



Official Rules of the Art in Nature Photography Festival's Photography Contest and Exhibition

The annual Art in Nature Photography Festival will be held August 10-12, 2018, at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury, MD. One of the highlights of the weekend is the nature photography competition and exhibition. Entries will be displayed during the weekend and those earning an award may be displayed in the museum after the end of the exhibition. Best of show and the first place in each category will be published in the *Ward Museum* magazine.

1. **Entry Period:** Mail in entries will be accepted beginning on Monday, July 9, 2018, or can be dropped off at the museum on August 10, 2018, from 10 am to 3 pm. All entries must be received by 3:00 pm on Friday, August 10, 2018. No exceptions will be made for late entries.

2. **Eligibility:** The competition has three divisions: Youth, Amateur, and Professional. The Youth division is open only to persons 17 years and under on August 10, 2018. The Amateur division is open to persons over 17 years on August 10, 2018, who do not earn over \$5,000 per year from their photography. Anyone may enter the Professional division. However, persons who earn \$5,000 or more per year from their photography may only enter the Professional division. An entry form for an entrant 17 years or under on the date of entry must be signed by a parent or guardian. Contest judges, employees, and, board members of the Ward Museum and their immediate families are welcome to exhibit images but are **not eligible** for any prizes, including the People's Choice award.

3. **Entry Form and Fee:** An entry form must be completed and accompany your entries. The entry fee of \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members of the Ward Museum, which allows you to enter up to three images, must accompany each entry form. You may enter more photos, up to a maximum of ten, by paying an additional \$3 per photograph.

4. **Entries:** All photographs must be submitted in print format **paper size of 8"x10" or 11"x14"**. Do not mat, mount, or frame the images. Digital matting and framing is strongly discouraged. All images must be labeled on the back with the name of the photographer, division, and category (for all divisions except Youth), title, and the date that the image was taken by you. Entries in the Youth division must also include the age of the entrant.

5. **Images:** All photographs must have been taken by you on or after July 9, 2016, and accurately reflect the subject as it appeared in the viewfinder/LCD. Nothing can be added to the image and nothing can be removed from the image aside from dust spots. Normal processing of image files, including global and localized tonal adjustments, saturation, color balance, sharpening, noise reduction, black and white conversion, HDR, and focus stacking are acceptable. Watermarks must not be visible with the image.

The following are not eligible to enter:

- Previously published photographs for which exclusive rights were granted to the publisher or someone else;
- Photographs that violate or infringe on another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright and the privacy rights of persons in the photographs; and
- Photographs that involve the harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment and involves putting any individual or animal in danger.

The eligibility of an image will be determined initially by Ward Museum staff. Their decision to exclude an image will be made in their sole discretion.

6. **Categories:** The Youth division does not have any categories and any type of photograph can be entered into the Youth division.

The categories in the Amateur division are the following:

- Birds
- Plants and Animals Other than Birds
- Landscapes
- Black & White
- Micro/Macro
- Smart Device

The categories in the Professional division are the following:

- Birds
- Plants and Animals Other than Birds
- Landscapes
- Black & White

7. **Judging:** Images will be judged based on technical excellence, originality, composition, impact, artistic merit, and subject matter except for the People's Choice award. The People's Choice award will be decided by a majority vote of those persons visiting the exhibition and voting. Judging for all other awards will be conducted by a panel of photographers selected by the Ward Museum in its sole discretion. The panel of judges will award the following:

- **Best of Show:** Overall winner from any category in any division.
- **Best of Division:** Overall winner for any category for any division except the Youth division.
- **First, Second, and Third:** A first, second, and third place in each category of each division.
- **Honorable Mentions:** Up to three honorable mentions in each category of the Amateur and Professional divisions and as many in the Youth division that the judges deem appropriate in their sole discretion.

The panel of judges may exclude an image if, in their sole discretion, the image is not eligible. All decisions of the panel are final.

In addition to ribbon awards, the Ward Museum may also award physical goods, donated by sponsoring Corporate Partners. If there are any limitation on these items, you must meet all their requirements to receive the award.

8. **Intellectual Property Rights:** Photographers retain all their rights to any photograph entered into the competition and show. However, all entrants or their parent or guardians by entering an image grant the Ward Museum a royalty-free, non-exclusive right to:

- To display the photograph in its galleries from Friday, August 10, through Sunday, August 12, 2018.

If an entered photograph wins Best in Show or first, second, or third in any category of any division, you or your guardian grant the Ward Museum, by acceptance of the award, ownership of the submitted print and a high-resolution digital copy of the image (to be provided by you to the Ward Museum by August 31, 2018) and royalty-free, non-exclusive rights to:

- Display the photograph in its galleries and on its websites and use the photograph in any of its educational programs, publications, fund-raising, advertising, e-mails, social media outreach efforts, and other activities;
- Allow third-parties to share the photograph on social media;
- Provide your photograph to other individuals and organizations for Ward Museum related use in news stories, newsletters, reports, slide shows, displays, web pages, videos, and other; and
- Use your name, city, and state in promotions and other activities in connection with any of the above activities,
- Best in Show, Best in Division, People's Choice, i.e. any first place winning printed photograph will remain at the Ward Museum and be added to the Museum's collection.

The Ward Museum will endeavor to credit all photographs with your full name and copyright date except for winning photographs. The name, city, and state of a winning entry in the Youth division will be requested from a parent or guardian before publishing the name of any Youth division winner.

9. **Retrieving Your Images:** You can pick up your images, except for ones awarded Best in Show, Best in Division, and first, second, and third in any category (see Intellectual Property Rights above), on Sunday, August 12, 2018, between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm. You must have a copy of your entry form to retrieve images. If you will not be able to pick up your images at that time, you must provide a self-addressed, stamped return envelope at the time of entry. ***If you will not be able to physically pick up your images on Sunday, August 12, or do not provide a self-addressed, stamped return envelope with your entry, your images will be donated to the Education Department for educational use.***

10. **General Terms:** By entering the contest, you agree to release and hold harmless the Ward Museum, affiliates, subsidiaries and parent entities, and all officers, directors, employees, agents, and volunteers from any claim or cause resulting from your participation in the Art in Nature Photo Festival's competition. You waive the right to claim any attorneys' fees and any damages whatsoever including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct or indirect damages. You also agree to hold harmless the Ward Museum, affiliates, subsidiaries and parent entities, and all officers, directors, employees, agents, and volunteers from any intellectual or privacy claims or causes arising from entered images. You also agree that all of your and sponsor's obligations under these rules and the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these rules will be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Maryland.