

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate?

- This competition is open to all photographers, whether they are amateurs or professionals, youth or adults.
- The chief requirement is that all eligible entries must have been taken September 20-21, 2024 at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.

How many images may I submit?

- Each registered photographer may submit up to three images taken at the James Farm Ecological Preserve during the two-day competition window of September 20 and 21.

Must each photograph I submit be in the same category?

- No. Your images can be in any or all of the three categories: Wildlife, Landscape, or Human Connection.

What are the technical requirements for submitted photographs?

- Images must be submitted in JPEG/JPG format.
- Please set the color profile to sRGB.
- Images must be no larger than 3Mb and no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side.
- If you use the photo editing software Lightroom, you can do both these things in the Export menu. There's a useful article on another way to resize images with Macs at [http://www.wikihow.com/Resize-Pictures-\(for-Macs\)](http://www.wikihow.com/Resize-Pictures-(for-Macs)).
- Each grand prize winner will be required to provide a high-resolution version of their winning image.

When must I submit my images to be judged?

- The judging software will be open to receive entries beginning at noon, September 21 and will close at 11:59 p.m. September 25. Submissions will not be accepted once this deadline lapses.
- You will need to create a username and password for the judging software.
- Your User Name should be your first name and first letter of your last name, for instance, John Doe,'s username will be JohnD.
- Your password will be your first and last initials and the last 4 digits of your phone number. So for John Doe, it would be JD1234.
- More details on how to submit photos to the judging software will be distributed at check in at the James Farm Ecological Center.

How will images be judged?

- All photo entries will be judged by a panel of three judges, based on quality, creativity, and originality in each of the three categories. All decisions are final. The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays reserves the right to disqualify any entry that is deemed inappropriate or does not conform to stated contest rules. All elements must be the photographer's own work and must have been taken September 20-21, 2024 at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.
- **Wildlife:** Winning images will capture the abundance of wildlife that enjoys passing through the James Farm Ecological Preserve and will depict these animals in their natural habitat. Images may be color or monochromatic. Infrared images and UV, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed. Textures or substituted backgrounds are not allowed. Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are not allowed. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking, and dodging/burning. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Color images may be converted to Black and White. Scientific bands, scientific tags, or radio collars on wild animals are allowed. The final result must begin with an original image or series of images that were captured on September 20-21, 2024 at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.
- **Landscape:** Landscape photography involves capturing an image that embodies the spirit and the beauty of the outdoors. Winning images in this category will highlight the beauty of the James Farm landscape and/or shoreline vistas. Images may be color or monochromatic. HDR, stacking, stitched and panoramic images are allowed. Composite images are allowed. Infrared images are allowed. All elements must be the photographer's own work. Vignettes are allowed. The final result must begin with an original image or series of images that were captured on September 20-21, 2024 at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.
- **Human Connection:** Winning images in this category will depict people interacting with the James Farm Ecological Preserve. These individuals can be employees, volunteers or citizens enjoying the preserve. Images may be color or monochromatic. Composite images are not allowed. Vignettes are allowed. The final result must begin with an original image or series of images that were captured on September 20-21, 2024 at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.

Are photographers allowed complete freedom to explore the Preserve?

- Photographers are to utilize trails. If able to do so safely, and if impact to the environment is minimal, photographers are allowed to step off of the trails to better capture images.
- Photographers must respect Preserve boundaries, adhere to any Preserve signage, and use due diligence to minimize impact to the area.
- The Preserve is open dawn to dusk.
- The Preserve is a carry in/carry out park.
- There are restrooms at the Preserve.

What is the weather policy?

- The event will go on, rain or shine, unless the weather poses a danger to the participants. *(In the unlikely event of dangerous weather, the event will be canceled and entry fees will be considered a donation to the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays.)*

The fine print:

All entrants hold the sponsors and their respective officers, employees, 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 because 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 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. Photographers entering the contest retain rights to their photograph(s); however, by entering the contest, *you grant the DE Center for the Inland Bays a royalty-free, 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, the Center website, exhibition/display, and Center publications.* Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit. The Center will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.