90
VIDEO ONLY Competitor	$75	$90
PHOTO AND VIDEO Competitor	$85	$100
Evening Imaging Show Only Pass – Adult	$5	$5
Evening Imaging Show Only with Student ID	FREE	FREE
Sunday Seminars Guest Pass	$10	$15
Evening Imaging Show and Seminars Pass	$15	$20
Winners Show	FREE	FREE

Paid competitors receive a full access pass to the weekend's events including the Friday evening cocktail party, Saturday evening imaging show, Sunday seminars, door prizes, annual t-shirt, USB flash drive and the Sunday awards ceremony. Guest passes are available for a fee for friends and family to join in the fun. Only competitors are eligible for door prizes. The Sunday Awards Ceremony is open to the public.

REGISTER ONLINE

Sign up now at www.montereyshootout.com to reserve your space at the discounted rates. Payment may be made by Paypal or by personal check. Only cash or check will be accepted on day of event registration.

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS:

1. All participants must sign and submit a Waiver of Liability.
2. Participants may enter both video and photo competitions. Participants willing to shoot both video and photo competitions will be awarded for their multitasking with accumulated prize points.
3. Images must be taken within the Monterey Bay and Big Sur region during the competition. Diving from Point Lobos State Reserve is allowed, but divers must make a reservation two months in advance at www.pointlobos.org.
4. Split shots or over under images are allowed, but all photos must be composed to include at least 50% underwater.
5. Boat diving is allowed and we encourage you to support our local dive boats with your business.
6. We have adopted the conservation rules established by EPIC®. Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo or video. Collection of marine life prior to or during the competition, or divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control is prohibited and will result in disqualification of the participant. The judges will be asked to interpret this guideline and disqualify any images that are suspect to poor behavior.
7. All entries must be submitted within the posted hours on the USB flash drive received at registration and use the file naming convention explained in the entry instructions. A cell phone or local number must be submitted in case there is a problem with the entries.
8. Each participant is responsible for his/her own safety and the proper operation of his/her diving and photographic equipment. NCUPS, Monterey Shootout, and Backscatter are exempt from all liability or responsibility whatsoever for all personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death, however caused, including but not limited to property liability or the negligence of the released parties whether passive or active. Each participant must use his/her own judgment regarding diving safety.

9. Should conditions make diving unsafe or should a large number of participants decide not to dive due to conditions, NCUPS and the Monterey Shootout reserve the right to postpone and reschedule the competition to a future date within 12 months from its original date.
10. Competition Judges and Presenters are only eligible to compete in the professional category for the year that they judge or present.
11. A current year competition Judge's spouse or significant other and their immediate family members are ONLY eligible to compete in the Professional Skill class for the given year.

WHAT WE ASK FROM OUR COMPETITION JUDGES:

1. The judges volunteer their time as working professionals with an interest to help promote underwater arts. They can compete in the Professional Category of this competition to try their hand at winning the Golden Kelp Award and gain bragging rights amongst their peers.
2. The judges will award a first, second and third place in each subject for each category of participants. Honorable Mentions will be awarded at the judges' discretion. No "best of" category or show will be awarded.
3. The judges have the authority to combine categories should there be too few entries in a single category. The judges will eliminate an image if they believe it might violate the conservation rules or does not fit the category. The judges will select images and video based on the question, "Would I display this as a print on my living room wall or want to share this video with my friends?"
4. The decision of the judges will be final in all cases.

OUR "SHARE THE WEALTH" PRIZE RULES:

1. A weighted point system will be used for awarding prizes to encourage competition and reward excellence. Points are awarded for all places including honorable mentions. Photo and Video competition points are added together.
2. No participant may receive more than one prize.
3. Prize selection will occur immediately following the showing of the winning images based upon a highest point basis.
4. Each participant eligible to select a prize, whether through the competition or the door prize, must be present to select a prize unless they have designated a proxy in writing or by phone prior to the beginning of the awards ceremony. The proxy must be ready to select a prize within 5 minutes of the winner being announced. Any entitled participant who was not present during the prize selection and did not designate a proxy will have thirty days thereafter to select from any remaining prizes.
5. In the event of a tie, winners' prize selection order will be determine through random selection.
6. All persons selecting a prize agree that their image(s) or video may be used by NCUPS and the Monterey Shootout for promotion of the club and its competitions in future years.
7. NCUPS and the Monterey Shootout have solicited prizes from various individuals and companies. Each prize donor has represented to NCUPS and the Monterey Shootout that the prize offered will be provided to the participant who selects it. However, NCUPS and the Monterey Shootout do not guarantee that the donor will actually deliver the prize and will not be responsible if the donor does not do so.
8. Prize trips must be used within one (1) year and may have other restrictions.
9. Prizes are non-transferable.

ADVANCED PHOTO COMPETITION

If you have received a total of 4 or more prizes (first, second or third place wins) in a major competition the advanced category is for you. Our prize point system will reward winners in this category with the highest points and thus the best prizes.

ADVANCED PHOTO CATEGORIES:

Entrants can submit a maximum of 6 images to the competition.

MACRO TRADITIONAL (ENTER UP TO 3 IMAGES):

Enter up to three of your best images that meet these criteria. Our "Traditional" categories allow for the adjustment of brightness, contrast, color, and sharpness when applied to the entire image ONLY. Cropping, cloning, masking, backscatter removal, and other digital manipulation is NOT allowed in this category. This restriction on digital manipulation will enable people who are not as savvy at Photoshop to compete on even ground as those with more experience. It also highlights better composition and lighting skills by not allowing cropping and cloning.

As a general guide we consider a macro image to be smaller than a real world size of 5" x 7". However, we embrace the new optical technologies that allow macro shooters to capture exciting images that break the barrier of wide-angle and macro. Thus, we will ask our judges to select all macro images by the question, "Does this image feel like a macro image?" We encourage creativity and will allow the judges to make the decision if your image "feels like macro."

MACRO UNRESTRICTED (ENTER UP TO 3 IMAGES):

Enter up to three of your best images that meet these criteria. Our "Unrestricted" categories have no rules regarding digital manipulation; anything goes.... but please note, the judges usually find that less is more.

As a general guide we consider a macro image to be smaller than a real world size of 5" x 7". However, we embrace the new optical technologies that allow macro shooters to capture exciting images that break the barrier of wide-angle and macro. Thus, we will ask our judges to select all macro images by the question, "Does this image feel like a macro image?" We encourage creativity and will allow the judges to make the decision if your image "feels like macro."

WIDE-ANGLE TRADITIONAL (ENTER UP TO 3 IMAGES):

Enter up to three of your best images that meet these criteria. Our "Traditional" categories allow for the adjustment of brightness, contrast, color, and sharpness when applied to the entire image ONLY. Cropping, cloning, masking, backscatter removal, and other digital manipulation is NOT allowed in this category. This restriction on digital manipulation will enable people who are not as savvy at Photoshop to compete on more-or-less even ground as those with more experience. It also highlights better composition and lighting skills by not allowing cropping and cloning.

As a general rule, we consider any image of a real world size greater than 5" x 7" to be wide-angle, however the judges will be the final rule on what is considered to be wide-angle. We encourage creativity and will allow the judges to make the decision if your image "feels like wide-angle."

WIDE-ANGLE UNRESTRICTED (ENTER UP TO 3 IMAGES):

Enter up to three of your best images that meet these criteria. Our "Unrestricted" categories have no rules regarding digital manipulation; anything goes.... but please note that the judges usually find that less is more.
As a general rule, we consider any image of a real world size greater than 5" x 7" to be wide-angle; however the judges will be the final rule on what is considered to be wide-angle. We encourage creativity and will allow the judges to make the decision if your image "feels like wide-angle."

ADVANCED PHOTO ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Participants must bring their own system for image viewing and selection.
2. Each photo category has rules that state the type of manipulation that is allowed.
3. Each participant may submit a maximum of six images to the competition on the USB flash drive received at registration. You chose how to spread your selection of 6 total images across the categories.
4. Entrants should save their images on the flash drive as full resolution, 100% quality JPEGs with the following naming convention separated by underscores (_):
    a) skill level **(ADV for Advanced)**
    b) category **(MT for Macro Traditional , WT for Wide-angle Traditional, MU for Macro Unrestricted, WU for Wide-angle Unrestricted)**
    c) three digit entrant number (found on your USB Flash drive, please keep leading zeros in your file naming)
    d) number of picture(s) [i.e. 1, 2 or 3]. Remember 6 entries total are allowed.
    e) .jpg

    Examples:
    Competitor John Doe who is entrant number 010 in the Advanced skill level would name his second picture in Macro Traditional:
    ADV_MT_010_2.JPG

    Competitor Jane Doe who is entrant number 105 in the Advanced class and is submitting her third picture in Unrestricted Wide-angle would name their entry:
    ADV_WU_105_3.JPG

5. Photographers may shoot in RAW and must be prepared to deliver their RAW image if asked to do so by the judges. When saving to JPEG please include the metadata.
6. All entries must be submitted within the posted hours on the USB flash drive received at registration.
7. A cell phone or local number must be submitted during registration in case there is a problem with your entries.
8. Images submitted in the wrong category will be disqualified.
9. In-camera duplicates will be judged only in the first category the judges see them.

All entries must be submitted using the file naming conventions explained above along with a completed entry submission form. Entries must be submitted within the posted submission hours on the USB flash drive received at registration. No late submissions will be accepted.

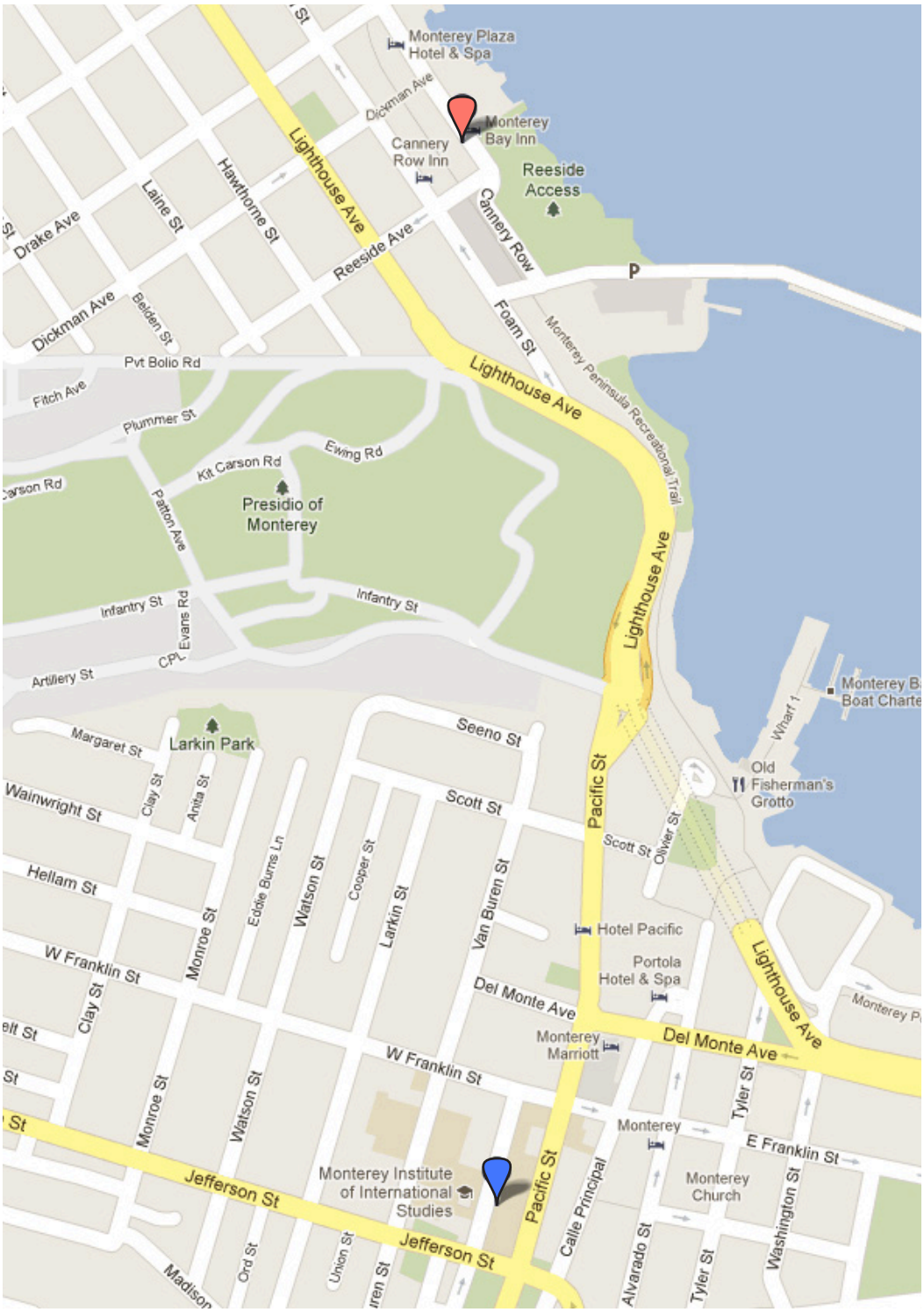
SAVE TIME AT REGISTRATION!

Bring a completed Waiver of Liability form (found at the back of this packet) to Backscatter when you check-in prior to diving!

EVENT LOCATIONS:

Backscatter
Underwater Video & Photo
225 Cannery Row
Monterey, CA 93940
phone: (831) 645-1082

Irvine Auditorium
Monterey Institute of International Studies
499 Pierce St.,
Monterey, CA, 93942
phone: (831) 375-5441



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Name: _____

GENERAL RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

In consideration of my participation in the Monterey Shootout presented by Northern California Underwater Photographic Society (NCUPS), I hereby fully release and discharge NCUPS, Backscatter Underwater Video and Photography and The Monterey Shootout, their officers, directors, members, course instructors, dive trip leaders, boat owners and skippers, drivers, agents, attorneys, and their heirs, successors and assigns (the "released parties"), from any present and future claims, actions and damages, of any kind and nature, including negligence, property damage, personal injury, or wrongful death, arising from my participation in the Monterey Shootout. This release includes, but is not limited to, all compensatory, non-economic, consequential, incidental, and punitive damages.

PLEASE READ AND INITIAL ON EACH LINE BELOW:

_____ I am aware that skin and SCUBA diving and underwater photography take place in unconfined waters such as oceans or lakes. Such waters are subject to current, waves, surge, cold, and wind and therefore can be hazardous activities. I am voluntarily participating in this activity with knowledge of the dangers involved and hereby agree to accept and assume any and all risks of property damage, personal injury, and death.

_____ I understand that skin and SCUBA diving activities involve certain risks, including but not limited to, travel to and from the site of the activity, possible negligent or reckless conduct of other participants, serious injury or death resulting from drowning, near drowning, arterial air embolism, decompression sickness (DCS), collisions with boats, propellers, and vehicles, entanglement with kelp or fishing line, hypothermia, wave and surf-related injuries, and contact with dangerous marine life. I voluntarily assume and accept all of these risks.

_____ I understand that skin diving, SCUBA diving and underwater photography activities in which I participate may be conducted at sites that are remote from available medical assistance; and I accept the risk that medical assistance may not be readily available should I become injured.

_____ I understand and agree that if I choose to dive without a buddy or that if I leave my buddy, I assume all risks of injury or death resulting from that decision and hold the released parties harmless therefore.

_____ I agree to provide my own dive and camera equipment for this NCUPS activity and warrant and represent that such equipment is in good condition and adequately maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations, DOT regulations (for tanks), and generally accepted safe-diving practices. Underwater photography also includes substantial risk of property damage, including flooded cameras and strobes and other damage to camera and dive equipment.

_____ I represent that I am in good physical condition, that I have a valid and current certification from a generally recognized SCUBA diver certification agency; and that I follow safe diving practices at all times.

_____ I understand and agree that I have not compensated the released parties for any services. I further acknowledge that any person providing services to me in a NCUPS sponsored event is an uncompensated volunteer. I understand and accept that the people providing such services are not doing so as professionals employed by the diving operator or owner or the judgment of any NCUPS member concerning water conditions, the appropriateness of SCUBA diving in such conditions or the

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adequacy of my equipment made by anyone including the released parties.

_____ I acknowledge that I have not been charged for and that I have not paid for any boat trips on a vessel owned by the released parties. I further acknowledge and agree that neither NCUPS, Backscatter or the Monterey Shootout, their officers, directors, members, course instructors, dive trip leaders, boat owners and skippers, drivers, agents are acting as demise bare boat charterers, tour operators, common carriers or travel agents concerning any multi-day boat trip or dive trip and that any services provided by the released parties are without compensation and for my accommodation only. I understand that no boat owned or operated by the released parties on which I may be allowed is a boat for hire.

_____ I agree to defend and hold harmless the released parties from any claim against them which may arise in whole or in part from my acts while participating in this NCUPS activity.

_____ I agree that this GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY release shall be binding not only on me, but on my heirs, executors, conservators, personal representatives, successors, agents, and assigns.

I HAVE READ THIS GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS FORM, I AM GIVING UP LEGAL RIGHTS AND/OR REMEDIES WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE TO ME.

Name: _____ Date: _____

_____ _____
(Please sign on this line) *(Print C-card number and certifying agency above)*

MINOR'S RELEASE

I, _____ *(print name)* the undersigned, am the parent and/or legal guardian of _____ *(minor)* aged _____. I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY for and on behalf of the minor and hereby bind me, the minor, and our successors to its terms. I represent that I have the legal capacity and authority to sign on the minor's behalf and agree to indemnify, defend and hold the released parties harmless from any claims made or liability assessed against any of them as a result of any insufficiency of my legal capacity to act for the minor in signing this release.

Date: _____

_____ _____
(print name) *(signature)*

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CONTEST SUBMISSION AGREEMENT
ADVANCED CATEGORY

THE MONTEREY SHOOTOUT 2012

Name: _____ **Entrant Number:** _____

Cell Phone:
(or phone # during the competition) _____

Number of files submitting: **Photo** _____ **Video** _____

COMPETITION SKILL LEVELS
Please check the box that represents the skill level you are entering.

☐ BEGINNER PHOTO COMPETITION

If you are a new underwater photographer, this is the category for you. In the spirit of rewarding new photographers, entries in this category are limited to photographers who have taken a camera diving less than 50 dives and have won less than $500 in prizes in any major underwater photography competition or have received less than $500 in payment for any underwater photography work. Our panel of judges reserve the right to eliminate any Beginner entries that they feel should have been entered in the Intermediate category based on the entrant's experience.

☐ INTERMEDIATE PHOTO COMPETITION

The spirit of the intermediate digital photo category is to reward anyone that has shot underwater more than 50 dives and has already received a few kudos or prizes in the past. If you've won a total of 3 prizes or less (first, second or third place) in a major competition and/or are not regularly selling your underwater photography this is the category for you. Our panel of judges reserve the right to eliminate any Intermediate entries that they feel should have been entered in the Advanced category based on the entrant's experience.

☐ ADVANCED PHOTO COMPETITION

If you have received a total of 4 or more prizes (first, second or third place wins) in a major competition the advanced category is for you. Our prize point system will reward winners in this category with the highest points and thus the best prizes.

☐ PROFESSIONAL PHOTO COMPETITION

Professional underwater photographers and/or videographers are ONLY eligible to compete in this Skill level. If your work is frequently published in industry magazines, books, galleries, used for resort or industry marketing, and where total annual earnings from the above mentioned work, classes or seminars taught, selling of images, or comp-ed trip(s) received total to $10,000 or more per year; you are considered to be a professional by this competition's advisory board. This category will be judged by popular public opinion vote by attendees at the Saturday evening Imaging Festival, thus competition judges are eligible to compete in this skill level.

☐ VIDEO COMPETITION

There is only 1 skill level in the video competition. Be sure to turn in a video regardless if you shoot a point & shoot camera, digital SLR with video capability, or a pro level HD video system.

By signing and submitting this form with your USB entries, you agree that you have read and understand the skill level definitions listed above. NCUPS and the Monterey Shootout judges reserve the right to disqualify any entrant that has submitted their work into wrong skill level or category.

_____ _____
First and Last Name Date