

Florida State Forest Photo Contest Rules

Introduction

The Florida State Forest Photo Contest promotes and enriches photography as a recreational activity for state forest visitors. By participating, contestants agree to the following rules.

Photograph Submission

1. **Entry Form:** Complete, sign, and submit the Photograph Submission form. Minors (under 18 years old) require a parent or legal guardian's signature.
2. **Model Release:** A signed Model Release form, DACS-01330, is required for all photographs featuring individuals. Minors (under 18 years old) require a parent or legal guardian's signature.
3. **Photo Limit:** Contestants may submit up to 5 photographs per contest quarter using a single Photograph Submission form.
4. **Submission:** Photographs and required form(s) are only accepted via email(s) to FFSRecreation@FDACS.gov. Photographs exceeding 50MB need to be submitted in separate email(s). Submissions through photo share links, such as Google Photo Share, are not accepted. Physical media submissions, such as CDs, are no longer accepted.

Photo Requirements

1. **Resolution:** A minimum resolution of 4032 x 3024 (12 MP) is recommended. Acceptable file formats include .jpg, .bmp, .psd, .tif, and any format directly resulted from a digital camera or cell phone.
2. **Edits:** Only minor digital enhancements are permitted, including cropping, contrast, saturation, color correction, and red-eye removal. Significant manipulations or the use of artificial intelligence (AI) will result in disqualification.
3. **Content:** Photos must be taken within a Florida State Forest or its waters within 2 years of submission date.
4. **Additions:** No borders, frames, dates, watermarks, signatures, or copyright images.

Judging and Prizes

1. **Screening:** All submissions will be screened for acceptability according to Department guidelines. Photos must be suitable for publication on a public website or in print media. Content deemed obscene, provocative, or otherwise objectionable will not be accepted. Submissions should demonstrate good stewardship of state lands, showcasing responsible use and conservation of natural resources. Photos depicting activities that harm or disturb the land, water, or ecosystem will not be considered.
2. **Judging:** A panel of Florida Forest Service personnel will judge acceptable submissions.

3. Prizes:

- Quarterly winners: Receive a T-shirt and 3 free nights at one of our primitive campsites (valid for 1 year from notification date).
- Annual winner: Receive a Florida's State Forests Annual Day Use Entrance Pass and a framed winning photograph (24" x 36" or smaller, depending on the photograph's properties).
- Participation: Every participant will receive a participation sticker (one per Quarterly Contest per contestant).

Timeline and Eligibility

1. **Submission Deadline:** Contestants have until the 20th of each quarter-ending month (March, June, September, December) to submit their entries.
2. **Quarterly Winners:** Winners will be notified and posted on social media shortly after voting is completed.
3. **Annual Winner:** The winner will be notified and posted on the contest website and social media pages at the beginning of the year.

Additional Rules and Rights

1. **Employee Participation:** Florida Forest Service employees may submit photos, however, are not eligible to win quarterly or annual contest prizes.
2. **Ownership:** The Department reserves the right to discontinue use of a photograph if ownership is contested.
3. **Copyright:** Photographer retains copyright; Department receives non-exclusive rights to use and publish.
4. **Cropping:** The Department reserves the right to crop photographs as necessary.
5. **Contestants:** Photograph submissions must be taken by the person entering the contest.