



State Parks and Forests Through The Seasons Photo Contest

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is pleased to announce the 2021 State Parks and Forests Through the Seasons photo contest.

This year's contest salutes the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution:

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

Pennsylvania Constitution
Article I, Section 27
Natural Resources and the Public Estate

The contest's seven categories offer a prize to each of three photographs from each category as follows:

- PPF's blue ribbon panel of experts (chosen solely at PPF's discretion) will select a Judges' Choice in each category prior to the photos being made available for public voting on the PPF Facebook page.
- Thereafter, the top vote-getter in public voting will be named People's Choice in that category.
- Second prize in the category will likewise be chosen by popular vote.

The top vote-getter among **all** submissions will be named the People's Choice Best in Show and a Judges' Choice Best in Show chosen from **all** submissions will also be selected. Award winners may be included on our website, Facebook page, and other electronic and print communications. Award winning photographs will also be showcased in our photo exhibitions to take place in several locations across the Commonwealth.

Prizes:

- Both Best in Show winners (People's Choice and Judges' Choice) receive a \$75 state park gift card.
- The People's Choice and Judges' Choice winners in each category receive a \$50 state park gift card.
- The runner-up in each category receives a \$25 state park gift card.

Categories:

- **Clean Air** – What does "clean air" mean to you? Maybe it's a blue clear sky? The night sky? The ability to see for miles and miles from that favorite vista? The ability to run or bike or hike for miles breathing in clean air?
- **Pure Water** – Lakes. Streams. Waterfalls. Pennsylvania has a lot of them. How about turning on the fountain to quench your thirst? What's your favorite?

- **Natural Value** – For purposes of this category, the "natural value" of our environment is embodied by the birds and wildlife found there, the erosion that is controlled by tree roots, shade from a tree on a hot day.
- **Scenic Value** – We'll call this the "knock our socks off" category! What scene through your camera's lens took your breath away?
- **Historic Value** – Pieces of the past are still important to the present, and are vital to the future.
- **Esthetic Value** – Hard to pin down philosophically but let us focus here on the part of the definition of "aesthetic" that speaks to something's "capacity to elicit pleasure." Bring out your fun friends and family, simply enjoying what has been and is being saved for all of us.
- **Young Photographers (ages 12 to 17)** – What is a young person's perspective on any of the above? We'd love to have a photo and your thoughts as well!

Please read the guidelines below before entering. All photographs must adhere to these standards.

Guidelines:

All photos must be submitted by noon on September 30, 2021 for consideration. The voting period will be from noon on October 14 through noon on October 28.

All photos must have been taken in a Pennsylvania state park or state forest. Please note: photos not taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest will not be entered.

Email your entries to the Foundation at photocontest@paparksandforests.org.

Each submission must be in .jpg form and be identified with your name, the category entered, and the state park/forest in which the photograph was taken. **(For Example: johnsmith.intergenerationalmoments.sinnemahoning.jpg)**

Photos not labeled correctly WILL be rejected. The photo contest has grown over the course of the last few years, with hundreds of photographs entered. PPF simply does not have the staff or volunteers to rename entries.

Photos must be assigned to a category by the contestant and can only be entered into one category. A maximum of 3 photos per entrant will be accepted in any one category. *Note: Only one prize will be awarded per person. Should a photographer receive the most votes in more than one category, PPF reserves the right to select from which category the prize will be awarded.* Judges' Choice selections are made before the contest opens for public voting and any other photographs taken by a Judges' choice winner are removed from the contest before voting begins and are displayed in a separate Facebook photo album.

When submitting photos, please include your name, address, telephone, and email address in the email. Also, we ask that if a person is visible in the picture that their name and contact information be included.

Photographs that do not depict behavior in accordance with Leave No Trace principles will not be accepted.

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize campfire impacts (be careful with fire).
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

You do not have to be a member of the Foundation to enter the contest. Our contest is open to anyone.

Photos must be submitted by the photographer. (No third party submissions.)

Submitted photos should be original and previously unpublished in a commercial endeavor.

By submitting photos, entrants agree to allow PPF to post the photo/s to the PPF website and Facebook page or any other electronic and printed media and allow their photos, names, and general location to be published in the newsletter and/or website or any other electronic or printed media, currently and in the future. Entrants retain ownership and all other rights to future use of their photographs. Photographers are always given credit for their photographs in PPF publications and posts and links to the original source provided whenever possible.

Winners will be published in the PPF newsletter printed in Spring 2022.

Voting:

Voting will take place on the PPF Facebook page with a "like" to the photo. Each person may only vote for a photograph one time but you may vote for as many photos as you wish.

Deadlines:

- Photos will be accepted through noon on 9/30.
- Voting begins at noon on Thursday, 10/14.
- Voting concludes at noon on Thursday, 10/28.
- Winners will be announced as soon as practicable following the close of voting.