

***In The Field* Photography Contest**

Rules, Terms & Conditions

No purchase or fee is required to enter; no purchase will enhance your chances of winning; chance of winning depends on how well your entry meets the judging criteria and number of entries received.

By submitting images for consideration in the ***In The Field* Photography Contest**, you agree to the following Contest Rules, Terms, and Conditions (“Contest Rules”):

Sponsor.

The ***In The Field* Photography Contest** (the “Contest”) is sponsored and administered by the Field Museum of Natural History (the “Museum”), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, located at 1400 S. DuSable Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605.

Submission Categories.

Adult first place, second place, and honorable mention winners and Under 18 (aged 5 to 17) first place, second place, and honorable mention winners will be selected in each of the following categories:

- **Urban Wildlife**
 - This category shows the cooperation or lack thereof of the natural world in human-made environments.

- **Real-life Diorama**
 - Inspired by the Field’s renowned taxidermy dioramas, this category shows animals and plants in their natural habitat. This category can also contain landscapes.

- **Museum Moments**
 - This category shows images of the Field Museum, including the Museum Campus grounds, exhibitions, dioramas, and other areas inside or outside the building. This category encourages portraits and candid photos of members and member families on their visit to the Museum with proper releases.

Eligibility.

The Contest is open to United States residents who are Members of the Field Museum and members of their household; children between the ages of five and seventeen may participate with the permission of a parent/guardian. Contest is not open to Field Museum staff and volunteers, the members of their household or immediate family members (i.e., children/step-children, spouses and domestic partners, parents, and siblings). Any potential winner may be required to provide proof of eligibility. No purchase or entry fee is required and no purchase will enhance your chance of winning.

Timing.

The Contest entry period begins at 8am Central Time on Monday, April 6, 2026 and ends at 11:59 pm Central Time on Friday, July 24, 2026 (“Entry Period”). Entries submitted before or after the Entry Period will not be eligible. Submittable, the submission platform used for this Contest, is the official time-keeping device.

Entries.

To be eligible for the Contest, each entry must follow these submission guidelines:

- Images must fit one of the categories listed above.
- All images must be submitted digitally with a submission form including the photographer's information; permission from a parent/guardian required for entrants under age 18.
- Caption information must be provided with each photo. Captions should include the title of the work, the location the photo was taken, and a description of the subject.
- All images must be at least 300dpi at 8"X10" dimensions or at least 2,000 pixels wide.
- All images must be in .jpg/.jpeg, or .tif formats.
- All submitted image files MUST be named as follows:
 - Photographer Last Name_Category
- Contestants submitting to the Under 18 Categories should label their files
 - Photographer Last Name_Category_U18
- Contestants can submit at least one photo to every category, but no more than 3 photos per category per submitter. Each photograph may only be submitted in one category.
- To be eligible for any category, a photograph must have been shot by the entrant since January 1, 2026. This date applies to all images in a composite.

Rules and Ethics.

- All photographs must be the original work of the submitter. Contestants must certify that they are the sole creator and copyright owner of the submitted photograph. Photos will be accepted only from the photo's copyright owner (i.e., a photo you took yourself or a photo you specifically directed another person to take on your behalf using your phone or camera).
- Images created using generative AI tools, in whole or in part, are not allowed.
- Safety and welfare of self and others comes first. Contestants are prohibited from engaging in dangerous, illegal, or otherwise harmful behaviors for the sake of capturing a photograph for the contest. The Field Museum is not responsible for any injury, bodily harm, or other liabilities incurred due to such behaviors.
- The welfare of wildlife must be respected. Contestants may not do anything to injure or distress an animal in their attempt to secure an image. Use of drones or trap cameras to capture an image must be disclosed. Live baiting is not permitted.
- All photos must depict nature truthfully and ethically. Tampering with natural habitats is prohibited.
- Images may not show restrained, manipulated animals, animal models, and/or any other animal being exploited for profit. If captive animals (ie. living in a zoo, aquarium, sanctuary, or farm) are submitted, it must be specified in the caption that the animal is living in captivity and where.
- Contestants are responsible for complying with local, state, and federal laws regarding protected and public areas and must receive permission from landowners to enter an area or conduct photography, where applicable.
- Original photos may not be altered except for minor adjustments—including the removal of sensor dust or scratches on scans of negatives, cropping, and resizing. Modifications and alterations are not permitted.
- Photos may not contain watermarks, signatures, or copyright notices.

- If your photograph contains recognizable persons, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions. We may ask you to obtain their permission in writing and provide proof of such permission to the Museum upon request. Likewise, if the copyrighted work of other individuals (such as sculptures, statues, paintings, and other copyrightable works) are included in a photograph, the contestant must obtain any required permissions and be prepared to provide these on request.
- The Museum will not accept entries that are or contain obscene, defamatory, partisan-political, or advertising content or are otherwise harassing, threatening, abusive, discriminatory to or infringing on the rights of others, or that are otherwise not consistent with the Museum's mission and reputation.
- We do not accept photographs submitted through the mail. High-quality scans of non-digital photographs are acceptable. Digital photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible.

Judging.

Entries will be judged on category fit, composition, technical craftsmanship, storytelling, and overall impact. All judging decisions are final. Please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging.

Winners.

Eighteen (18) winning photographs will be selected, in total: Adult first place, second place, and honorable mention winners and Under 18 (aged 5 to 17) first place, second place, and honorable mention winners in each category.

The Museum will notify winners via email by 11:59 pm Central Time on Monday, August 1, 2026. If you do not respond to our notification within five (5) days, or if you are found to be ineligible, the Museum may disqualify your entry and pick an alternate winner.

Winning photographs will be printed in the Field Museum's Member magazine, *In the Field*, and displayed at the Field Museum. The Field Museum will bear any costs associated with printing and exhibiting the photographs.

Winners must sign and return a release and license, as well as a declaration of eligibility, as a condition of acceptance, within five (5) days of notice; if you fail to return these documents, the Museum may, at its discretion, select an alternate winner.

Rights.

You retain all rights to your entry. The Museum will credit you when using your photograph.

By entering the Contest you grant the Museum a non-exclusive, world-wide, royalty-free, irrevocable license to:

- Reproduce, display, publish, distribute, and otherwise use your entry in any media or format, including but not limited to the Museum's webpage, official social media sites, at the Museum, and in print publications, in support of our mission (this includes advertising and fundraising for the Museum).
- Share your entry on social media and allow others to do the same.
- Provide your entry to other individuals and organizations for reporting, educational, and other uses related to the Museum's mission.
- Retain copies of your entry for our internal and archival purposes.
- Use your name, likeness, city of residence, and any other biographical information you provide to us in connection with the Contest or your entry.

Legalities.

This section contains waivers and agreements impacting your legal rights; please read it carefully.

By entering the Contest, you agree to accept and abide by the Contest and that you can grant the license and permissions described herein. Any dispute with regard to the conduct of the Contest, determination of eligibility, rule interpretation, or award of prize shall be submitted to the Museum, whose decision shall be final and binding.

By participating, you agree to release and hold harmless the Museum, its affiliates, and their respective employees, trustees, shareholders, officers, directors, agents, representatives, licensees, successors, and assigns from any and all damages, claims, and liabilities, including but not limited to copyright infringement, arising in connection with your participation in the Contest, from acceptance or use of a prize, errors in the administration of the Contest, and technical errors. You waive all right to claim any attorneys' fees and any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, special, consequential, punitive, direct, or indirect damages.

The Museum is not responsible for incomplete or misdirected entries, technical or network malfunctions or failures, or other circumstances beyond its reasonable control. Entrants are solely responsible for their entries. In the event that the identity of an entrant is disputed or in question, the resident or authorized account holder of address or the account from which the entry was posted shall be deemed the entrant.

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Contest is impaired or compromised in any way, the Museum may, in its sole discretion, (a) suspend the Contest to address the issue and then resume the Contest, or (b) suspend the Contest and award prizes from among the eligible entries received up to the time of the impairment. The Museum reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and seek damages from any person who tampers with the operation of the Contest, violates these Rules or other applicable law, infringes the rights or content of others, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner. Failure to enforce any of the provisions of these Rules does not constitute a waiver of that provision.

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These Rules will be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to conflicts of laws principles. The Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and void where prohibited.

Winners.

A list of winners will be available on or before Monday, September 14, 2026. For the names of the winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Field Museum ATTN: Chandler Cohron, Institutional Advancement, 1400 S. DuSable Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60605.

Privacy.

Any personally identifiable information that is submitted by participants will be used to administer the Contest and fulfill prizes and will be treated in accordance with the Museum's Privacy Policy (<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/about/privacy-statement>).

SHORT FORM DISCLOSURE (for contest communications)

No purchase necessary. Open to Field Museum Members and their households aged 5 and up; participation by minors requires parental permission. Must be a legal U.S. resident. Contest begins 4/6/26 and ends 7/24/26. Void where prohibited. Official rules available at fieldmuseum.io/field-photo-contest