



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



The annual Art in Nature Photography Festival will be held exclusively online, July 10-12, 2020. Winning entries will be printed and displayed in the museum at the end of the exhibition. Best of Show and the first-place winners in each category will be published in the *Ward Museum* magazine.

1. **Entry Period:** Online entries will be accepted June 1 — July 8, 2020. No exceptions will be made for late entries.
2. **Eligibility:** The competition has two divisions: Photographer and Youth Photographer. The Youth division is open only to persons 17 years and under as of July 8, 2020. The Photographer division is open to persons 18 years old and older. Youth entry forms must be signed by a parent or guardian. Contest judges, Ward Foundation employees, board members, 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 online entry form must be completed upon entry. The entry fee is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members of the Ward Museum. Entry allows photographers to submit up to three images. Photographers may enter additional photos, by paying an additional \$3 per photograph. Photos will be submitted online through Judgify (see link below).
4. **Entries:** All photographs must be submitted online through Judgify (250 MB limit per upload), via this link: [www.judgify.me/wardmuseumartinnaturephotofestival2020](http://www.judgify.me/wardmuseumartinnaturephotofestival2020). Do not digitally mat or frame the images. Digital signatures, logos, watermarking, and other information added to photographs are strongly discouraged.
5. **Images:** All photographs must have been taken by the entrant on or after July 8, 2018, 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, with the exception of the Creative Concept category. 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.

The following are **not eligible** for entry:

- 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.
- Photographs that contain nude or obscene images not fit for a minor to view.

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

6. **2020 Categories; \* = new in 2020:**

- **Animals Other than Birds**

- **Birds**

- **Black & White**

- **Creative Concept\***

This category is open to all altered images, as well as artistic and abstract photos.

- **Documentary and Journalistic Photography\***

Photographers are required to submit a caption along with each photo, up to 100 words.

- **Drone and Aerial Photography\***

Photos taken from drones, airplanes, or from up high looking down.

- **Humans in Nature**

These photos should depict humans interacting with non-human nature.

- **Natural Landscapes**

Landscapes minimally, or not obviously, altered by humans. Human structures are allowed, but the main focus must be the natural landscape.

- **Long Exposure and Night Photography\***

- **Plants\***

- **Portrait Photography\***

This may include humans and other animals.

- **Urban Landscapes\***

These photos should depict urban habitats, which may include buildings, modes of transportation, and other manmade structures. Humans and other animals, and plants, are acceptable.

7. **Judging:** Judging will take place Friday, July 10, 2020 and Saturday, July 11, 2020. Winners will be announced Sunday, July 12, 2020. Images will be judged based on technical excellence, originality, composition, impact, artistic merit, and subject matter. The People's Choice award will be decided by a majority vote of those persons visiting the online 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:

- **Grand Champion - Best in Show:** Overall winner from any category or division. This winner will receive a \$250 cash award, two tickets to the Ward Museum's Fall Migration Gala (\$100 value), a Friends Membership to the Ward Museum (\$150 value), and certificate.
- **Second & Third Best in Show:** These winners may come from any category or division. Winners will each receive \$50 cash awards, two tickets to the Ward Museum's Fall Migration Gala (\$100 value per pair), Family Memberships to the Ward Museum (\$75 value each), and certificates.
- **First, Second, and Third:** A first, second, and third place in each category. First place winners will receive \$50 each. All winners will receive Individual Memberships to the Ward Museum (\$50 value) and a certificate.
- **Youth Best in Division:** Overall winner from the Youth Division. This winner will receive \$100 cash prize, a Family Membership to the Ward Museum (\$75 value), and a certificate.
- **Honorable Mentions:** Up to three honorable mentions in each category. Winners will receive certificates.
- **Environmental Action Award:** This prize will be awarded to the photograph best depicting environmentalism in action. The winning photograph will be on prominent display during the Ward Museum's Youth Environmental Action Summit in 2021, and the winner will receive a Friends Membership to the Ward Museum (\$150 value). This award will be picked by a separate judge picked by the Ward Museum and announced with People's Choice on July 17, 2020.

The panel of judges may exclude an image if, at their sole discretion, the image is ineligible. All decisions of the panel are final.

In addition to certificate 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.

Additionally, the viewing public will have the opportunity to select one award:

- **People's Choice Award:** This award is determined by popular vote (July 10-13), which will be tallied and announced on July 17, 2020. The winner will receive a Family Membership to the Ward Museum (\$75 value) and a certificate.

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 guardian), by entering an image, grant the Ward Museum a royalty-free, non-exclusive right to display the photograph in the festival and on its social media channels.

If an entered photograph wins or places (Best in Show to Honorable Mention) in any category of any division, the photographer or their guardian grants the Ward Museum, by acceptance of the award, a high-resolution digital copy of the image (to be provided by you to the Ward Museum by July 31, 2020) and royalty-free, non-exclusive rights to:

- Display the photograph in its galleries and on its website, and to use the photograph in any of the Museum's 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 the 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 the photographer's name, city, and state in promotions and other activities in connection with any of the above activities,
- Best in Show, Division, Category, and 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 once printed.

The Ward Museum will endeavor to credit all photographs with your full name and copyright date 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.

**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, judges, online platform, 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, judges, online platform, 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.