Annual Stewardship Network Photography Competition Rules

Term:

What to enter:
1. Natural World: Plants and landscapes; fungi and bacteria, geological or climatological features.
2. Wildlife: Animals
3. People: Groups or individuals; scientific processes and endeavors.
4. Altered Images: Photographs manipulated for artistic purposes by applying digital and/or traditional special effects.
5. Youth: Category for all entries from photographers under 18 years of age.

Who may enter:
The Natural World, People, and Altered Images category prizes are open to photographers who are 18 years old or older. Photographers under 18 years old may submit photos in the youth category.

The Stewardship Network, in collaboration with a panel of professional photographers, will determine winners’ eligibility in its sole discretion.

To be eligible for any category, a photograph must have been shot by the entrant since January 1, 2020. This date applies to all images in a composite. The contestant certifies that they are the sole creator and copyright owner of the submitted photograph.

Cropped photos are eligible in all categories. We do not accept digitally or otherwise enhanced or altered photos, except for those entered in the Altered Images category. Minor adjustments, including the removal of sensor dust or scratches on scans of negatives, dodging and burning, sharpening, contrast, toning, slight color adjustment and conversion to grayscale are acceptable for all categories. The addition and subtraction of objects is not permitted except in the Altered Images category. If the judges determine that a photographer has altered their photo, they reserve the right to move the photo to Altered Images or to disqualify it.

For a photo in which a person is recognizable, you must be prepared to provide a model release from the subject or, in the case of a minor, the subject’s parent or guardian, upon request. A sample model release is on the last page of this document.
If the entrant is unable to provide all required releases, The Stewardship Network in its sole discretion reserves the right to disqualify the submission, seek to secure the required releases, or permit the submission to remain in the contest.

Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright, are not eligible.

Photos that contain objectionable or inappropriate content, as determined by The Stewardship Network in its sole discretion, are ineligible for all categories of this contest.

**Ethics**

Entrants must disclose the circumstances under which an image was captured as well as any instructions given to a subject.

The welfare of a subject and its environment must be placed ahead of the desire to capture a photograph. Upon entering the contest, entrants certify that subjects were treated with respect and dignity, and that no people, wildlife or the environment were harmed in creating a photograph.

If baiting was used to attract wildlife, or special equipment such as camera traps and drones used to capture the photograph, this must be disclosed. Live baiting of wildlife is not permitted.

**How to Enter:**

You may submit up to 4 photographs per category. Photographs must be submitted in .jpeg or .jpg format.

We do not accept photographs submitted through the mail and do not accept more than one contestant per e-mail address. High-quality scans of non-digital photographs are acceptable. Digital photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible.

You retain your rights to your photograph; however, by entering the contest, you grant The Stewardship Network a royalty-free, world-wide, 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 publications. Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit as feasible. The Stewardship Network will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.

**Judging**

The Judges will select a winner and several finalists for each category, and a Grand Prize winner. The Grand Prize winner and category winners will be revealed online by the end of January 2021.
The Stewardship Network will notify winners via the contact information provided at the time of entry; The Stewardship Network may disqualify anyone who fails to respond to the notification within five business days.

Due to the volume of entries received, we ask that you please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging.

Prizes:
Winners will be responsible for paying any fees or taxes associated with the prize. All prizes are awarded “as is” and non-transferable. In case applicable law prohibits The Stewardship Network from awarding a photographer the cash prize and/or any non-cash prize, The Stewardship Network may award the prize in name only.

Conditions of Entry:
All entrants hold the Sponsors and their respective regents, directors, officers, employees, emeriti, fellows, interns, 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 as a result 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, worms 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.

The contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law. The Stewardship Network reserves the right to cancel the contest or modify these rules at its discretion. In the event of a dispute regarding the winners, The Stewardship Network reserves the right to award or not award the prizes in its sole discretion. Decisions of The Stewardship Network are final and binding.
Sample Release

I understand that I appear in a photograph or photographs taken by ______________________________, and I give ____________________________ permission to use my name and that photographic likeness in his or her entry to The Stewardship Network’s Photography Competition. I also hereby give The Stewardship Network (and those authorized by The Stewardship Network) a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of that entry (including my name and photographic likeness), in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any purpose, including, but not limited to, online and print materials. I understand that I shall not receive any compensation for these uses and that The Stewardship Network is under no obligation to use the entry in any way. I waive any claim or right of action arising out of the uses described in this release.

Print Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Signature:

Date:

If Model is under 18: I, ______________________________, am the parent/legal guardian of the individual named above, I have read this release and approve of its terms.

Print Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Signature:

Date: