

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

2025

NATURE'S BEST  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
AWARDS

DEADLINE | PRIZES | HOW TO ENTER  
RULES | ETHICS | CATEGORIES | RIGHTS

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# 2025 NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

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**ENTRY DATES | January 8 until March 26, 2025**

Now celebrating our 30th Anniversary of bringing the best, the Nature's Best Photography Editors invite nature photographers from around the globe at all ages and levels of camera experience to enter photos and videos (made at any time) in this year's awards. Finalists will be selected on overall appeal, originality, conformity to rules, and technical quality.

**NEED HELP? Email [awards@naresbestphotography.org](mailto:awards@naresbestphotography.org) or call 703-467-9783**

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**\$20,000 USD IN CASH PRIZES & AWARDS**

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**GRAND PRIZE: \$5,000 USD**

Best overall single image. Cash prize, Awards Plaque, publication in the Awards Edition of *Nature's Best Photography* magazine, online presentations, and portfolio feature.

**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: \$1,000 USD**

Best single image by a photographer 18 years of age or younger as of March 26, 2025. Cash prize or the equivalent in equipment, Awards Plaque, publication in the Awards Edition, online presentations, and portfolio feature.

**CATEGORY WINNERS: \$1,000 USD each**

Best in each category. Cash prize, Awards Plaque, publication in the Awards Edition, online galleries.

**CATEGORY HIGHLY HONORED: Finalists in each category.**

Awards Certificate, publication in the Awards Edition, and online presentations.

*Total value of personalized Plaques and Certificates, Awards Editions, and web displays = ARV \$4,000 USD*

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## ENTRY FEES

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**\$30 USD FOR ADULTS | FREE FOR YOUTH (18 or under as of March 26, 2025)**

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 US) to arrange payment. We accept PayPal by emailing [amanda@naresbestphotography.org](mailto:amanda@naresbestphotography.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 500 KB and no larger than 3 MB in RGB (SRGB) mode (not CMYK). Name each photo this way with underscores instead of spaces: **FirstnameLastname\_Species.jpg** (Example: **JohnDoe\_redfox.jpg**)

For wildlife, short species name and for land or seascape, use short location. If there are multiple images, name this way: fox1, fox2, fox3. The Subject you will type into your entry caption can be longer name of species or location.

**NOTE:** Photographers with images taken on DSLR or mirrorless cameras and pass to the 2nd round of judging will be required to send high-resolution files and RAW (original) files. All who move to next round will be asked for caption / camera information before final judging. Instructions will be emailed.

2. **LOG IN OR START A NEW CONTEST 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 account? **Log in** or Start a new account: **Sign up**

[naturesbestphotography.org/acct-login.php](http://naturesbestphotography.org/acct-login.php) [naturesbestphotography.org/acct-new.php](http://naturesbestphotography.org/acct-new.php)

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: Adult 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.

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**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 cropping of no more than 50%. These are permitted as long as techniques are fully disclosed in your entry caption. Any enhancement must represent the original scene as 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.

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# 2025 NBP AWARDS CATEGORIES

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We are seeking photographs and films that convey the beauty, diversity, and importance of nature. You may submit up to 25 individual images for each paid entry (FREE for Youth Expertise Level). To enter more than 25 images, please start another submission that requires an additional entry fee.

Within each competition category, we have provided suggestions for topic coverage, but are open to your own interpretation of the category. Have fun, select your favorites, enjoy the process!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The contest judges reserve the right to move images to another category as they see fit.

## WILDLIFE:

Wild animals from around the globe, including portraits and behavior of mammals small to large, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and insects, photographed in their natural habitat, feeding, hunting, fighting, playing, displaying courtship rituals, adults interacting with young, baby animals, migrations, animal families, territorial battles, and more.

## ANIMAL ANTICS:

Wild animals from any location conveying humorous and/or unusual behavior in natural settings.

Situations could include funny expressions, playing, “awkward” positions or situations.

Any wildlife image that immediately makes you smile or laugh.

## ART IN NATURE:

Naturally occurring artistic compositions of wildlife and landscapes. Highlight designs, patterns, colors, shapes, textures, using imaginative, graphic, macro, black and white, and other creative perspectives.

## BIRDS:

Wild birds of all sizes, songbirds, passerines, waterfowl, landfowl, birds of prey, shorebirds and waders in natural habitats displaying plumage, courtship rituals, hunting, territorial battles, nesting, feeding, parenting, or other behaviors, adults with young, and portraits.

## CONSERVATION STORY:

Photography is a powerful tool for bringing public awareness to global conservation issues and recovery strategies. Submit 2-10 images (numbered in order) spotlighting issues you wish to bring to public attention, telling a compelling story of efforts or concerns about a specific species or groups of animals, locations affected by climate change or natural disasters, and perhaps the success or plans for recovery in the future. In your caption notes, include a brief description of the conservation issue or project, the significance of the photo(s), and the impact and /or purpose of your work.

## CONSERVATION SINGLE IMAGE:

Submit single photojournalism images that relay concerns about a specific species or groups of animals, locations affected by climate change or natural disasters, and the success or plans for recovery.

In your caption notes, include a brief description of the conservation issue or project.

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# 2025 NBP AWARDS CATEGORIES

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## LANDSCAPES:

Scenes of the world's wild lands, providing both expansive views taken from the ground or air, and close-ups of plant life such as flowers, trees, and other flora in natural habitats.

## OCEAN VIEWS:

The realm of the sea as photographed above, below, and near the ocean's surface: tide pools, coral reefs, marine life, waves, seascapes, and the creatures who depend upon the ocean for survival.

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE:

People in nature enjoying the outdoors: backpackers, kayakers, divers, hikers, climbers, camping, caving, skiing, running, skydiving, ballooning, etc., in natural settings.

## POLAR PASSION:

Wildlife and landscapes found in the Earth's Arctic, Subarctic, Antarctic, and Subantarctic regions. Includes polar bears, penguins, birds, seals, walruses, whales, and other wildlife as well as wide views of these spectacular and diverse ecosystems and their seasonal and climatic changes.

## NATURE IN MOTION | VIDEO:

Videographers may submit footage in any of the above categories. Share your story, whether your entry is a produced film documentary or a video clip from your phone. We are interested in impactful wildlife behavior, people enjoying nature, storytelling, and conservation messaging. Time-lapse and aerial videos are welcome. Finished productions should generally be between 2 and 15 minutes. You will need a JPEG of a still image to enter and represent your film. Upload submissions preferably through Vimeo, or other viewing platforms and provide us with the link (if there is a password, add it in the Entry Form notes). **NOTE:** Productions that include music must have written permission or rights for distribution online and exhibition display.

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## YOUTH ENTRANTS:

You must be 18 and under as of March 26, 2025 to qualify for **FREE ENTRY**. Youth may submit photos and videos in any of the above categories. Within the Youth entrants, there will be one "Youth Photographer of the Year" chosen with a selection of Highly Honored images for recognition.

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**NOTE:** If your image or video displays an Endangered, or Critically Endangered species of fauna or flora as listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, please add a link from [IUCNREDLIST.ORG](https://www.iucnredlist.org) showing the status in your entry notes.

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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.**

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### QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

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

Or leave a clear message with your email and phone in the US: 703-467-9783

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Bookmark this page for contest updates  
and new competitions' entry and deadlines online:

**[NATURESBESTPHOTOGRAPHY.ORG/ENTER](https://www.naturesbestphotography.org/enter)**

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## NBP AWARDS PHOTO 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 Photography International Awards. 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 Photography International Awards 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: Grand Prize - \$5,000 USD, Category Winners - \$1,000 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.



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# NBP AWARDS PHOTO USE AND RIGHTS

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## 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.

## 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**