



**Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120
Corpus Christi, TX 78401-0120**

2023 WILDLIFE IN FOCUS PHOTO CONTEST

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS

The mission of **Wildlife in Focus (WIF)**, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, is to create an atmosphere of cooperation among landowners and wildlife photographers, through which collaboration creates a platform for awareness of the need for conservation and protection of the wildlife and habitat in Texas. Funding is through sponsorships, book sales, and grants by individuals, foundations, and businesses with like-minded attitudes toward education and conservation.

By entering this Contest, entrants agree to be bound by these Contest Rules. Entrants further agree to be bound by the decisions of the judges, which shall be final and binding in all respects. **WIF reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any entrant it finds to be:**

- a) Tampering or attempting to tamper with the entry process or the operation of the Contest
- b) Violating the Contest Rules
- c) Acting in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person.

The WIF Rules Committee (Rules Committee) decides all questions of rules interpretation and enforcement. Complaints concerning any alleged rules violations must be submitted to the Rules Committee **in writing**. The Rules Committee may investigate complaints, and all decisions made by the Rules Committee and the WIF Board are final.

Violation of any of these rules or federal, state, or local laws by any Photographer or Landowner will result in disqualification and forfeiture of Registration Fees and all prize money. A second disqualification in a subsequent contest will result in permanent ineligibility of that Photographer or Landowner. The Rules Committee will resolve all complaints, disputes, and any questions. All decisions of the Rules Committee and the WIF Board are final. WIF reserves the right to audit and verify the location of any winning photograph. If a violation is discovered after the completion of the contest, any prize money received shall be returned to WIF. If the prize money is not returned, WIF shall have the option of legal action to enforce compliance. Photographers and Landowners will be notified of disqualified or rejected photos to prevent repeating the same violations in future contests and to be sure there are no misunderstandings about the photo in question.

By entering the Contest, entrant:

- a) Releases and holds harmless WIF and its sponsors, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, directors, officers, suppliers, and agents from any and all liability for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind to persons, including death, or property damage, resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from acceptance, possession, use or misuse of any prize, participation in this Contest, or participating in any prize-related activity; and
- b) Agrees to forthwith defend, fully indemnify, and hold completely harmless WIF and its sponsors, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, directors, officers, suppliers, and agents from any and all claims by third parties without limitation.

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THE CONTEST

The Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest is based on the concept of pairing a photographer with a landowner to form a **Team**. Prize winnings will be split equally between the photographer and the landowner. The photographer(s) must shoot exclusively on the landowner's property as registered and specified in the "Landowner Registration Form".

A1) WHO MAY ENTER (PHOTOGRAPHERS)

Any professional or amateur photographer of any age may enter the contest and compete starting January 14, 2023 @ 12:01am if they have submitted a completed registration form to WIF **and** have paid in full the applicable registration fee on or before January 11, 2023. For late registration, please contact WIF for additional rules. All forms and full payment must be submitted before competing. Photos submitted for judging bearing a date taken before the date of completed registration and full payment will be disqualified.

A2) WHO MAY ENTER (LANDOWNERS)

Any landowner (meaning the ownership of or authority to act with respect to public or private land) within the participating counties as depicted in (**ATTACHMENT I**) may enter if they have submitted a completed registration form to WIF and have paid in full the applicable registration fee on or before January 11, 2023. Texas counties outside the listed counties may be considered for inclusion. Please contact the WIF office. For late registration, please contact WIF for additional rules. All forms and full payment must be submitted before competing. Photos submitted for judging bearing a date taken before the date of completed registration and full payment will be disqualified. The completed registration form must specify (by name or description) the tracts/portions of the landowner's property that will be entered in the contest. This will be known as the "Registered Land". All photographs entered by the Team must be taken from this "Registered Land".

It is the sole responsibility of the Landowner member of any Partnership to establish guidelines for use and access to land. Landowners may require Photographers to sign a Release of Liability Form (**ATTACHMENT G**) and show proof of personal liability insurance before allowing access to land. Any complaint concerning a team member's conduct during the Contest Period should first be discussed between the members of the Team. If the complaint is not resolved among the Team members, then the complaint may be brought to the attention of the Rules Committee. Should the Rules Committee find that a violation of the contest rules has occurred; the penalty for said violation shall be left to the discretion of the Rules Committee and WIF Board.

A3) PARTNERSHIP FORMATION

Many photographers have a particular landowner in mind with whom to partner, but if requested, WIF will aid in matching Photographers with Landowners. It will, however, be the responsibility of the participants to make their own contacts and arrangements once the assistance has been provided.

A4) REGISTRATION FEES

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

- (1) \$300 per photographer with a limit of 25 or less category entries for a maximum total of 50 submissions (2 per category)
- (2) \$500 per photographer with no limit on categories, and max of 100 total submissions (2 per category)
- (3) \$600 per two person "Photographer Team" with a limit of 25 or less category entries for a maximum total of 50 submissions (2 per category)
- (4) \$800 per two-person "Photographer Team" with no limit on categories and a limit of 100 total submissions (2 per category)

Both photographers' names must be listed on the entry forms. (1) (2) (3) and (4) are limited to a maximum of 2 images per entered category. References to "Photographer" mean a single or a two-person Photographer Team. WIF should be notified in writing of any Photographer Team on or before January 11, 2023. Non-photographic assistance is allowed at no additional expense.

b) **LANDOWNERS:** \$350 per entry of less than 1000 acres, \$600 per entry of 1000 or more acres, \$700 per Landowner Team (no more than two landowners with at least one landowner having less than 1,000 acres). WIF should be notified in writing of any Landowner Team on or before January 11, 2023.

A5) REFUNDS

All entries and entry fees are final and non-refundable.

A6) REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The registration deadline for all Photographers and Landowners is January 11, 2023. The Registration Form with registration fee must be received by WIF before 5:00 p.m. on January 11, 2023, to compete starting January 14, 2023 @ 12:01AM. WIF reserves the right to extend or deny any fees or forms after this time. Please contact WIF for late registration rules and payment. **Photos submitted for judging bearing a date taken before the date of completed registration and full payment will be disqualified.**

Note: For questions regarding additional photographers, landowner agreements and costs, contact the WIF office.

B) SHOOTING PHOTOGRAPHS

B1) SHOOTING PERIOD

Shooting begins Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 12:01 AM and ends Sunday May 21, 2023, at 11:59 PM. Shooting will be limited to the times between these dates. All entries must consist of images taken by the Photographers on Registered Land owned by their Landowner(s) during the above-mentioned contest shooting period.

B2) SETTING CORRECT TIME AND DATE

Prior to shooting your first photo, verify that your camera is set to the correct date and time.

B3) PHOTO FORMATS – CAREFULLY READ THIS SECTION

For the purpose of this section and those that follow in these rules, “RAW” shall refer to RAW images captured as the generally native digital file for varying brands of cameras (Example: Nikon = NEF, Canon = CRW or CR2, etc.) and to DNG files captured by drone mounted cameras. If you have questions regarding photo formats, please contact the Wildlife in Focus office.

Photographers are required to shoot photographs in FULL RAW (maximum RAW resolution for the camera in use) format/mode. A RAW file contains data that has not been compressed, encrypted or processed in any manner. The judges use the RAW files to ensure integrity of the contest. As will be discussed in D) SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE CONTEST, each image entered will have a RAW file, a TIFF and a JPG. The TIFF is generated from the RAW file and the JPG is generated from the TIFF.

B4) ALLOWABLE CAMERAS

Photographers may use any digital camera capable of photographing in RAW format or DNG format (for example, drone mounted cameras), with a minimum of twelve (12) megapixel resolution. Mirrorless, Point and Shoot, etc. are allowed if they can, and are set, to shoot in RAW or DNG format.

B5) OTHER SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT

- (1) The use of automatic shutter activation devices, such as triggers (photo traps), game cameras, lightning triggers and intervalometers, and laser beam devices, are allowed so long as entries do not violate any of the ethical statements or mentioned below in B7 “ETHICS”.
- (2) Drones may be used for capturing images in the Drone Category and in the Video Category (Division E Special Division); however, Texas law generally prohibits use of drone mounted cameras as a means of capturing wildlife photographs.
- (3) Failure to comply with FAA, Texas Parks and Wildlife and contest rules regarding drone operation will result in disqualification of submitted images.
- (4) Depending upon the status of the drone photographers’ operational licensing, drone photographs or videos may not be ineligible for monetary reward, however, the amount assigned to the placement of the image will be considered in calculating overall contest standing.

B6) DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

These Categories do not necessarily represent biological classifications; instead, they are a balance of biological and geographical appearances in the contest counties. See **ATTACHMENT B** for a list of the Division and Categories. A maximum of 2 images can be entered per a category (with total limits defined in A4 (Registration Fees). Note: This list is subject to change, so be sure you have the latest list before the contest begins by contacting the WIF office or website at Wildlifeinfoocus.org.

B7) ETHICS

The first priority of the contest is conservation of wildlife and its critical habitat. Contestants must minimize disturbance of wildlife and habitat. Welfare of the subject is the foremost consideration. No photographs of tame or caged animals will be allowed. No animal (including insects) may be trapped, restrained, or controlled in any manner. No bird nests nor mammal or reptile dens may be photographed. No animal may be transported from outside the registered property to be photographed on that property during the contest period, even if it might be found in the wild on that property. Judges will be directed to disqualify photographs of animals that appear to be stressed or appear in situations or habitats uncharacteristic of the animals' typical behavior.

B8) SUBJECT MATTER

All images must be composed of wildlife and habitat found on the Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Partnership. Photographs taken from land other than Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Partnership will be disqualified.

The primary wildlife subject in images must be alive and unconstrained. Entries that include images of animals transported from outside the Registered Land to the Registered Land for purposes of obtaining a photograph during the Contest Period will be disqualified and, upon a finding of the Board, could result in contest disqualification of the photographer.

Any vegetation used as a prop must be naturally occurring both in the county (counties) of the Registered Land and on the Registered Land.

C) PROCESSING PHOTOGRAPHS (ALLOWABLE DIGITAL ADJUSTMENTS)

C1) ADDING AND SUBTRACTING FROM AN IMAGE

All photos must accurately reflect the subject and background as it appeared in the viewfinder. **Nothing** can be added to an image and aside from the elimination of dust spots from a dirty sensor, correction of lens vignetting and allowable cropping.

C2) CROPPING

Cropping is allowable, but the image cannot be cropped such that less than 50% of the original RAW image remains in the cropped file (in megapixels) or such that the TIFF file size is less than 20 megabytes (JPEGs are then generated from the cropped TIFF files).

C3) TONAL AND COLOR ADJUSTMENTS

Photographers may make tonal and color corrections at their discretion in submitted images. Examples include brightness, contrast, saturation, hue, shadow, highlights, and other such adjustments. Complete color change of elements within the image is not allowed. For example, changing the color of a flower from blue to violet or from orange to red is not allowed.

C4) BACKGROUND BLURRING

Blurring of background during processing is not allowed. For example, masking a portion of the photo and applying a blur effect or using a blurring brush is NOT allowable. Blurring of the background by selecting the correct aperture size, distance to the subject and focal length of the lens is a skill that can be used by photographers to blur the background during the shooting of the image rather than the processing stage.

C5) SHARPENING

Moderate sharpening of JPEG's is allowed at the photographer's discretion. DO NOT sharpen TIFF images. The publisher will apply appropriate sharpening to the TIFF images for printing purposes

C6) REMOVAL OF IMAGE "NOISE"

Use of denoising software is allowed. However, denoising can result in significant degradation of image quality and should be used sparingly.

C7) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROCESSING

Processing images has become a fundamental skill for photographers in the digital age. As such, it is required that the photographers process their own photos (they are allowed to get assistance but cannot simply send off their images to a third party for processing).

C8) EXCEPTIONS

Image Stitching, HDR and Focus Stacking are allowed for categories within the SPECIAL DIVISION "E" (**ATTACHMENT B**).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The WIF staff, designated volunteers and/or judges may compare the Photographer's final submissions to their 'RAW' format digital images to verify that only allowable cropping and manipulations occurred. Any unallowable manipulations will result in that image being disqualified.

The judges will diminish the score of photographs that are over-sharpened, over-saturated or have been over manipulated. The photo manipulation philosophy should be the same as the "getting a haircut philosophy" ...the idea is to look like you do not need a haircut, NOT like you just got one.

D) SUBMITTING ENTRIES

D1) SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Entries may be received at the location below beginning June 15th, 2023, but no later than 5:00 PM, June 28, 2023. Entries should be submitted on one Flash Drive or by upload via E-Folder. E-folder will be provided and sent to participants via email before June 15th, 2023. Email submissions will not be accepted. Flash Drives will not be returned. Entries not received by the deadline will not be accepted. WIF does, however, reserve the right to extend the deadline at its discretion.

Please mail or hand-deliver flash drive submissions to:

Wildlife in Focus
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

WIF takes reasonable precautions to protect the images submitted for judging. If any of the flash drives are received damaged, the Photographer will be notified immediately.

WIF urges Photographers to ensure that their images are viewable, and all files are capable of opening on a computer that is not the Photographer's primary computer.

If the WIF Staff, designated volunteers, and/or judges are unable to open any files (JPEG and/or TIFF, RAW files) the Photographer will be notified. The submitted image will be ruled defective and disqualified. If this were to occur, the Photographer may appeal this decision to the Rules Committee and request to cure the defective image but not replace it if judging has not commenced.

D2) THE THREE FILE TYPES FOR EACH ENTRY

Each entry will consist of the original RAW file, an optimized TIFF file, and a JPEG file that will be used for judging purposes.

RAW Files: Your RAW file will be the original image that your camera captured at the time the photograph was taken. Your entry RAW files may be optimized with the photographer's software and can be renamed as noted below under paragraph D: "Naming Files", before converting to a TIFF file. These renamed RAW files will still carry the RAW three-digit extension that was assigned by your camera and all the other so-called "Meta Data" which will be used for auditing purposes. Your RAW image can now be saved as a TIFF file for the next step below. **Make sure that you make back-ups of your original RAW files and keep them on a separate drive.**

TIFF Files: Your TIFF files will be converted/created from your renamed RAW files and will now have a file extension of “.tif.” You can now further optimize these TIFF images using the manipulations allowed in the submission rules noted above. TIFF images must be submitted using the following requirements:

- a. Cropped Image File Size. Outputted TIFF may be no less than **20** Megabytes (No resampling/upsizing to create larger original files).
- b. Adobe RGB Color Space.
- c. 400 ppi
- d. Flattened. (No layers)
- e. No sharpening. (Also suggested by Commercial Printers)

JPEG Files: Your JPEG files will be converted from your optimized TIFF file. This JPEG file is the file that the judges will view on a calibrated monitor for scoring purposes and thus should be optimized and sharpened for that purpose only. JPEG files should be submitted with the following settings:

- a. Convert from Adobe RGB to sRGB Color Space.
- b. Leave at the same ppi resolution as the TIFF file; 400 ppi.
- c. Resize to **2000 pixels** on the long axis.
- d. Sharpen as desired or necessary; be careful not to over-sharpen.
- e. Save at highest JPEG quality. (Level 12, low compression)

D2) NAMING FILES

Each photographer will be assigned a random identification code which they will need to include in their file names to avoid any possible duplicate files. This number will be confidential and will not be released to the judges to protect our double-blind judging procedure. Please do not share your identification code with anyone.

Your files should be labeled as follows:

1. Example: A single image of a bird of prey. (VERY IMPORTANT: use the dash/hyphen and **not** the underscore/underline as shown within the naming characters with no blank spaces anywhere in the file name. These punctuation errors will affect the way the files/images are sorted for Judging.)

RAW:	A01-1-000.CR2 (Canon RAW file extension as example.)
TIFF:	A01-1-000.tif
JPEG:	A01-1-000.jpg

- a) "A01-" = Division and Category. In this example "A" represents "BIRDS" Division, "01" represents "BIRDS OF PREY I" Category. See **ATTACHMENT B** Wildlife Entry Category for Division and Category Breakdowns.
- b) "1-" = Your first entry in this Category (ex. A01-1-000). Put a "2" (ex. A01-2-000) for your second entry and "3" (ex. A01-3-000) on your third entry for this Category.
- c) "000" = Random Identification Code (three-digit code assigned to each team). This Code will should be placed in the initial Entry Folder as well as every file/image to be entered in the contest.
- d) ".CR2", ".tif", and ".jpg" = The extension for a file type. Note: Different camera models will have a different RAW extension. These extensions will be automatically applied by your software when you save them for that specific file format designation.

Once you have chosen all your images to be submitted to the contest for judging and renamed them properly, place them all in one folder named with your ID Code, Photographer name, and Landowner name as shown in **ATTACHMENT F** for file structure. If you renamed all your images correctly, they sort themselves in this one folder by Division, Category, and ID Code.

For additional File Naming Information, please review **ATTACHMENT F**.

D3) CATEGORIES

Divisions and Categories are shown in **ATTACHMENT B**. The decision of which division/category a photograph is entered is the sole discretion and responsibility of the photographer. Neither handlers nor judges will move any submission to any other division/category. Any Image entered in an incorrect division/category will be disqualified.

Where an image includes an endangered species, the Photographer must notify the Landowner of the presence of said species on his/her property. The Landowner has the right to refuse the use of the image as part of the entry.

For photos containing multiple species, it is the Photographer's responsibility to choose which animal is the subject of the photograph. The other animal(s) in the photograph is/are considered incidental. This information should be noted on the Image Comment Form (**ATTACHMENT D**) which should be included with your submission package. The Image Comment Form can also be used to explain techniques used in Category E-12, or any other pertinent information.

D4) SIMILAR IMAGES

Photographers may enter only **one** (1) of a group of VERY similar images as an entry. The same subject photographed at essentially the same time, lighting, location, and angle of view and with the same or nearly the same focal length lens is essentially the same image and should not be entered in the contest. This rule is here to avoid a situation where a photographer gets an incredible shot and enters essentially the same shot multiple times hoping for multiple entries placing in a category or a win in multiple categories with the same shot. If the same subject is taken with a telephoto lens for a portrait and then a wide-angle lens to show the subject in the environment, it is NOT essentially the same image and, therefore, can be submitted.

D5) MODEL RELEASE FORM

A signed Model Release Form (**ATTACHMENT E**) will be required from each person that can be identified in any image. This should be included in your submission package.

D6) SUBMISSION PACKAGE

The entry package must be submitted (mailed or hand delivered) in a 9 X12 or larger envelope to:

**Wildlife in Focus
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120
Corpus Christi, TX 78401**

The Submission Package should include:

- a) One Flash Drive with entries (flash drive marked with 3-digit Photographer ID)
- b) Model Releases (if necessary) as described in D5
- c) Image Comment Forms (if necessary) as described in D3

D7) PUBLIC SHOWING OF ENTRIES

Images that have been entered into the contest **MUST** be withheld from public showing (particularly social media) until **AFTER** the Photo Premier and Awards Banquet. The public's first opportunity to see the Contest Images should be at this gathering (to promote the largest audience possible).

E) GENERAL INFORMATION

E1) JUDGES and JUDGING

An independent team of judges will judge eligible images. Judges will be instructed to select the best photos based on photographic merit. Photographs will be judged on technical quality, composition, originality, and artistic merit. Special consideration might be given to wildlife not depicted in previous editions of *Wildlife in Focus I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, or IX* (the resulting books of previous Contests). If digital optimization is overdone or poorly done (including over-saturation and over-sharpening), it will reflect poorly on the image's score. All Images judged will receive an initial score of ZERO (0) to FIVE (5) points for photographic merit. The panel of judges will choose Category and Division winners. Difficulty in obtaining the photo and the rareness of the subject will only be considered to break a tie. The contest is structured so that the team with the most accumulated money wins the grand prizes. Decisions of the judges are final.

The WIF Photo Contest has in place a procedure of double-blind judging which is designed to ensure the integrity of the contest. The designated submission requirements assure that the Photographer and Landowner identities of all

images will be anonymous to the judges at all times. Therefore, it is important that all participants follow the submission instructions carefully.

E2) OWNERSHIP and USE OF IMAGES

Images remain the property of the Photographer. However, WIF reserves and retains the rights to use all the images submitted as part of any WIF photography contest, winning or not, **indefinitely** for all WIF purposes, including, but not limited to, production of brochures, advertising promotions, education, exhibits, commercials, social media, and any other use as it pertains to the mission and promotion of WIF, and its programs existing today or established in the future.

WIF reserves and retains the right to market and sell both prints and images on merchandise of all images, winning or not, submitted as part of any WIF photography contest. Net proceeds after deducting production costs will be split 60% to WIF and 40% to the Photographer. WIF has sole discretion to set the price of the prints it sells. This is not an exclusive right and Photographers may also sell their own prints, **but only after the Awards Banquet**.

Photographers must supply the Landowner with JPEG copies of all submitted photographs in whatever media agreeable by all parties. **Only those photographs approved by the Landowner may be submitted for judging.** Photos submitted will be assumed to have been approved by the landowner for judging. WIF bears no responsibility for verification of that fact.

It is customary for photographers to allow the landowner use of photos taken on their property for personal display and reproduction. WIF does not intervene in these negotiations. WIF recommends participants decide before final registration how images taken on their property can be used by the landowner.

E3) DISPUTE RESOLUTION

By entering the Contest, each entrant agrees that any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to participation in the contest shall be settled by arbitration, before a single arbitrator, administered by the American Arbitration Association under its commercial arbitration rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The locale of the arbitration shall be in Corpus Christi, Texas, and shall not be subject to transfer to another venue or locale for any reason. By entering the contest, each entrant further agrees that he/she will not commence or participate in any litigation or proceeding, either as a Category representative or as a Category member, and that he/she will never seek to obtain from sponsor awards for, and he/she hereby waives all rights to claim, statutory, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorney's fees, other than actual out-of-pocket expenses (i.e., costs associated with entering this contest).

E4) GOVERNING LAW

This Contest is controlled by WIF, its offices located within the State of Texas, United States of America. The entrant does not have to be a resident of Texas. As each state has laws and regulations that may differ from those of Texas, by entering this Contest you agree that the statutes and laws of the State of Texas, without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof, will apply to the Contest, these Official Rules, the entire relationship between WIF and the entrants, and any legal proceeding arising there from (whether grounded in tort, contract, law or equity). In the case of a dispute, subject to the provisions of the Dispute Resolution paragraph above (E3), you agree any litigation arising between the parties hereto shall be brought only in the state or federal courts having subject matter jurisdiction in Nueces County, Texas. You hereby irrevocably and unconditionally consent to the jurisdiction of any such court and hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waive any defense of an inconvenient forum to the maintenance of any action or proceeding in any such court, any objection to venue with respect to any such action or proceeding, and any right of jurisdiction on account of the place of residence or domicile of any party thereto.

E5) TAXES AND FEES

The winner shall be solely responsible for all taxes and fees, including attorney fees and fees of any kind imposed upon or arising out of successful participation in the Contest. Entrants will pay their own federal income taxes and any excise tax or personal property tax. Winning participants will be required to fill out a W-9 form to receive a check for any prize money as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

E6) LAWS

These are the WIF Photo Contest General Rules and Definitions. This Contest is subject to all federal, state and municipal laws and regulations. These Contest Rules are subject to change without notice in compliance with any applicable federal, state and municipal laws, or the policy of any other entity having jurisdiction over WIF.

E7) TERMINATION

Subject to the jurisdiction of Nueces County, Texas, WIF reserves the right to amend or terminate all or any portion of this Contest at any time for any reason without prior notice

IMPORTANT NOTE: WIF reserves the right to modify these rules, including prize amounts, wildlife categories, and other aspects of the contest at its discretion. Please check with WIF office to verify latest rules prior to commencing photography.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2023 CONTEST!

ATTACHMENT A

PHOTOGRAPHER CHECKLIST

ENTERING THE CONTEST

- Submit a completed registration form to WIF and have paid in full the applicable Registration Fee on or before January 11, 2023.

SHOOTING PHOTOGRAPHS

- Prior to shooting your first photo, verify that your camera is set to the correct date and time.
- Shooting begins Friday, January 14, 2023, at 12:01 AM and ends Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 11:59 PM.
- Photographers are required to shoot in RAW format. A RAW file contains data that has not been compressed, encrypted or processed in any manner
- All images must be composed of wildlife and habitat found and photographed on Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Team.

PROCESSING PHOTOGRAPHS

- All photos must accurately reflect the subject and background as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing can be added to an image and, aside from the elimination of dust spots from a dirty sensor, normal cropping, nothing can be taken away.
- Cropping is allowable, but no more than 50% of the original RAW file may be cropped out (at least 50% must remain) and the image cannot be cropped such that the TIFF file size is less than 20 megabytes (JPEGs are then generated from the cropped TIFF files).
- Photographers may make tonal and color corrections at their discretion. Examples include brightness, contrast, saturation, hue, shadow, highlights, and other such adjustments. Complete color change of elements within the image is not allowed. For example, changing the color of a flower from blue to violet or from orange to red is not allowed.
- Blurring of background during processing is not allowed.
- Moderate sharpening of JPEG's is allowed at the photographer's discretion. DO NOT sharpen TIFF images. The publisher will apply appropriate sharpening to the TIFF images for printing purposes
- Processing images has become a fundamental skill for photographers in the digital age. As such, it is required that the photographers process their own photos (they are allowed to get assistance but cannot simply send off their images to a third party for processing).

SUBMITTING ENTRIES

- Entries may be submitted beginning June 15th, 2023, p.m. but no later than 5:00 PM, June 28, 2023. Mailed entries must be postmarked before or by June 28th, 2023, to be included in the contest. Entries postmarked after June 28th, 2023 will not be accepted. Entries should be submitted on one Flash Drive or by E-Folder (No email submissions, etc.). Flash Drives will not be returned. Entries not received by the deadline will not be accepted. Flash drive entries can be mailed or delivered to WIF at the address below:

Wildlife in Focus
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

- Each entry will consist of the original RAW file, an optimized TIFF file, and a JPEG file that will be used for judging purposes.

- Each photographer will be assigned a random identification code which they will need to include in their file names to avoid any possible duplicate files. For specific details see “D2 Naming Files/Images” and **ATTACHMENT F**. This number will be confidential and will not be released to the judges in order to protect our double-blind judging procedure. Please do not share your identification code with anyone.
- Once you have chosen all your images to be submitted to the contest for judging and renamed them properly, place them all in one (1) folder named with your ID Code, Photographer name, and Landowner name as shown in **ATTACHMENT F** for file structure.
- A signed Model Release Form **ATTACHMENT E** will be required from each person that can be identified in any image. This should be included in your submission package
- The Submission Package should include:
 - a) One Flash Drive with entries (flash drive marked with 3-digit Photographer ID)
 - b) Model Releases (if necessary) as described in D5
 - c) Image Comment Forms (if necessary) as described in D3
- Images that have been entered into the contest **MUST** be withheld from public showing (particularly social media) until **AFTER** the Awards Banquet

ATTACHMENT B

2023 WILDLIFE ENTRY CATEGORIES BY DIVISION

Listed are entry categories and examples of what might be in each category. Examples do not exclude other members of each category and do not necessarily represent biological classes. Please email the Wildlife in Focus office with any questions at info@wildlifeinfocus.org. Decisions made by the Rules Committee and the WIF Board of Directors are final.

FIVE DIVISIONS - 50 TOTAL CATEGORIES:

- A. Birds**
- B. Mammals**
- C. Invertebrates**
- D. Reptiles and Amphibians**
- E. Special**

BIRDS DIVISION - 17 Categories

- A01 Birds of Prey I** Kites, Eagles, Hawks, Kestrels, Harriers,
- A02 Birds of Prey II** Falcons, Caracaras, Owls and Vultures, etc.
- A03 Wading Birds:** Herons, Bitterns, and Egrets (Including Cattle Egrets), Storks, Ibis, Spoonbills, Cranes Including Whooping Cranes), etc.
- A04 Waterfowl:** Geese, Ducks, Swans
- A05 Gallinules, Rails, Grebes etc.**
- A06 Shorebirds:** Stilts and Avocets, Oystercatchers, Plovers, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, Dowitchers, Snipes, Killdeer, Yellowlegs, etc.
- A07 Orioles, Tanagers, and Thrushes:** Meadowlarks, Robins, Bluebirds
- A08 Flycatchers and Kingbirds:** Kiskadee, Phoebes, and Pewees
- A09 Jays, Kingfishers and Crows**
- A10 Cuckoos and Woodpeckers:** Roadrunners, Anis
- A11 Hummingbirds**
- A12 Turkey**
- A13 Doves, Quail and Prairie Chickens**
- A14 Mockingbirds, Thrashers and Shrikes:** Wrens, Catbirds
- A15 Buntings and Cardinals** Waxwings, Pyrrhuloxias
- A16 Warblers** (Including: Parulas, Yellowthroats, Redstarts, Ovenbird and Waterthrush)
- A17 All Other Birds:** Vireos, Kinglets, Chickadees, Finches (Including: Dickcissel), Pipits, Titmice, Chats and Gnatcatchers, Loons, Nuthatches, Pelicans, Anhingas, Cormorants, Gulls, Skimmers, Terns, Blackbirds, Grackles. Sparrows, Towhees

B. MAMMALS DIVISION - 7 Categories

- B01 Deer**
- B02 Rodents:** Squirrels, Beaver, Mice, Rats, Nutria, etc.
- B03 Rabbits and Hares**
- B04 Wild Cats**
- B05 Coyote and Fox**
- B06 Raccoon, Coati, Ringtails and Mustelids:** Skunks, Weasels, etc.
- B07 All other Mammals.** Armadillos, Javelina, Wild Exotics, Bats, Opossum, Feral Hogs, etc. (NO DOMESTIC ANIMALS ARE ALLOWED.)

C. INVERTEBRATES DIVISION - 4 Categories

C01 Caterpillars, Butterflies and Moths

C02 Arachnids: Spiders, Scorpions, Ticks, Mites, etc.

C03 Dragonflies and Damselflies

C04 All Other Insects, Arthropods and Snails: Bees, Wasps and Ants Flies, Beetles, Grasshoppers, Walkingsticks, Mantids, Cicadas, Crickets, Katydid, Stink Bugs, Aphids, Snails, Centipedes, Millipedes, Crayfish, Land Crabs, etc.

D. REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS DIVISION - 4 Categories

D01 Turtles and Tortoises

D02 Frogs and Toads

D03 Snakes, Lizards and Skinks: Coral snakes, Rattlesnakes, Cat-eye Snakes, Black-striped Snakes, Mexican Hognose Snakes, Spiny Lizards, Anoles, Horned Toads, etc.

D04 All Other Reptiles and Amphibians: Alligators, Salamanders, Newts, Siren, etc.

E. SPECIAL DIVISION - 18 Categories - (Image Stitching, High Dynamic Range and Focus Stacking are allowed for all the Categories in this Division only. Submission should include the representative RAW file or files)

E01 Action – Birds

E02 Action – Mammals

E03 Camouflage/Mimicry*

E04 Artistic Shadows and Reflections*

E05 Native Plants/Wildflowers*

E06 Landscapes*

E07 Weather-Seasonal, Thunderstorms, Rainbows*

E08 Wetlands/Water Scene*

E09 Sunrise/Sunset*

E10 Night Photography*

E11 Full Frame* - Photos submitted in this may be a capture of any subject that represents nature. Photos may be processed as allowed in these rules except for a “no-cropping” constraint. Photos in this category may not be cropped at all and must fully represent the complete RAW image as captured

E12 “35-55”* - Images submitted in this category must be captured inclusively at focal lengths of 35mm - 55mm.

E13 Land Operations* - This category is meant to capture realistic farm, ranch, and research activities which may or may not include livestock and/or people.
A signed model release form (Attachment E) is required from each person identifiable in the photographs.

E14 Times Past/History*

E15 Drone Photographs* (Note: Wildlife may not appear in this category)

E16 Video* (including timelapse) * 30 seconds - 2.5 minutes - Cellphones may be used to capture video for this category. All videos must be captured in “landscape” format. Videos must not contain copyrighted music. Wildlife may not appear in videos taken with drone mounted cameras.

E17 Black and White*: Monochrome photos only

E18 Panoramas* : No less than two no more than five images.

*** Wildlife need not be present in photographs submitted for (*) marked categories only!**

ATTACTMENT C
MONETARY PRIZE PURSE
\$35,000 GOAL

AWARD - 90% REGISTRATIONS COLLECTED UP TO \$35,000

Prize money will be split evenly between the winning landowner(s) and photographer(s) team. Final monetary distribution is subject to change at the discretion of WIF Board.

GRAND PRIZE winners are determined based on winning tallies accumulated from category through division. Division winners are determined based on tallies accumulated through the category levels.

\$5,000 - Grand Prize

1st Place	\$2,000
2nd Place	\$1,500
3rd Place	\$1,000
4th Place	\$500
5th Place	\$250

\$2,625 - Division Winners - All 5 divisions

1st Place	\$200
2nd Place	\$150
3rd Place	\$100
4th Place	\$50
5th Place	\$25

\$27,250 - Category Winners - 50 Categories

1st Place	\$175
2nd Place	\$150
3rd Place	\$100
4th Place	\$75
5th Place	\$45

Judges Choice	\$100
Peoples Favorite	\$100

(Peoples Favorite chosen during Awards Banquet)

ATTACHMENT D IMAGE COMMENT FORM

ID Code:
Subject of photograph: _____

Division and Category # _____

Comments: _____

Image Comment Form

ID Code:
Subject of photograph: _____

Division and Category # _____

Comments: _____

Image Comment Form

ID Code:
Subject of photograph: _____

Division and Category # _____

Comments: _____

ATTACHMENT E MODEL RELEASE FORM

Contest Photo Name _____

I, _____ (the models name)

do hereby give, _____ (photographers name) and the Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest and his/her assigns, licensees and legal representatives the irrevocable right to use my picture, portrait or photograph in all forms of media and in all manner, including electronic media and/or composite representations, for advertising, trade, or any lawful purposes and I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written copy that may be created in connection therewith.

I am at least 18 years of age and I have read this release and am fully familiar with its contents.

Signed: _____ Witnessed: _____

Address: _____ Address _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

*MINOR CONSENT (if applicable for minor)

I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve the foregoing and waive any rights in the photographs.

Signed: _____ Witnessed: _____

Address: _____ Address _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT F

File Structure for Submitting Images (NAMING)

NOTE: As shown below, create **one folder** for all your contest entries (**no sub-folders**). Correct naming of each image using a dash (-) and not an underline (_), or underscore, is absolutely critical for proper sorting and selecting the images for judging. **Double check this closely and back-up your files for safe keeping.**

000-Photographers Name-Property Name

A01-1-000.RAW (CR2 for Canon, etc.)

A01-1-000.tif

A01-1-000.jpg

A02-1-000.CR2

A02-1-000.tif

A02-1-000.jpg

A02-2-000.CR2

A02-2-000.tif

A02-2-000.jpg

A02-3-000.CR2

A02-3-000.tif

A02-3-000.jpg

A22-1-000.CR2

A22-1-000.tif

A22-1-000.jpg

B01-1-000.CR2

B01-1-000.tif

B01-1-000.jpg

C05-1-000.CR2

C05-1-000.tif

C05-1-000.jpg

D03-1-000.CR2

D03-1-000.tif

D03-1-000.jpg

E01-1-000.CR2

E01-1-000.tif

E01-1-000.jpg

E08-1-000.CR2

E08-1-000.tif

E08-1-000.jpg

E08-2-000.CR2

E08-2-000.tif

E08-2-000.jpg

E012-1-000.CR2

E012-1-000.tif

E012-1-000.jpg

(And so on to include all your entries....

100 for "All Category" entries and

60 for "20 or less Category" entries.)

Category ID and Numbering

Image Division/Category Identification Code.
Image entry number (Up to 3 per Category).

Three Digit ID Code Number

RAW

- For Auditing only -

Created in/by the camera. Each Camera Maker has its own unique name for RAW:
Canon=CR2, etc.

Rename RAW file as shown to left and it will stay with the file thru each format change.

TIFF

- For Printing only -

Created from the above RAW with any editing software. No sharpening. Cropped TIFF File size must be greater than 18 MB, Adobe RGB color space, 400ppi, flatten (no layers) and convert to 8 bit. Save as TIFF, it should already have the correct name from renaming process in the RAW file above.

JPEG

- For Judging only -

- Created from the above TIFF with same adjustments as above plus convert to sRGB, resize long side to **2000** pixels, sharpen, and save to highest quality level. No name change should be necessary as carried from TIFF file.

ATTACHMENT G RELEASE OF LIABILITY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF DANGERS, RISKS AND HAZARDS OF RECREATIONAL USE OF LANDOWNER PROPERTY

I hereby acknowledge that, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the 2023 Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest, I have knowingly and willingly entered into a photography use agreement by and between myself and _____, (hereinafter the Owner, whether one or more), effective _____ and ending _____. I understand the terms, provisions and conditions of that agreement and agree to abide by its terms, provisions and conditions.

I further acknowledge and understand that no warranty, either express or implied, is made by the Owner as to suitability of the land for photography or the condition of the land located in _____ County, Texas, or of any roads, buildings, gates or other improvements located thereon. This document serves to warn me that dangerous conditions, risks and hazards do exist. My presence and activities on the _____ property expose both me and my property to dangerous conditions, risks and hazards, including but not limited to: poisonous snakes, insects and spiders; blinds and tree stands, whether or not erected by Owner; erosion and general condition of the land, both on and off roadways or senderos, creating rough, hazardous and dangerous driving and walking conditions; animals both wild and domestic that maybe diseased and/or potentially dangerous; deep water; persons with firearms both on or off the _____ property; and the use of vehicles.

I am aware that the _____ property is subject to other use agreements, including but not limited to hunting, camping and other activities by the Owner and its guests. I am further aware that landowners may live/visit the property full-time and have free access to all parts of the land. I hereby state that I am aware of these facts and expressly assume all such dangers, risks and hazards.

I further acknowledge that under the agreement with the Owner, the access I have been granted is for myself only and for no other parties without the express, written consent of the Owner. I also acknowledge that under the agreement I will be issued keys and or gate codes to one or more gates into the _____ property, and I have agreed to return these keys to the Owner by no later than _____ without having made copies of the same.

In consideration for the right to enter the _____ property, I hereby release and agree to protect, indemnify and hold harmless the Owner and his or her respective heirs, agents, employees and assigns from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action and damages, including attorneys' fees, resulting from any accident, incident or occurrence arising out of, incidental to or in any way resulting from my use of the _____ property and any improvements located thereon, whether or not caused by the Owner's negligence or gross negligence. This release applies during the time that I am permitted on the _____ property, which is the same as the time period first stated above. I hereby further covenant and agree that I, my heirs, successors and assigns, including any guests invited by me, whether or not permitted by the Owner, will not make any claim or institute any suit or action at law or in equity against the Owner or his or her respective heirs, agents, representatives, employees, successors or assigns or against the _____ property by reason of conditions of the _____ property or arising out of the activities occurring thereon, including my use of the property.

As used in this release, the terms *I*, *my person* and *myself* include minors in my care while on the premises of the _____ property.

Dated and signed this _____ day of _____,

Photographers)

Landowner(s)

ATTACHMENT H

FIELD GUIDES AND SUGGESTED WEB SITES FOR USE IN IDENTIFICATION

* indicates the ultimate reference

BIRDS:

*Sibley's Field Guide to Birds
American Bird Conservancy's Field Guide

MAMMALS:

*Davis Mammals of Texas, Texas A&M Press
Petersen's Mammal Field Guide

INVERTIBRATE:

*Kaufman Guide to the Insects of North America
www.butterfliesandmoths.org
<http://bugguide.net>
Butterflies of North America, Kaufman Focus Guides
A Pocket Guide to Insects, Patrick Hook
A Pocket Guide to Butterflies and Moths, Elizabeth Balmer
Petersen's First Guides – Butterflies and Moths

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

*Lone Star Field Guide, third edition, Texas Snakes by Alan Tennant
[Http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/](http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/)
Snakes – A Golden Guide from St. Martin's Press

PLANTS:

*Field Guide to the Broad-Leaved Herbaceous Plants of South Texas by James H. Everitt, D. Lynn Drawe and Robert I. Lonard
*Trees, Shrubs & Cacti of South Texas by James H. Everitt, D. Lynn Drawe and Robert I. Lonard
Wildflowers of Texas by Geyata Ajilvsgi
Plants of Webb County