

SOUTHERN EXPOSURES PHOTO CONTEST INFORMATION AND RULES

Please read carefully!

PURPOSE: The contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to gain a life-time skill, connect to nature, learn about the environment and have fun outdoors.

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a connection and appreciation to the environment and wildlife
- Develop a life skill helpful in school and business
- Share a message of conservation through the eyes of youth
- Promote and strengthen student's self-image

BY ENTERING THIS COMPETITION, YOU AGREE TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. WHO IS ELIGIBLE: SEPC is open to youth photographers who are between the ages 5 to 18 years old as of the beginning date of the Photo Contest and who have the consent of a parent or legal guardian. Photos must be the original art of the entrant. VLF reserves the right to verify, in its sole judgment, entrant eligibility.

2. HOW TO ENTER: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY, it's FREE! All entrants must complete a registration form, provide contact information. Entrants must agree to these rules by checking the appropriate box on entry form. Entrants can submit up to 3 images and must be nature related. Each photo must have a photo entry taped to the back of the print. All submissions must be dropped off at Quinta Mazatlán on or before deadline of Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

Photographs must be submitted on 8x10 photo paper. Parent/Guardian may print images at a store/pharmacy/other business that provides prints or can print for FREE at Quinta Mazatlán on the workshop days provided on July 24 and July 31.

3. CONTEST ENTRY PERIOD: SEPC opens June 1, 2021. The final date for submitting photos is August 10, 2021, at 5:00 pm (Quinta Mazatlán). If you are mailing prints, please allow two-weeks advance of the deadline to accommodate varying mail service.

4. ELIGIBILITY OF PHOTOS: All photographs must have been taken by entrant between the dates of August 1, 2020, and the time of entry. Photographers are allowed to submit up to three (3) photos. Pictures may be of any aspect of nature within the Lower Rio Grande Valley, four (4) counties of South Texas: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy. Respect for animal habitat must be observed. No photos of domestic, restrained, or caged animals will be accepted.

5. WHAT PHOTOS TO ENTER: We are looking for striking color images of nature—on land or in the air— from anywhere in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. These images may show animal behavior, portraits of wildlife in natural habitats, plant life, natural landscapes, or patterns in nature. DO NOT include photographs of pets, domestic animals, captive animals at game farms or roadside zoos, or animals from such facilities photographed elsewhere with handler's control. Such images will be disqualified.

6. ETHICS: Valley Land Fund requires all participants to use extreme caution to protect the survival of the subject being photographed. Photographers should make every effort to avoid any action that might interfere with natural wildlife behavior. Contest entrants must not submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment.

7. NO CATEGORIES: Photographers can submit images of anything in our natural world such as...

- **Wild Animals in Nature:** Basically six (6) types of animals – Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fish, Amphibians and Invertebrates.
- **Botanical:** Anything plant – trees, shrubs, plant flowers, cacti and more; find something unusual.
- **Natural Water Areas:** Ponds, creeks, lakes, beaches and/or other.
- **Close-Up/Close-In:** Get close up. Use a combination of zooming in and moving closer to crop in as tightly as you can on your chosen detail.
- **Landscapes:** The art of capturing pictures of nature and the outdoors in a way that brings your viewer into the scene.
- **Day or Night:** Photo may be taken at any time of the day or night.

8. LABELING/PHOTO DESCRIPTION: Each photograph should be labeled with the title, name, age division and city. Label should be taped to the back of each photo.

*****Please use the following label (*provided on entry form*):**

TITLE OF PICTURE: _____
Create a TITLE for your Photograph (Under 6 words)

Photographer's Name: _____

Age Division: 5 to 7 yrs 8 to 13 yrs 14 to 18 yrs

What CITY in the Rio Grande Valley was photo taken? _____
(REMINDER: Photos must be taken in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas!)

9. JUDGING: Photographs will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit. All decisions are final and binding.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS

- **IMPACT** – What do you think when you see the photograph? Great images evoke emotion such as wonder, pride, anger, sadness and laughter.
- **CREATIVITY** – Is the photograph original, fresh and an extension of your personality?
- **TECHNICAL** – Is the quality of the image good? Make sure the image is not blurred!
- **COMPOSITION** – This is important – design your image. Make sure its pleasing to the viewer.
- **SUBJECT MATTER** – The contest hopes that all can see “nature through the eyes of children.” So, make sure the subject matter is located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and related to nature. The beautiful thing about nature is that wildlife is FREE, and thus “caged animals” or “trained animals” do not qualify for this particular contest.
- **STORYTELLING** – Does your photography tell a story? Art should have a message.

10. AWARDS AND PRIZES: Every child is a winner! One winning image per entrant will be featured in Traveling Exhibit, plus receive a free T-Shirt, and free entrance to Awards Ceremony, August 19th, 7pm at Quinta Mazatlán. Ten Honorable Mention Awards will be determined by August 10th, and families will be notified.

11. BINDING AGREEMENT: In order to enter the SEPC, Entrant must agree to these Official Rules ("Rules"). Because these Rules form a legally binding agreement with respect to this Contest, please read them carefully. If Entrant does not agree to the Rules, Entrant is not eligible to participate in the SEPC or to win any of the prizes. Entrant agrees that his/her registration as an individual participant under the SEPC constitutes his/her agreement to these Rules.

12. OWNERSHIP & USE OF IMAGES: Entrants retain ownership and all other rights to future use of the photographs they enter. In addition, entry to the contest constitutes your agreement to all your entered photographs to be used for promotion by the VLF for their purposes, including, but not limited to, production of brochures, promotion of future contests, public relations, advertising, education, books, traveling photo gallery and other media, without compensation.

13. DELIVERY OF ENTRIES: Please drop off your submission (up to 3 per student) at the location listed below no later than Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

**QUINTA MAZATLAN
600 SUNSET DRIVE
MCALLEN, TEXAS 78503**

14. HOW TO CONTACT US: Questions and inquiries regarding contest rules or guidelines, please email Linette at Quinta Mazatlán, LCastillo@mcallen.net or call Quinta Mazatlán at (956) 681-3370.