



**Official Rules of the  
Ward Museum Photo Festival  
Photography Contest and Virtual Exhibition  
Presented by**

**The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University**



The annual Ward Museum Photo Festival will be held online, September 1 – October 31, 2022. Winning entries will be printed and displayed at the museum in 2023. 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 September 1 – October 31, 2022, 11:59 PM EST. 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. 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 \$5 each entry. If you enter more than five photos, the entry fee for the following entries is \$4 per entry. Photos will be submitted online through [wardmuseumphotofestival.awardsplatform.com](http://wardmuseumphotofestival.awardsplatform.com).
4. **Entries:** All photographs must be submitted online (250 MB limit per upload), via this link: [wardmuseumphotofestival.awardsplatform.com](http://wardmuseumphotofestival.awardsplatform.com). Do not digitally mat or frame the images. Digital signatures, logos, watermarking, and other information added to photographs are strongly discouraged. All entries are to be submitted by October 31, 2022, 11:59 PM EST.
5. **Images:** All photographs must have been taken by the entrant on or after January 1, 2012, 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.
- Photographs that involve the harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment or involves putting any individual or animal in danger.
- Photographs that contain nude or obscene images not fit for a minor to view.
- Photographs that have placed (Best through honorable mention, including people's choice) in a past Ward Museum Photo Festival or the Art in Nature Photo Festival.

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

6. **2022 Online Categories; \* = new in 2022:**

- **Be Delmarvalous** – Photos from the Delmarva Peninsula: Delaware, Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Virginia’s Eastern Shore.
- **Birds**
- **Black & White**
- **Creative Concept** - This category is open to all altered images, as well as artistic and abstract photos. Show off your Photoshop skills!
- **Documentary and Journalistic Photography\* with the theme- Travel 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** - Portrait, candid, studio, etc. The main focus of this category must be a human.
- **Long Exposure and Night Photography**
- **Macro Photography**
- **Natural Landscapes** - Landscapes minimally, or not obviously, altered by humans. Human structures are allowed, but the main focus must be the natural landscape.
- **Pet Portraits\*** - includes all pets and domesticated animals e.g. farm animals.
- **Plants**
- **Out of the Box\*** – You took this amazing photo, but it does not fit into any of the other categories. Enter it here and share that photo with the world!
- **Urban Landscapes**- These photos should depict urban habitats, which may include buildings, modes of transportation, and other manmade structures.
- **Wild Animals\*** - includes zoo animals.
- **Youth** – This Division is only for photographers 17 and under. There are no separate categories for photos. All youth competes together.

7. **Judging:** Judging will take place from Wednesday, November 2, 2022 through Monday, November 14, 2022. Winners will be announced on Friday, November 18, 2022. 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 Foundation 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, a Wimberley Head Version II full gimbal tripod head donated by Wimberley, a Family & Friends Membership to the Ward Museum (\$75 value), and certificate.
- **Second & Third Best in Show:** These winners may come from any category or division. Winners will each receive \$50 cash awards, a Family & Friends Membership to the Ward Museum (\$75 value), and a certificate.
- **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. [First in category for Birds and Be Delmarvalous will also receive a \$100 gift certificate to Wimberley]
- **Youth Grand Champion – Best in Youth Division:** Overall winner from the Youth Division. This winner will receive \$100 cash prize, a gift certificate of \$100 to Wimberley, a Family & Friends Membership to the Ward Museum (\$75 value), and a certificate.

- **Honorable Mentions:** Up to three honorable mentions in each category. Winners will receive certificates.

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 Foundation 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 (November 1-11), which will be tallied and announced on November 18, 2022. The winner will receive a Family & Friends 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 Foundation a royalty-free, non-exclusive right to display the photograph in the festival and on Ward Museum 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 Foundation, by acceptance of the award, royalty-free, non-exclusive rights to:

- Display the photograph in the Ward Museum galleries and on its website, and to use the photograph in any of the Foundation/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 Foundation/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 Foundation will endeavor to credit all photographs with your full name and copyright date for winning photographs. By entering the contest, the parent or guardian of the Youth Division is allowing for the Youth's name, city, and state to be credited when the photo is used and winners announced.

**General Terms:** By entering the contest, you agree to release and hold harmless the Ward Foundation, 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 Ward Museum 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 Foundation, 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.