

Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy Nature Photography Contest

Official Rules and Entry Guidelines

Term:

Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy's Nature Photography Contest begins January 20, 2024, and ends April 30, 2024, at 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time. By submitting an entry, you, the contestant, agree to the rules of the contest and state that you are 15 years old or older.

Who may enter:

Any individual over the age of 15 may enter. Individuals affiliated with Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy ("AFC"), including employees, advisors, directors, interns, and their immediate families (children, parents, siblings and spouses) and others living in their households are not eligible to enter. AFC will determine winners' eligibility in its sole discretion.

What to enter:

The following seven contest categories are drawn from subjects of special interest to AFC:

1. *Birds*: Native birds of any species, in any setting.
2. *Mammals*: Native wildlife particular to our region.
3. *Other Wildlife*: Native underwater life, reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders, and more.
4. *Plants*: Macro or micro, focused especially on native plants.
5. *Landscapes*: Vistas showcasing the wild open spaces and urban/wild interface.
6. *People in Nature*: Humans enjoying, restoring, or interacting with the natural environment.
7. *Abstract/Conceptual*: Experimental or abstract compositions drawing inspiration from the natural world and our relationship to it.

To be eligible for any category, your photograph must have been shot (a) during the last five years, and (b) within Southern California. This date applies to all images in a composite. You certify that you are the sole creator and copyright owner of the submitted photograph.

Cropped photos are eligible in all categories. We do not accept digitally or otherwise enhanced or altered photos except in the Abstract/Conceptual category. The addition and subtraction of objects is not permitted except in the Abstract/Conceptual category. For all categories, minor adjustments, including the removal of sensor dust or scratches on scans of negatives, dodging and burning, sharpening, contrast, toning, slight color adjustment and conversion to grayscale are acceptable. If the judges determine that a photographer has altered the entered photo, they

reserve the right to disqualify it. Image composites including HDR and stitched panoramas must be noted as such.

For a photo in which a person is recognizable, you must be prepared to provide a model release from the subject or, in the case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian, to AFC upon request. A sample model release appears at the end of this document.

If the entrant is unable to provide required releases, AFC in its sole discretion reserves the right to disqualify the submission, seek to secure the required releases, or permit the submission to remain in the contest.

Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright, are not eligible.

Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content, as determined by AFC in its sole discretion, are ineligible for all categories of this contest.

Ethics

Entrants must describe the circumstances under which an image was captured as well as any instructions given to a subject.

The welfare of a subject and its environment must be placed ahead of the desire to capture a photograph. Upon entering the contest, entrants certify that subjects were treated with respect and dignity, and that no people, wildlife or the environment were harmed in creating a photograph.

If special equipment such as camera traps and drones were used to capture the photograph, please describe with your entry. Baiting of wildlife is not permitted.

How to Enter:

Please submit photographs and requested information online through our website at arroyosfoothills.org/get-involved/photocontest. Please title your file using the following format: Lastname_Category_Entrynumber (for example, Muir_Landscapes_01).

Entrants may submit up to 2 photographs per category for a contest total of 14 submissions. In order to be displayed in our online gallery without being stretched or distorted, photographs must be submitted in .jpeg or .png format, edited for web in sRGB color space, at least 3,000 pixels wide and no larger than 10 MB. You must complete a separate form for each photo submitted.

We do not accept photographs submitted through the mail and do not accept more than one contestant per e-mail address. High-quality scans of non-digital photographs are acceptable. Digital photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible.

Finalists must be prepared to submit an original, unedited digital file or an original negative, print or slide. Original negatives, prints or slides will be returned to finalists. AFC reserves the right to disqualify incomplete entries and/or contestants who are unable to submit, upon request, a high-resolution photograph of at least 300 dpi at 3,000 pixels on the longest side or an original photo negative, print or slide. Mobile photographs are exempt from this size requirement, but must be submitted at their highest resolution upon request.

AFC may collect a photograph's metadata upon entry.

You retain your rights to your photograph; however, by entering the contest, you grant AFC (and those authorized by AFC) a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any purpose, including, but not limited to, advertising and promotion of the organization and its website, exhibition(s), and commercial products, including but not limited to AFC publications. Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit as feasible. AFC will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.

Entry Deadline

The contest begins on January 20, 2024. All entries must be received through the AFC website by 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time on April 30, 2024.

Judging & Awards

Photo entries will be judged based on creativity, quality, originality, responsiveness to the prompt and overall impact.

AFC will select a winner for each category, and a People's Choice Award from among all category winners. The category winners will be notified of their status during the summer of 2024. Category winners will be presented to the public for voting during the summer of 2024; the photo receiving the highest number of votes will receive the People's Choice award, and will be professionally produced and displayed at AFC's expense at the annual P-22 Day Festival in Griffith Park in October of 2024. Winner will be able to keep their printed photo after it is displayed at the festival. All category winners will be publicized and promoted via AFC's website, email lists, and social media platforms.

AFC will notify winners via the contact information provided at the time of entry; AFC may disqualify anyone who fails to respond to the notification within five business days.

Please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging.

Online Features:

AFC may select photos for highlight on its website or display in a publicly accessible contest archive. Such selections will be made in AFC's sole discretion.

Conditions of Entry:

All entrants hold AFC and its respective regents, directors, officers, employees, emeriti, fellows, interns, research associates, and volunteers (the “Indemnified Parties”) harmless from and against all claims of any nature arising in connection with entrant’s participation in the contest and acceptance or use of a prize. The Indemnified Parties are not liable for any costs, damages, injuries, or other claims incurred as a result of entrants’ participation in the contest or winner’s acceptance and usage of a prize. The Indemnified Parties are not responsible for incomplete or misdirected entries, technical or network malfunctions or failures, or causes beyond their control. Entrants are solely responsible for their entries. Entrants may not submit materials that introduce any software viruses, worms or other programs designed to damage software, hardware or telecommunications equipment or are off-topic, partisan-political, contain advertising, nudity, personal attacks or expletives, or is otherwise abusive, threatening, unlawful, harassing, discriminatory, libelous, obscene, false, sexually explicit, or that infringes on the rights of any third party.

The contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law. AFC reserves the right to cancel the contest or modify these rules at its discretion. In the event of a dispute regarding the winners, AFC reserves the right to award or not award the prizes in its sole discretion. AFC reserves the right to disqualify any entrant whose entry or conduct appears in any way to: inhibit the enjoyment of others; tamper with the competition; violate these rules or other applicable law or regulation; infringe on the rights of third parties; or act in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Decisions of AFC are final and binding.

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MODEL RELEASE

I understand that I appear in a photograph or photographs taken by _____,
and I give _____ permission to use my name and that photographic likeness
in his or her entry to Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy ("AFC") Photo Contest.

I also hereby give AFC (and those authorized by AFC) a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of that entry (including my name and photographic likeness), in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any purpose, including, but not limited to, advertising and promotion of the organization and its website, exhibition, and commercial products, including but not limited to AFC publications.

I understand that I shall not receive any compensation for these uses and that AFC is under no obligation to use the entry in any way. I waive any claim or right of action arising out of the uses described in this release.

Print Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Signature:

Date:

If Model is under 18: I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of the individual named above, I have read this release and approve of its terms.

Print Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Signature:

Date:

