



THE OFFICIAL RULES OF THE 2016 FRIENDS OF THE FOX RIVER PHOTO CONTEST

March 9, 2016

Eligibility

The Friends of the Fox River Contest ("Photo Contest") is open only to legal residents of the United States who are at least eighteen (18) years old.

Sponsor

The Photo Contest is sponsored by The Friends of the Fox River, PO Box 5634, Elgin, IL 60121-5634 ("Sponsor"). www.friendsofthefoxriver.org

Entry Period

The Photo Contest begins at **12:00am CST on May 1, 2016** and ends at **12:00am CST on July 1, 2016** (the "Entry Period"). Entries submitted before or after the Entry Period will not be eligible. Sponsor's computer is the official time-keeping device for the Photo Contest.

What to Enter

The mission of the Friends of the Fox River is to preserve, restore and protect the Fox River watershed resources—by connecting people with nature—and we want to see it through your eyes. For our 2016 Photo Contest, we'd like to know: "what does the 'connecting people with nature' mean to you?" Capture those vibrant moments that express what it means to you. It can be natural scenes or it could be scenes of people actually experiencing the river.

To ensure eligibility for the contest all entries must have a resolution of 6 million pixels or greater (6 megapixels) to be made available upon request. Please only submit web resolution files at the time of entry. Higher resolution files of 6 million pixels or greater (6 megapixels) will only be requested should an entry be preselected to be awarded a prize or an honorable mention. All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.

Entries may originate in any format — including, but not limited to digital files, digital prints, color transparencies, color prints, or black and white prints — so long as they are submitted electronically in a .jpeg, .jpg or .gif format. Multiple exposures that have been combined to produce a single "High Dynamic Range" image are acceptable.

Previously published material for which non-exclusive rights were granted may be entered as long as you still maintain the right to grant us a license (see "Your Rights" below). You

must be able to disclose when and where the photo appeared previously to Friends of the Fox River upon request.

If you include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted, and must be able to provide copies of those releases to Friends of the Fox River upon request.

Please do not include the following:

- Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright.
- Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content
- Images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer
- Images that involve putting any individual or animal in danger.

Friends of the Fox River shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.

How to Enter

Registration is \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members (and includes a 1 year membership). Go to "**photo submission website**" at <http://friendsofthefoxriver.org/get-involved/photo-contest>. Fill out online application form and pay registration fee as required. All images must be submitted through our **photo submission website**, including all required fields, including name, email and other information about your photo submission.

You can select an image directly from your computer desktop, or submit images from Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for consideration in the contest. **Digital images that are sent via mail or email will not be accepted.**

You may enter an unlimited number of times, but you may not use an agency or automated system to enter. Sponsor reserves the right to reject any additional entries or entries that do not comply with these Official Rules. By entering, you indicate your unconditional agreement to, and acceptance of, these Official Rules and Sponsor's decisions, which are final and binding. You cannot win a prize unless you comply with all requirements in these Official Rules.

Entrants may be asked to supplement their submission (such as with a paragraph about their photo or the highest resolution version of their photo) anytime on or after July 2, 2016.

Judging

Photos will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit and subject matter relevance to the new wild, except that the People's Choice award will be determined based on which of the honorable mentions receives the most votes. Judging will be conducted by a panel of Friends of the Fox River board directors and a group of guest judges to be selected by the Board at its sole discretion (the "Panel"). The Panel will evaluate all valid entries and pick the following winners in the following categories:

1. Overall (2 winners. 1 first prize, 1 runner-up): You've nailed it. Your images rise above the rest and encapsulate the Fox River in a stunning way.
2. Categories:

1. People & Nature (1 winner): Illustrates above and beyond how people can connect with the river.
2. People's Choice (1 winner): A winner selected from among the entries based on the highest number of votes received during public voting to be held on the Friends of the Fox River website in August 2016.
3. Young Photographer (1 winner): Best vibrant moment of living in nature, taken by an under 21 year old.

The entries will appear on The Friends of the Fox River website by August 15, 2016. At that time, the public can vote for one People's Choice winner from the entries. All potential winners will be revealed online within 10 days of September 15, 2016.

All judging decisions are final. Please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging.

The Friends of the Fox River will notify the winner via the contact information provided at the time of entry.

Potential Winner Requirements

Except where prohibited, a potential winner may be required to complete and return an affidavit of eligibility, including proof of age, and liability/publicity release within 14 days. If a potential winner is a minor, his/her parent or legal guardian will be required to sign the documents on his/her behalf. If a potential winner fails to return these documents on time, an alternate potential winner may be selected in his/her place in a random drawing of all remaining entries received. Only three (3) alternate potential winners may be contacted per category.

Prizes

The Friends of the Fox River will award the following prizes.

One (1) Overall grand prize winner will receive:

- A GoPro Hero4 Black with an approximate value of \$450.
- A Friends of the Fox River t-shirt
- Mention on the Friends of the Fox River's digital presences
- **Total Value: \$500**

One (1) Overall runner-up winner will receive:

- A \$200 Patagonia gift card
- A Friends of the Fox River t-shirt
- Mention on the Friends of the Fox River's digital presences
- **Total Value: \$250**

Three (3) Category winners (People & Nature, People's Choice, and Young Photographer) will receive:

- A Friends of the Fox River t-shirt
- Mention on the Friends of the Fox River's digital presences
- **Total Value: \$50**

Prizes will only be shipped to an address in the United States.

All winners are responsible for paying any income taxes and any and all other costs and expenses not listed above. Any prize details not specified above will be determined by Sponsor, in its sole discretion. A prize may not be transferred and must be accepted as awarded. A winner may not request cash or a substitute prize; however, Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize with another prize of equal or greater value if the prize is not available for any reason, as determined by Sponsor, in its sole discretion.

Your Rights

Your photographs help bring awareness of the Fox River's environmental impact as well as the recreational opportunities that it provides. Thank you for helping to further our mission through your photography.

You will retain all rights to any photograph you submit -- including ownership if applicable.

If you submit a photograph to enter the Photo Contest, you grant The Friends of the Fox River a royalty-free, nonexclusive right during the Photo Contest to:

- Display the photograph on the Photo Contest submission website
- Display the photograph on the Friends of the Fox River Facebook page
- Allow third-parties to share the photograph on the following social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest.

If your photograph is formally honored by the competition as a winner or an honorable mention, you grant the Friends of the Fox River a royalty-free, nonexclusive right, in perpetuity, to:

Use the photograph on the Internet and in Social Media in support of our mission.

- Use the photograph in the Friends of the Fox River's internal and external communications materials including but not limited to web sites and web publications, fact sheets, fund raising publications, advertising, multimedia, presentation and membership services and annual report.
- Provide your photograph to other individuals and organizations for Fox River-related use in news stories, newsletters, reports, slide shows, displays, web pages, videos, membership premiums, and the like.
- Use, in connection with the Photo Contest, your name, city, state and country of residence in promotions and other publications.
- Retain a digital copy of your photograph that will be archived in the Friends of the Fox River photo library and accessible to the board staff via the internal online photo archive.
- The Friends of the Fox River will endeavor to credit all photographs with the caption "Person's Name" when the full name is available.

General Conditions

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Photo Contest is impaired in any way, Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, either: (a) suspend the Photo Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Photo Contest; or (b) award the prize(s) from among the eligible entries received up to the time of the impairment. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and seek damages from any individual who tampers with the operation of the Photo Contest, violates these Official Rules, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules

shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. Proof of sending any communication to Sponsor by mail shall not be deemed proof of receipt of that communication by Sponsor. In the event of a dispute as to the owner of an online entry, the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter will be deemed to be the owner. The Photo Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.

Release and Limitations of Liability

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, affiliates, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (the "Released Parties") from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Photo Contest or receipt or use of any prize, including, but not limited to: (a) unauthorized human intervention in the Photo Contest; (b) technical errors; (c) printing errors; (d) late or undelivered mail; (e) errors in the administration of the Photo Contest; or (f) injury or damage to persons or property. You waive the right to claim any attorney's fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages.

E-Supporter

When you enter, you will automatically become an e-supporter of the Friends of the Fox River. This includes special event invitations and digital messages. You may cancel and unsubscribe at any time.

Privacy and Publicity

The information you provide when you enter is provided to Sponsor. Except where prohibited, you consent to Sponsor's use of your name in any list of winners (if applicable) and for promotional purposes in any media without further payment or consideration.

Disputes

You agree that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of, or connected with, the Photo Contest or any prize awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate court located in Illinois. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, your rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of Sponsor in connection with the Photo Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of Illinois, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of Illinois or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Illinois.

Results

To request a winners list, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Friends of the Fox River, Digital Photo Contest, PO Box 5634, Elgin, IL 60121-5634 Requests must be received by October 1, 2016.

Questions

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to photocontest@friendsofthefoxriver.org