



2021

NATURE'S BEST
PHOTOGRAPHY
INTERNATIONAL
AWARDS
ENTRY GUIDELINES

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2021 NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Start an entry! Deadline to upload photos is 11:59pm EST Nov. 15, 2021

The Nature's Best Photography Editors invite nature photographers from around the globe and at all levels of camera experience to enter photographs and videos (made at any time) in this year's competition. A Judging Panel of experts in photography, nature, and conservation will carefully review all entries and select the finalists based on overall appeal, originality, conformity to rules, and technical quality.

\$20,000 USD IN CASH PRIZES & AWARDS

GRAND PRIZE: \$5,000 USD

Best 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 October 1, 2021. 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

ENTRY FEES

\$30 USD FOR ADULTS | FREE FOR YOUTH (18 or under as of Nov. 15, 2021)

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*). We also accept PayPal. Email amanda@naturesbestphotography.org or call 703-467-9783 (inside the USA) to arrange payment. Leave a detailed message with your phone number and email address clearly stated and we will return your call during business hours: Monday through Thursday from 9-5 EDT.

HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS ONLINE

1. PREPARE YOUR PHOTOS: Save COPIES of your original images as low-resolution JPEGs no smaller than 500K and no larger than 5MB in RGB mode (not CMYK). No watermarks. Name each photo this way:

FirstnameLastname_Subject.jpg (Example: JohnDoe_redfox.jpg)

NOTE: Photographers whose images were taken on DSLR and pass into the semifinal round of judging will be asked to supply high-resolution files and RAW (original) files if available, a complete caption, and camera specifications before final judging. Instructions on how to send hi-res files will be provided.

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

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

After you start an account, you will see the “My Account Dashboard” tool found at the top right on the home page of the NBP website. There you will be able to log in or out, update your contest account information, and go to lists of the contest entries associated with your account.

3. USE THE “MANAGE MY ENTRY” BUTTON at the bottom right of your account home page to get to the Entry Form for the current contest.

4. UPLOAD PHOTOS on the online Entry Form. Log in and select Expertise Level: Adult or Youth (*18 and under as of Nov. 15, 2021*). Adults pay \$30 USD per 25 images, enter as many times as you like with up to 25 images per paid entry; Youth enter free). You will get a confirmation receipt by email with your payment status and a link to return to your entry at any time during the contest to upload images.

IF YOU NEED TO SEND ENTRIES BY MAIL: Email: awards@naturesbestphotography.org

PROCESSING RULES

- All entries must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder.
- Nothing should be added to an image, and nothing should be taken away aside from dust spots and minor adjustments.
- 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 all techniques are fully disclosed on your Entry Form notes and represent how you saw the scene in the field.
- Panoramas, HDR, focus stacking, and in-camera double-exposures are permitted as long as any manipulation is disclosed upon entry of image in contest entry form caption.
- Black and white images are accepted.
- There is no time limitation as to when your images were taken.

ETHICAL RULES

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 flying birds or other fleeing animals, or animals displaying defensive behavior related to the photographer's presence are not permitted. Drones must be at a safe distance from the living subject(s). Please carefully review and follow 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.

QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

Email: awards@naturesbestphotography.org

Or leave a message on our phone line: 703-467-9783

Check for contest updates online:

NATURESBESTPHOTOGRAPHY.ORG/ENTER

SEE CATEGORIES ON NEXT PAGES

2021 CATEGORIES

We are seeking images that convey beauty and diversity of nature. The following categories include dramatic wildlife portraits, interesting animal behavior, nesting, feeding, parenting, wild animal babies, young animals with their families, humorous displays, intimate interactions, macro closeups, sweeping landscapes, and other creative approaches to the art of photography. Select one category from the list below that you feel is best for each of your image entries.

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 large to small, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and insects, photographed in their natural habitat, feeding, hunting, fighting, playing, displaying courtship rituals, adults interacting with young, baby animals, migrations, families, territorial battles, and more.

ANIMAL ANTICS:

Wild animals from any location conveying humorous or surprising behavior in natural settings. Situations may include funny expressions, young 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 design, patterns, color, 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 greater public awareness to conservation issues and recovery strategies around the globe. Please submit up to 25 images and /or video links related to your conservation-driven project(s). Topics include conservation efforts on behalf of a specific species or groups of animals, locations affected by natural disasters, and the process or plans for recovery. We ask that you include a detailed narrative about the project, its current status, and future goals.

LANDSCAPES:

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

2021 CATEGORIES

OCEAN VIEWS:

The realm of the sea photographed above, below, and around 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 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.

VIDEOS | NATURE'S BEST FILMS:

Videographers and filmmakers may submit footage of any of the topics listed above. 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 through YouTube, Vimeo, or other viewing platforms and provide us with the link (and password, if necessary). **NOTE:** Productions that include music must have written permission or rights for distribution online and exhibition display.

YOUTH ENTRANTS:

You must be 18 and under as of November 15, 2021 to qualify for Free entry.

Youth may submit photos and videos in any of the above categories.

Within the Youth Expertise level, there will be one Youth Photographer of the Year and a selection of Highly Honored images for publication.

NOTE: If your image displays a threatened, endangered, or critically endangered species of fauna or flora as listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, please add a link from IUCNREDLIST.ORG showing the status in your entry notes.

NBP AWARDS PHOTO USE AND RIGHTS

Nature's Best Photography (NBP) has a successful 25-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 2021 Nature's Best Photography International Awards. This contest is not a sweepstakes platform, but rather an international public competition that is 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—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group with a mailing address at P.O. Box 9591, McLean, Virginia 22102 USA.

CONTEST: The 2021 Nature's Best Photography International Awards competition.

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, 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, 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 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 that are selected for acknowledgement or award at any level and in any category of the CONTEST, you hereby grant NBP the following right to publish your portrait, your name, occupation, city, state, and country of residence as a selected honoree. To sell or auction prints of the IMAGE in support of the conservation mission, including the CONTEST program. In the event that prints of an entrant's IMAGE are sold, the entrant will receive 40% of the net proceeds from that sale minus the cost of printing and shipping. Certain other commercial opportunities may arise such as further print sales, merchandise, or licensing. 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 NBPI 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.

NBP AWARDS PHOTO USE AND RIGHTS

Continued

WARRANTIES

By entering the CONTEST, you represent and warrant that (a) the IMAGES are your original creations, (b) no part of your IMAGES 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 to use his/her image and if that individual is a minor, that you have received permission from his/her parent or guardian, and (d) no rights in the IMAGES 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 competent jurisdiction located in Fairfax County, Virginia, USA, which 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 or lines, 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