



**BY ENTERING THIS COMPETITION, YOU AGREE TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** SFWC's 2026 Wildlife Photography Contest is open to all photographers who are at least 13 years of age ("Entrants"). Photographers aged 13 to 17 ("Junior Photographers") **MUST** enter only the Junior Photographers category described below. Entrants under 18 years of age require the permission of a parent or guardian. By entering the contest, entrants under 18 years of age agree that they have obtained permission to enter from a parent or guardian. Entrants 18 years or older ("General Entrants") are not allowed to enter the Junior Photographers category.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Entries must be submitted as digital files or digital prints, both color and black-and-white are acceptable. After the donation form has been submitted, instructions on uploading photos will be shared.

**CONTEST ENTRY PERIOD:** SFWC's 2026 Wildlife Photography Contest opens at 12:01 am North American Eastern Standard Time (EST) on March 15, 2026, and the final date for submitting photos is April 15, 2026, at 11:59 pm North American Eastern Standard Time (EST). SFWC may modify the contest entry period at its sole discretion. Submissions will not be accepted once the deadline lapses. To avoid uploading delays, do not wait until the final days of the contest. Entries will be judged by a guest judge, and all decisions will be final. SFWC anticipates announcing winners on Earth Day, April 22, 2026. Prizes must be collected by the winners. Winners will be contacted via the email address provided during entry. If no response is received after seven business days, winners forfeit all rights to the prizes.

**PHOTO ENTRY INFORMATION:** All photos must have complete information attached, including the entrant's full name and age (if a Junior Photographer). Entries will not be accepted unless submitted via the official contest channel. The South Florida Wildlife Center reserves the right to disqualify any entry deemed inappropriate or not conforming to contest rules. SFWC does not retain copyright, ownership, or other rights to your images; however, by submitting your photo(s), entrants grant SFWC permission to use images for promoting current or future contests, on the SFWC website ([www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org](http://www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org)), social media platforms, newsletters featuring winners/runners-up, and electronic mail communications.

**CATEGORIES:** General Entrants must enter images in the following first five categories (i–v below). Judges reserve the right to place photo entries into the appropriate categories. Junior Photographers must enter images in the Junior Photographers category and write JUNIOR as part of the subject line.

- i. Birds: Portraits and behavior – native to North America only
- ii. Mammals: Portraits and behavior – native to North America only
- iii. Reptiles: Portraits and behavior – native to North America only
- iv. Urban Wildlife: Portraits and behavior (capturing wildlife in developed urban areas)
- v. Up Close: Portraits – native to North America only (capturing close-up details of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or invertebrates)
- vi. Junior Photographers: For photographers aged 13–17 – all categories apply

**WHAT PHOTOS TO ENTER:** We are seeking striking color and black-and-white images of wildlife in nature (on land, in the air, and above water) from anywhere in the United States. From backyard habitats to wild lands, images may show animal behavior or portraits of wildlife in natural habitats, including plant life and natural landscapes. Photographs of pets, domestic animals, captive animals at game farms or roadside zoos, or animals under human control will be disqualified. Previously published photos may be entered.

**ETHICS:** We seek images obtained in the wild under natural conditions and in an ethical manner that prioritizes wildlife welfare over the photographer's desire for an image. Photographers should avoid interfering with natural wildlife behavior. Entrants must not submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment. For questions, email [photography@southfloridawildlifecenter.org](mailto:photography@southfloridawildlifecenter.org).

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:** For technical upload issues, contact [photography@southfloridawildlifecenter.org](mailto:photography@southfloridawildlifecenter.org). Accepted file formats: JPG or PNG. Camera-made digital images or scans of slides or prints must be uploaded as JPG or PNG files. Digital files must be at least 1000 pixels and no more than 2000 pixels on the long edge, with resolution set to at least 72 ppi. Photos of at least 1,600 pixels wide (horizontal) or 1,600 pixels tall (vertical) are preferred but not required. Larger images are acceptable and may improve quality. Maximum file size: 12 MB per image. Entrants are encouraged to give their photo a short title (max five words) and a brief caption (max 50 words). Most importantly, have fun!