

The Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Photo Contest

Flora / Fauna, Landscapes, & Naturalists

OFFICIAL RULES:

By submitting an entry, each entrant unconditionally accepts and agrees to the *Official Rules* and warrants that his or her entry complies with all requirements set forth in these *Official Rules*. By entering the contest, you agree and acknowledge that Pennsylvania Master Naturalist (PAMN) is permitted to receive your registration data. All personal information will be used by PAMN in accordance with its Privacy Policy. PAMN reserves the right to adjust any deadline(s). Information on how to enter and prizes form part of these official rules (“Official Rules”).

Timeline

This year’s Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Photo Contest begins **now and ends October 5, 2022**. Online entry can be done now. The deadline for submitting entries is 11:59 P.M. EST on October 5, 2022. PAMN representatives will narrow the photos down to the top three (3) winners in each category, which will be shared at our Annual Meeting and displayed at various events throughout the year and used in Pennsylvania Master Naturalist publications.

Who May Enter

The Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Photo Contest is free to enter and open to current Master Naturalist Volunteers and Master Naturalist Trainees.

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist employees, interns, contractors, and board members are not eligible to enter or win prizes.

How to Enter

To enter, go to <https://pamasternaturalist.org> and Annual Meeting/Photo Contest. Complete an online entry form with the required information and attach your digital photograph. Multiple photos may be submitted; a new entry form should be filled out for each photo.

Location of Images

Photos must be taken within the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**. Photographs from service sites, field trips, and ongoing PAMN projects are strongly encouraged.

Categories

1. Flora (plants) & Fauna (wildlife) – This category focuses on plants, flowers, and wild animal life, including mammals, insects, aquatic life, birds, reptiles, etc. These are close-up photos or photos in which the focal point of the composition is a plant or wildlife. Photos in which the plant or animal appears within a larger landscape should be submitted to the Landscapes category.
2. Landscapes – Scenes of natural landscapes, wildscapes, skyscapes, (sunsets, clouds, etc.) or underwater may be submitted to this category. Close-up plant and animal photos or photos in which a plant or animal is the focal point of the composition should be submitted to the Flora & Fauna category.
3. Master Naturalists at Work or Play – Show us your favorite projects, field experiences, or naturalist activities! These photos should be of Master Naturalist service projects with you or **Master Naturalists**

in the photos or volunteers working on the project with Master Naturalists. Photos of Master Naturalist led educational programs or hikes may be submitted. Please do not submit photos that show the faces of non-Master Naturalists unless you have obtained official written permission to be photographed or to use the photo. Please also obtain permission from other Master Naturalists or project volunteers or participants. PAMN can provide a form if requested.

Image Format

Photographs must be in digital format. All digital entries should be submitted in the highest resolution possible, and a minimum of 1 megabyte (MB) in size and submitted in JPEG format. We encourage submitting the highest resolution possible, as these images print better. Images over 10 MB in size will need to be submitted through an alternate submission portal. Please email michele@pamasternaturalist.org with your larger submissions.

All photos must be an original, single works created by the entrant and not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, and rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property of any person or entity. No other party may have any right, title claim, or interest in the photograph. Minor photoshop edits are acceptable. Photos found to have been modified beyond this will be rendered ineligible for a prize. Photos that are obscene, defamatory, or otherwise objectionable or inappropriate will not be accepted. Photographs of activities expressly forbidden as inappropriate or dangerous will be rendered ineligible.

PAMN strives to ensure anonymity when narrowing down the top entries. Therefore, submissions should not be watermarked, nor obscured, with text or copyright information. This could influence the judging process, and such entries will not be honored if the photographer is unable or unavailable to provide a pristine version of the image.

Prizes

First Place, Second Place, and Third Place prizes will be awarded in each of the three (3) categories, for a total of nine (9) winners. For each category, prizes will include:

1st Prize – Cash prize of \$100

2nd Prize – PMN Logo Jacket or merchandise (Valued at \$75)

3rd Prize – PMN Blanket or merchandise (Valued at \$50)

The winning photos will also be incorporated into a notecards or other merchandise and used in promotions and on the PAMN website.

If there are not enough eligible, qualifying entries in any category to award the First through Third Place prizes, PAMN reserves the right to award as many of those prizes as possible or make the decision to postpone or extend the contest into the future.

Judging

Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit, and the story behind the photo. Final place designations will be voted upon during the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Annual Meeting and announced at the meeting.

License

Your photographs help Pennsylvania Master Naturalist highlight how we connect people with their local ecosystems through intensive natural science training and local conservation service work. Thank you for sharing these stories through your photography!

Entrants will retain all copyrights to their photographs. By entering the Photo Contest, each entrant hereby grants a perpetual, non-exclusive license to Pennsylvania Master Naturalist and Authorized Parties, to use entrant's submissions in whole or in part, to reproduce, display, and create derivative works of the entrant's submission in connection with the Photo Contest and marketing, advertising, and promotion of the Photo Contest, in any media now or hereafter known, for no additional compensation, as well as in connection with a display at potential exhibitions of winners; publication on the PAMN website and on the PAMN social media channels; publication in all other PAMN communications, publications, and educational displays. PAMN does not need to obtain additional consent from entrants relating to, or to notify entrants prior to, the use of any submitted photograph(s). PAMN will credit the photographer to the best of our ability.

Releases

The entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission of the photo, permission from any identifiable people in any photo submitted. Upon request, each entrant must be prepared to provide a signed release from all persons who appear in the photo submitted.

Limitation of Liability

By entering the Contest, all entrants agree to release, discharge or hold harmless Pennsylvania Master Naturalist and its partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising agencies, agents, employees, officers, directors and representatives from any claims, losses and damages arising out of their participation in the contest.

Conditions

This contest is void where prohibited. To the extent permitted by law the right to litigate, to seek injunctive relief or to make any other recourse to judicial or any other procedure in case of disputes or claims resulting from or on connection with this contest are hereby excluded and any entrant expressly waives any and all such rights. Entries are void if PAMN determines the photograph to not be an original, or if the entries are illegible, incomplete, damaged, irregular, altered, counterfeit, produced in error, or obtained through fraud or theft.

By entering, entrants also agree to be bound by these official rules; that the decisions on the winners are final and binding with respect to all matters relating to the contest; and if the entrant wins that Sponsor may use the winning photographs and each winner's name, photo, and likeness in any publicity or advertising related to the contest or future promotions without compensation or approval. All federal, state/provincial/territorial and local taxes, fees and surcharges, and taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners. Prizes are non-transferable.

PAMN reserves the right to verify the validity and originality of any entry and/or entrant and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these *Official Rules* or who tampers with the entry process. Failure by PAMN to enforce any of its rights at any stage does not constitute a waiver of those rights.

If, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as planned due to any causes beyond the control of Pennsylvania Master Naturalist that corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper

conduct of this Contest, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual(s) who tamper with the entry process and/or to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. If PAMN elects to cancel or terminate the contest, PAMN will not retain any rights in the submitted photographs.

Terms, conditions, rules, and dates are subject to change without notice.