

Photography Contest Rules

Welcome to our photography contest! We are excited to see the Driftless Region through your lens and to celebrate the art of photography. To ensure a fair and enjoyable experience for all participants, please carefully read and adhere to the following rules and regulations. By entering the contest, you agree to comply with these rules.

Eligibility

1. The contest is open to all photographers, amateurs and professional, from any county; however, photos must have been taken in the Driftless Region of northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota or western Wisconsin.
2. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age. Minors may participate with the written consent of a parent or guardian.

Submission Guidelines

1. Each entrant may submit up to two printed photographs.
2. Photographs must be original works and have been taken by the entrant in northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota or western Wisconsin.
3. The photo itself must be at least 5x7 inches. The maximum size, including the mat, cannot exceed 12x16 inches. All photos must be matted or mounted for stability.
4. Framed photos, including floating frames are not allowed. Do not attach any hanging devices to the back of the photo. Do not cover photos with plastic, acetate or glass.
5. Dates on the front of the photo are not appropriate, and points will be deducted. Signatures, entrant names or business logos on the front of any photograph will result in disqualification.
6. Photographs must have a **fully completed** entry slip attached to the back.
7. Entries need to be delivered to the Winneshiek County Fair Community Building on **July 1 between noon and 4 p.m. with an attached official entry slip indicating the entrants name, category and details of entry, address, phone number. Forms**

Matting and Mounting Guidelines:

All photos must be matted or mounted on a rigid board for stability.

Flush mounted: no mounting board showing; usually done on foam core.

Flat-mounted: photo is adhered to a solid piece of appropriate mount board.

Window mat: a hole is cut in the photographic mat and the mat is placed over the surface of the photo with a backer board behind the photo. The use of poster board is not an appropriate mat, but poster board can be used as a backer.

available on Winneshiek County Fair website and at the Decorah Leader office, 110 Washington Street, Suite 4, Decorah, Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00.

8. Photos can be picked up the last day of the fair. Photos will be available from 2-4 p.m. on July 12 in the Community Building

Themes and Categories

Entrants may submit their photographs for consideration in the following categories:

1. Driftless Wild: nature, wildlife, animals and flowers of the Driftless Region.
2. Portraits and People of the Driftless.
3. Destination Driftless: landscapes, architecture, attractions or activities which define the Driftless Region.

Entrants must specify only one category for each photograph.

Judging Criteria

Photographs will be judged based on the following criteria:

1. Creativity and originality
2. Composition
3. Technical quality
4. Relevance to the theme
5. Emotional impact

All decisions made by the judges are final and binding.

Prizes

1. Grand prize: \$50, a 12-month subscription to the *Decorah Leader* and the winning photo will be featured in the *Decorah Leader* newspaper.
2. First prize in each category: \$25, a 12-month subscription to the *Decorah Leader* and a certificate of achievement.
3. Runner-up prize in each category: \$15, a 12-month subscription to the *Decorah Leader* and a certificate of achievement.

Usage Rights

1. Entrants retain the copyright to their photographs.
2. By entering the contest, participants grant the *Decorah Leader* and Winneshiek County Ag Association exclusive license to use the submitted photographs for promotional purposes, including but not limited to, social media, website and print materials.

Disqualification

1. Entries which do not adhere to the submission guidelines will be disqualified.
2. Any form of plagiarism or copyright infringement will result in immediate disqualification.
3. The use of excessive digital manipulation or photo editing which alters the reality of the image will lead to disqualification. The Winneshiek County Fair and Enterprise Media/*Decorah Leader* reserve the right to review the negative or digital properties of any photo.

Notification of Winners

1. Winners will be posted during the week of the Winneshiek County Fair.
2. The list of winners will be published on the fair website and social media channels as well as in the *Decorah Leader* newspaper.

Agreement to Rules

- By participating in this contest, entrants agree to be fully and unconditionally bound by these rules, and they represent and warrant that they meet the eligibility requirements. Judge's decisions are final.

Thank you for participating in our photography contest. We look forward to seeing your amazing work and wish you the best of luck!

Questions may be directed to Ruth Hageman – Winneshiek County Agriculture Association Director at 563-419-2834 or alruhome@hotmail.com. Or Samantha Ludeking – Decorah Leader at 563-382-4221 or samantha.ludeking@decorahleader.com.