

# NATURE'S BEST NATIONAL PARKS

## 2024 PHOTO CONTEST GUIDELINES

### ENTER TODAY! COMPLETE UPLOADS BY NOV. 14, 2024

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The Editors of *Nature's Best Photography* magazine invite photographers at all levels of experience to enter the **Nature's Best U.S. National Parks Photo Contest**. Whether you are based in the United States or any country around the world—if you have traveled to a U.S. National Park and have favorite images and adventures to share, please join us in assembling a public record of this diverse ecosystem. There is no date restriction on when your photos were taken as all entries, past and present, are welcome. Entries are judged by a panel of experts in photography, publishing, education, and conservation. The winning images are selected on overall appeal, technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. Our goal is to commemorate and support the U.S. National Park system through the art of photography and storytelling.

**\*IMPORTANT: ALL PHOTOS AND VIDEOS MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF ONE OF THE DESIGNATED U.S. NATIONAL PARKS.** (*page 4*)

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### CASH PRIZES & AWARDS

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There will be one Winner in each expertise level and a Video winner: (*see definitions on page 2*)

**PRO WINNER:** Win \$1,000 USD cash, personalized Award plaque, featured publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription (or renewal or gift), display in NBP presentations, including social media, and web galleries.

**AMATEUR WINNER:** Win \$1,000 USD cash, personalized Award plaque, featured publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription (or renewal or gift), display in NBP presentations, social media, and web galleries.

**VIDEO WINNER:** Win \$500 USD cash, personalized Award plaque, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription (or renewal or gift), display in NBP Vimeos, presentations, social media, and web galleries.

**YOUTH WINNER:** Win \$500 USD, personalized Award Plaque, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription (or renewal or gift), display in NBP presentations, social media, and web galleries.

**HIGHLY HONORED FINALISTS:** Personalized Awards Certificate, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, display in NBP presentations, social media, and web galleries.

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QUESTIONS? NEED HELP or EXTRA TIME? Email [awards@naturesbestphotography.org](mailto:awards@naturesbestphotography.org)

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## EXPERTISE LEVELS

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**PROFESSIONALS:** Earn more than \$5,000 of income per year from photography.

**AMATEURS:** Earn less than \$5,000 of income per year from photography.

**YOUTH:** 18 and under, as of Nov. 14, 2024.

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## PHOTO SUBJECTS

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**WILDLIFE:** Enter photos of wild animals (mammals, birds, fish, etc.) including portraits, behavior, wildlife within their environment, predation, adults with young, animal interaction, close-ups, etc.

*\*IMPORTANT: 1) Photos of captive, lured, or baited animals ARE NOT accepted.*

*2) Images must not involve the harassment of wildlife and must be taken in strict adherence to the regulations of the U.S. National Park Service. (See the [NPS.GOV](https://www.nps.gov) link below)*

**LANDSCAPES:** Enter park photos and videos of expansive views, wide-open vistas, powerful waterfalls, natural features such as erupting geysers, plant life (flowers, trees, other flora) close-ups, dramatic weather, sunsets, and sunrises.

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE:** Enter scenes of park visitor experiences, such as camping, hiking, rafting, backpacking, horseback riding, skiing, families, groups, photographers, and rangers.

*\*IMPORTANT: If faces are recognizable, we will need permission from the individuals featured.*

**VIDEOS:** Whether your entry is a video clip from your phone or a high definition produced documentary, we are interested in wildlife behavior and natural subjects observed in U.S. national parks. Time-lapse and aerial videos are welcome. Provide the link (and password, if needed) to your entry on YouTube, Vimeo, or other viewing platforms. You will need to submit a still photo (saved as a JPEG for online entry) to represent your video.

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## PARK SAFETY

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**Do not approach wildlife! Always read and obey the laws of the park.**

See safety tips online: [nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety)

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## ENTRY FEES

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**PRO and AMATEUR: \$30 USD for up to 25 images for each paid entry.**

**YOUTH: FREE ENTRY (age 18 and under, as of Nov. 14, 2024).**

You may submit up to 25 images per paid entry (*FREE for Youth*). Enter as many times as you like. Fees may be paid online in the Entry Form with Visa, MasterCard, or American Express credit cards OR by mailing a check made out to: Nature's Best Photography (no foreign checks).

• If you experience trouble paying by credit card, please make sure the address on your User Account matches what your CC company has on file for your card. You may also call 703-467-9783 (inside the USA) to arrange payment. We accept PayPal by emailing [amanda@naturesbestphotography.org](mailto:amanda@naturesbestphotography.org).

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# HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS ONLINE

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## 1. PREPARE YOUR PHOTOS:

Save COPIES of your images as JPEGs no smaller than 500KB and no larger than 3MB in Adobe RGB (sRGB) mode (not CMYK). Name each photo this way with underscores instead of spaces:

FirstnameLastname\_Species.jpg (Example: JohnDoe\_Yosemite.jpg)

For wildlife or plants, short species name and for land or seascape, use short location. If there are multiple images, name this way: Yosemite1, Yosemite2, Yosemite3. The Subject you will type into your entry caption can be a longer name of species or location.

NOTE: Photographers with images that pass to the 2nd round of judging will be asked to send high-resolution files and RAW (original) files. All who move to next round will need to send caption / camera information before final judging. Instructions will be emailed.

2. LOG IN OR START A NEW CONTEST USER ACCOUNT: Fill in (or update) your current contact information, user name, and create a password to enter photos and manage your entries.

Do you have an NBP user account? [Log in](#) or Start a new account: [Sign up](#)

After you start an account, you will see the “My Account Dashboard” tool found at the top of the NBP website to help you return to your user account. After you login to the Entry Form, select Level of Expertise: Pro, Amateur, or Youth (18 and under as of end of contest). Adults pay \$30 USD per 25 images. Enter as often as you like with up to 25 images per paid entry. Youth enter for FREE after entering birthdate. Entrants will get a confirmation return receipt by email with your payment status and a link to return to your entry at any time during the contest to upload photos and add captions. (The return receipt may go to your spam folder—email us if you can't find it and need help).

3. USE THE “MANAGE MY ENTRY” BUTTON of your user account to return to the Entry Form.

4. UPLOAD PHOTOS on page 2 of Entry Form. You may enter up to 25 photos per entry, either one by one, or drag and drop a batch of photos onto the form and add captions on page 3. CLICK SAVE.

## QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

Email [awards@naturesbestphotography.org](mailto:awards@naturesbestphotography.org)

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## PROCESSING RULES

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- Normal processing of RAW image files and limited adjustments to color and contrast are accepted, as is minimal cropping. These are all permitted as long as techniques are fully disclosed in your Entry Form caption. Any enhancement must represent the original scene as it was experienced in the field.
- Nothing should be added to an image, and nothing should be taken away aside from dust spots and minor adjustments.
- AI-GENERATED images or films are NOT ELIGIBLE (see more in Ethics).
- Panoramas, HDR, focus stacking, and in-camera multiple-exposures are permitted as long as any manipulation is disclosed in caption upon entry of image.
- Black and white images are accepted.
- NO watermarks or borders.
- There is no time limitation as to when your images were taken.

# NATURE'S BEST NATIONAL PARKS

CHECK [NPS.GOV](https://www.nps.gov) FOR TRAVEL TIPS & RULES

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## ETHICAL RULES

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Every photographer is urged to practice responsible, safe, and ethical nature photography.

Please adhere to the following guidelines.

NOTE: Violations will result in disqualification.

- In national parks, entrants must observe all stated rules and regulations, such as photographing only from the vehicle, night drives taken only with permission, etc. Keep on marked roads and tracks unless driving off-road is allowed.
  - Nesting and denning animals must not be photographed with a wide-angle or macro lens. Stay at a safe distance and work from a blind if possible.
  - Animals must not be lured with bait, including live animals, dead animals or parts of animals, processed meat, other human or pet food, or decoys, such as fake mice. Setting a camera trap around a fresh kill or cache is generally acceptable, as long as it is naturally occurring.
  - Nocturnal wildlife must not be photographed with a white flash at night. Cameras that use flash with filters only letting through infrared light, such as some camera traps, are permissible.
  - Drones that depict birds or other animals fleeing, or animals displaying defensive behavior related to the photographer's presence are not permitted. Drones must be at a safe distance from living subject(s). Carefully review and follow local drone regulations and obtain necessary permits.
  - Images in which animals appear stressed, harassed, or crowded by the photographer or camera, will be disqualified.
  - Images must be of NON-CAPTIVE species in natural, wild situations, not staged in any way. No pets, falconry birds, game farm, or for-hire animals permitted.
- Game reserves should comply with ethical wildlife guidelines (no wildlife baiting, etc.).  
NOTE: For categories with conservation and research topics, a controlled setting may be permitted with full disclosure of your project in your contest entry form caption.
- Entrants must not infringe upon the rights of any other photographer or person and must seek the necessary permissions from human subjects.
  - AI-GENERATED images or films are not eligible; this includes adding new image content to photos by AI algorithms.

Our objective has always been to accurately depict the true natural history scene as it was viewed through the camera lens in the field.

BOOKMARK FOR COMPETITION UPDATES  
[naturesbestphotography.org/enter](https://naturesbestphotography.org/enter)

# NATURE'S BEST NATIONAL PARKS

## LIST OF U.S. NATIONAL PARKS AS OF 2024

WHEN ENTERING PHOTOS ONLINE, USE THE DROPDOWN MENU  
AND SELECT FROM THESE PARKS AS YOUR "CATEGORY":

### ALASKA:

Denali National Park & Preserve  
Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve  
Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve  
Katmai National Park & Preserve  
Kenai Fjords National Park  
Kobuk Valley National Park  
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

### AMERICAN SAMOA:

National Park of American Samoa

### ARIZONA:

Grand Canyon National Park  
Petrified Forest National Park  
Saguaro National Park

### ARKANSAS:

Hot Springs National Park

### CALIFORNIA:

Channel Islands National Park  
Joshua Tree National Park  
Kings Canyon National Park  
Lassen Volcanic National Park  
Pinnacles National Park  
Redwood National and State Parks  
Sequoia National Park  
Yosemite National Park

### CALIFORNIA & NEVADA:

Death Valley National Park

### COLORADO:

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park  
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve  
Mesa Verde National Park  
Rocky Mountain National Park

### FLORIDA:

Biscayne National Park  
Dry Tortugas National Park  
Everglades National Park

### HAWAII:

Haleakala National Park  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

### IDAHO, MONTANA, & WYOMING:

Yellowstone National Park

### ILLINOIS & MISSOURI:

Gateway Arch National Park

### INDIANA:

Indiana Dunes National Park

### KENTUCKY:

Mammoth Cave National Park

### MAINE:

Acadia National Park

### MICHIGAN:

Isle Royale National Park

### MINNESOTA:

Voyageurs National Park

### MONTANA:

Glacier National Park

### NEVADA:

Great Basin National Park

### NEW MEXICO:

Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
White Sands National Park

### NORTH CAROLINA & TENNESSEE:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

### NORTH DAKOTA:

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

### OHIO:

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

### OREGON:

Crater Lake National Park

### SOUTH CAROLINA:

Congaree National Park

### SOUTH DAKOTA:

Badlands National Park  
Wind Cave National Park

### TEXAS:

Big Bend National Park  
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

### U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS:

Virgin Islands National Park

### UTAH:

Arches National Park  
Bryce Canyon National Park  
Canyonlands National Park  
Capitol Reef National Park  
Zion National Park

### VIRGINIA:

Shenandoah National Park

### WASHINGTON:

Mount Rainier National Park  
North Cascades National Park  
Olympic National Park

### WEST VIRGINIA:

New River Gorge National  
Park & Preserve

### WYOMING:

Grand Teton National Park

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# NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY NATIONAL PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION USE AND RIGHTS

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Nature's Best Photography (NBP) has a successful 29-year history of inviting photographers from all backgrounds and levels of camera experience to participate in our annual Awards programs. NBP is known for our respect in the treatment of contest entries and for their mission-based uses. We take it personally and make every attempt to uphold this excellent reputation through annual reviews of our rights agreements for each hosted photo and video competition.

This particular Rights Agreement relates to the 2024 Nature's Best National Parks competition. This contest is not a sweepstakes platform but rather an international public competition judged by an expert panel of professionals who, collectively, will make their final selections based on entrant photographic skills and visual storytelling capabilities.

## TERMS

NBP: Nature's Best Photography Fund, DBA Nature's Best Photography is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Charity with a mailing address at P.O. Box 9591, McLean, Virginia 22102 USA.

CONTEST: The 2024 Nature's Best National Parks competition (NBP Awards).

IMAGE(S): All photographs and videos submitted to the CONTEST.

ELIGIBILITY: The CONTEST is open to all photographers, except for employees of NBP and their immediate family members, contest sponsors and partners. NBP shall have the right to verify, in their sole judgment, entrant eligibility.

In order to enter the CONTEST, all entrants, including the parent or guardian of any Youth Entrants, must agree to the following terms. Because these terms form a legally binding agreement, please read them carefully. If an entrant, or the parent or guardian of a Youth Entrant, does not agree to these terms, the Entrant will not be eligible to participate.

RIGHTS: Entrants retain all ownership to their IMAGES and FILMS, subject to the license granted here to NBP as described below.

LICENSE GRANTED: In consideration for the opportunity to win an award for your IMAGE or FILM, by entering the CONTEST you hereby grant NBP a nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to publicly display, reproduce, distribute, modify, excerpt, and transmit your entered IMAGES/FILMS in relationship to the NBP Awards. This includes all associated reproduction, distribution, and derivative works in all media including, but not limited to:

- 1) NBP website and all NBP social media channels.
- 2) NBP magazine and other NBP printed or digital publications, including multimedia platforms.
- 3) Exhibitions including sublicensed display at third-party locations such as museums, hospitals, events, or trade presentations. This license shall remain perpetual without further compensation or permission unless prohibited by law. For any IMAGES/ FILMS that are selected for acknowledgment or award at any level and in any category of the CONTEST, you hereby grant NBP the right to publish your portrait, your name, occupation, city, state, and country of residence as a selected honoree.
- 4) To sell or auction prints of the IMAGE/FILM in support of the conservation mission, including the CONTEST program. In the event that prints of an entrant's IMAGE/FILM are sold, the entrant will receive 40% of the net proceeds from that sale minus the cost of printing and shipping. Other commercial opportunities may arise such as further print sales, merchandise, or new licensing partnerships. In these cases, permission will be sought and terms reached with the entrant before use.

## PRIZES AND TAXES

Prizes to be awarded include the following:

Cash Prizes: Pro - \$1,000 USD, Amateur - \$500, Video - \$500, Youth - \$500 USD each.

Inclusion in a special NBP publication dedicated to the NBP Awards.

Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and possible global exhibitions.

Prizes for Youth Entrants will be awarded to a consenting parent or guardian on the Youth Entrant's behalf.

All federal, state, and local taxes or governances due on prizes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners.

All expenses related to the acceptance or use of any Prize are the sole responsibility of the Prize winner. NBP reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value. No substitution or transfer of prizes is permitted for the entrant.

## WARRANTIES

By entering the CONTEST, you represent and warrant that (a) the IMAGES/FILMS are your original creations, (b) no part of your IMAGES/FILMS infringes upon or violates any copyright, trademark, or any other proprietary right of any third party, (c) that any recognizable individual in any photo has given you permission, and if that individual is a minor, that you have received permission from their parent or guardian, and (d) no rights in the IMAGES/FILMS have been previously granted to any person or entity that would limit or interfere with the license rights granted to NBP herein. Further, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless NBP and all CONTEST sponsors, partners, and supporters against any claims brought by any third party claiming ownership of such rights. This warranty does not expire.

*Continued on next page*

## OTHER LEGAL CONDITIONS

By entering the CONTEST, you agree to certain legal conditions. By entering, participants agree to release and hold harmless NBP, their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any injuries, loss, claim, action, demand, or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the CONTEST.

NBP shall not be liable to you, or the photographer (if not you), in the event of inadvertent omission of credit.

Participant agrees that any and all disputes that cannot be resolved with NBP, and causes of action arising out of or connected with the CONTEST, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, before a court of jurisdiction located in Fairfax County, Virginia, USA, which the court shall apply the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without regard for rules of conflicts of law. In any such dispute, participant shall, under no circumstances, be entitled to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, other than participant's actual out-of-pocket expenses (if any) associated with participating in the CONTEST. Participant hereby waives all rights to have damages multiplied or increased. Any attempt by an entrant or other individual to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of the CONTEST is a violation of criminal and civil laws, and should such an attempt be made, NBP reserves the right to seek damages to the fullest extent permitted by law.

NBP is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by website users or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the CONTEST campaign, or by any technical or human error that may occur in the processing of submissions to the CONTEST, including but not limited to any misprints or typographical errors. NBP assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. NBP is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network, computer equipment, servers, providers, computer online systems, software, or failure of email on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet, including injury or damage to participant's or to any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating or uploading images or information in the CONTEST.

In no event will NBP, their subsidiaries, partners, affiliates, and related companies, their advertising and promotional agencies, or their directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives, be responsible or liable for any damages or losses of any kind, including: direct, indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages arising out of participant's access to and use of NBP's website or the downloading or uploading and/or printing of material from said site. Without limiting the foregoing, everything on the NBP website is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. Some jurisdictions may not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability for incidental or consequential damages, so some of the foregoing limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

\*Check your local laws for any restrictions or limitations regarding these limitations or exclusions before entering the CONTEST.

## VOID WHERE PROHIBITED

BOOKMARK FOR COMPETITION UPDATES  
[naturesbestphotography.org/enter](http://naturesbestphotography.org/enter)

LEARN MORE  
[naturesbestphotography.org](http://naturesbestphotography.org)

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