



Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge  
2019 Photo Contest  
Rules and Information



**Contest Deadline:** September 15, 2019

**Contest E-mail:** [photocontest@tamaracfriends.org](mailto:photocontest@tamaracfriends.org)

**Website (for additional information and entry forms):** [www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org)

**Categories:**

**Wildlife:** Live birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects in their natural habitat.

**Plant Life:** Trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, mushrooms, and other flora in their natural habitat.

**Scenic:** Landscapes and scenic vistas.

**Nature's Abstracts:** Images of nature's shapes, colors, and patterns. Nature's Abstracts is a creative category revealing the art in nature.

**Recreation:** People enjoying the recreational opportunities on the refuge. Examples include hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, wildlife observation, and photography.

**Primary Contest Rules:**

1. Only photos taken on Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge since **January 1, 2019** may be entered.
2. The contest is open to amateurs; those who derive less than 5% of their income taking photographs.
3. Up to 5 photos may be entered; no more than 2 photos per category.
4. Photos may be digitally corrected and cropped from originals but must not have any digitally added elements or effects not existing in the original scene, including text or imprinted dates. (See later information on digital editing.)
5. Entries (5x7 prints, digital jpeg photo files, and completed entry form) must be received no later than 4 p.m. on September 15.
6. Enter 5x7 inch color or B&W prints, not framed or mounted, and with no white border. Judging is based on prints.
7. Each print entered must be labeled on the back with: photographer's name, subject category, and photo title.
8. Digital photo files for entered photos must be received by the deadline. Photo files can be on a CD or DVD accompanying prints or emailed to the contest email address of [photocontest@tamaracfriends.org](mailto:photocontest@tamaracfriends.org). (See requirements of these photo files.)
9. A completed signed entry form must be included with your entries. The entry form will contain space to record the subject category entered, the name of the photo, location, and date taken.

10. Submitted prints become property of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. The photographer grants unlimited use of submitted photos by Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge for publications (including USFWS publications), web pages, presentations, and other promotional products. Credit will be given to the photographer. The photographer retains copyright to their photos.

### **Youth Division:**

Youth photos are separately judged and awarded first place, second place, third place, and honorable mentions, and then compete with all photos in the Grand Prize, Manager's Choice and Refuge Friend's Choice awards.

### **Exhibition Division:**

This division is for professional photographers, master expert photographers, and photos taken by those not eligible (or photos taken in circumstances that make them not eligible) to enter in the regular contest divisions. Exhibit division photos are not judged and do not receive prizes. Exhibit division photos are expected to be of superior quality and acceptance and may be juried by the Photo Contest Committee or designated individuals. There is a limit of three "Exhibit Division" photos per person and all three entries can be in the same category. All other contest rules apply (5"x7" photos, photos taken on Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge since January 1, 2018, submitted photo files, filled out and signed entry form, photo use, etc.)

### **Additional Contest Policies**

1. Photos entered by refuge staff taken during work hours are not eligible for contest prizes by USFWS policy. Refuge staff are encouraged to enter such photos in the Exhibit Division.
2. The primary refuge staff and Friends of Tamarac co-coordinators are not eligible to enter photos in the regular judged division but may enter photos in the Exhibition Division.

### **Requirements of Submitted Photo Files**

The digital camera jpeg files for entered photos must be received by the **September 15** deadline, either on a CD or DVD accompanying prints or e-mailed to [photocontest@tamaracfriends.org](mailto:photocontest@tamaracfriends.org). Photo files are required because photos may be used by Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge or Friends of Tamarac according to the uses described in these rules. Submitted jpeg files should be for the photo printed and not the original if cropped or edited. Photo files should also not be resized down to a smaller file from the file used for printing. If one's digital camera records in a format other than jpeg or if software is used to crop or correct photo, save the file as a jpeg with as little compression as possible. File names for submitted prints must be written in the appropriate space on the entry form. Renaming file names in the format of last name first name and title will make the file handling easier. If e-mailing files, do not attach more than 25 megabytes of files in one e-mail and make sure you clearly indicate in the e-mail title that it is a photo contest submission. If submitted photos were taken with emulsion film, create a digital file by scanning your print at a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If assistance is needed in providing jpeg files, please contact the Contest Coordinator.

### **Digital Editing:**

With increasing capability of photography software, the following describes what is acceptable for photos entered in the Tamarac photo contest: All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDR (high dynamic range imaging). Not acceptable are photo composites (combination of two or more photos, not of the same scene); the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photos; or the use of artistic digital filters and effects.

Examples of not accepted artistic filters and effects are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others which do not show the scene in its natural way.

**Contest Signature Page:**

The contest signature page is USFWS FWS Form 3-2259 Copyright Release Agreement where the contest's restricted photo uses have been entered into the form. On this form, photographers may instead choose "Grant Full Copyright Release" that allows the Refuge and Friends any use of photos, but choosing full release also releases photos into the public domain. The contest signature page can also be digitally signed by entered name, date and email address.

**Privacy Statement:**

Addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses collected on the contest entry form will be used only for purposes related to the photo contest and for contacting photographers about use of photos.

**Submitting Entries by Mail:**

Send to: Tamarac Photo Contest, 35704 County Highway 26, Rochert, MN 56578-9638.

**Dropping Off Entries:**

Two options are available:

1. ***Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce***, 700 Summit Avenue, Detroit Lakes  
Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Chamber staff cannot answer questions about the contest.)
2. ***Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center***, 35704 County Highway 26; open Monday to Friday,  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Labor Day), Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Awards and Prizes:**

Photos are judged by three professional photographers. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, and Honorable Mentions are awarded in each photo category and youth division. Grand Prize, Manager's Choice, and Refuge Friend's Choice are also selected. All winners receive an award ribbon. First Place, Second Place and Third Place also receive a gift certificate to the Friends of Tamarac Gift Shop. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a large metal print of their photo after it is displayed in the Tamarac Visitor Center for a year.

**Photo Contest Exhibit: 2019**

All entered prints will be displayed during the 2019 Fall Festival.

**Photo Contest Exhibit: National Wildlife Refuge Week**

Contest entries will also be displayed during National Wildlife Refuge Week, this year from October 7 – 13th at Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes.

**People's Choice Award:**

Visitors to the Fall Festival and National Wildlife Week Contest Exhibits can cast their vote for their favorite contest photo. The photograph with the most votes will be awarded the People's Choice Award with a ribbon.

**Award Ceremony:**

Contest winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony on **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at the Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes. Prizes and ribbons will be available.