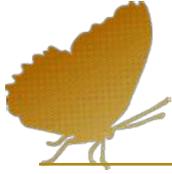


# NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS PHOTO CONTEST



## ENTRY GUIDELINES

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**FINAL DEADLINE: 9/30/2020**

**Start an entry and complete uploading your images  
by 11:59pm EDT, Wednesday, September 30, 2020**

If you need extra time or have questions, email [backyards@naturesbestphotography.com](mailto:backyards@naturesbestphotography.com)

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After many requests for more time to finish uploads, we are announcing our final deadline. Submit your best photos and videos made close to home in a backyard, public or private garden, park, or preserve. Finalists are featured in *Nature's Best Photography* and displayed in social media and NBP presentations. Entries are judged on technical quality, composition, originality, and artistic merit.

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## NEW CASH PRIZES & AWARDS

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There will be one Pro, one Amateur, and one Youth Winner selected from all topics on page 2.

**PRO WINNER:** Prize value \$1,000. Win \$500 USD cash, plus special Award plaque, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription, renewal, or gift, display in NBP presentations, including social media, and web galleries.

**AMATEUR WINNER:** Prize value \$1,000. Win \$500 USD cash, plus special Award plaque, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription, renewal, or gift, display in NBP presentations, social media, and web galleries.

**YOUTH WINNER:** Prize value \$500. Win camera accessory gear, plus special Award plaque, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, 1-year NBP magazine subscription, renewal, or gift, display in NBP presentations, social media, and web galleries.

**HIGHLY HONORED FINALISTS:** Awards Certificate, publication in *Nature's Best Photography*, display in NBP presentations, social media, and web galleries.

**NEW OUTDOOR EXHIBITION! NYC BIG SCREEN PLAZA**  
Selected finalists will be displayed on a 30-foot screen in Manhattan, New York City, NY, USA.

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**ENTRY FEE:** \$30 US for Amateur and Professional (*definitions on page 4*).

**FREE** entry for Youth (*age 18 and under as of September 30, 2020*).

**IMAGES PER ENTRY:** You may submit up to 25 images or videos per entry.

*\*Have new photos or videos to share? Start as many entries of 25 as you like.*

# NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS PHOTO CONTEST



## CATEGORIES / TOPICS

One Winner will be chosen in each Expertise Level (Pro, Amateur, and Youth), and the Highly Honored finalists will also be selected from among all entries in any of the categories listed below. *Note: There will not be a winner in each category. See Rules on page 4.*

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### WILDLIFE:

Wild animals in outdoor habitats close to home—birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, etc. Note: \*NO captive animals or pets will be accepted!

### PLANT LIFE:

Flowers, trees, and other flora close to home (try to identify exotic or hybrid species).

### AGAINST ALL ODDS:

Plants or animals living under challenging conditions, such as birds nesting on your home, barns, other buildings or outdoor structures, plants squeezing through walls or sidewalks and growing on rooftops, or other unusual locations.

### PRIVATE YARDS:

Beautiful, dramatic, or unusual perspectives of your yard, patio, or garden habitat that invite wildlife close to home, including wide shots of outdoor settings.

### PUBLIC PARKS & GARDENS:

Public parks, community gardens, and nature preserves within 25 miles of home.

### SMALL WORLD:

Close-up or macro shots of flowers, butterflies, caterpillars, insects, etc., in natural settings.

### VIDEO:

Whether your entry is a video clip from your phone or a high definition produced documentary, we are interested in wildlife behavior and natural subjects observed close to home. Time-lapse and aerial videos welcome. Provide the link (and password, if needed) to your entry on YouTube, Vimeo, or other viewing platforms. You will need to submit a still photo to represent your video. See more detail in the FAQs document.

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## TO SUBMIT PHOTOS ONLINE

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1. **PREPARE YOUR PHOTOS:** Save **COPIES** of your original images as low-resolution JPEGs no smaller than 500K and no larger than 5MB in RGB mode (not CMYK). **No watermarks on photos.** Name each photo as FirstnameLastname\_species (keep short and separated by underscores). **Example: JohnDoe\_fox1.jpg**
2. **LOG-IN OR CREATE A CONTEST ACCOUNT** on the NBP website to enter photos and manage your entries, check or replace images, edit/update captions before the final deadline:  
**Login: [bit.ly/nbp\\_login](http://bit.ly/nbp_login)      Don't have an account? [bit.ly/nbp\\_signup](http://bit.ly/nbp_signup)**
3. **USE THE “MANAGE MY ENTRY” BUTTON** at the bottom right of your account home page to get to the entry form for the current contest.
4. **UPLOAD PHOTOS** on the Entry Form. You will get a confirmation receipt by email with payment status and with a link to return to your entry.

After you start an account, you will see the “My Account Dashboard” account management tool found at the top right of the NBP website homepage. There you will be able to log in or out, update your contest account information, and go to lists of the contest entries associated with your account.

Photographers who have images that pass into the semifinal round of judging will be required to supply high-resolution files and RAW or original files if available, complete caption, and your camera specifications before the final judging. Information on how to send high-resolution files will be provided.

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## IF YOU NEED TO SUBMIT PHOTOS BY MAIL

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**USING POSTAL SERVICE OR COURIER:** Be sure to include BOTH low and high resolution files along with the \$30 entry fee (US dollars only—*NO foreign checks or foreign money orders*) and an Entry Form (on page 5) with ALL the required information clearly filled out. Mail your submission (details below) to:

**NATURE’S BEST BACKYARDS, 1130 Bellview Road, McLean, Virginia, USA; Phone: 703-467-9783**

### PREPARING DIGITAL FILES TO MAIL

Images should be taken with the camera set for the highest possible resolution. Each electronic image must be saved and named as your FirstnameLastname, underscore, brief subject, and .jpg. (Example: **JohnDoe\_fox.jpg**). Each USB drive must be labeled with your full name and phone number. **KEEP A COPY** of your submission, as the USB drives will not be returned after the contest. **No watermarks or text on photos.**

When mailing digital images as your submission, send copies of BOTH low and high resolution images using the following specifications:

- Low Resolution (72 ppi) JPEG **COPIES** of your images, 1000 to 2000 pixels on the longest side, must be copied onto a USB drive labeled ‘LOW-RES’ and your name for the preliminary judging.
- High Resolution (300 ppi) uncompressed and unsharpened Tiff files, measuring 4800 pixels on the longest side, or largest file available, may be sent on a USB drive for the final rounds of judging, each labeled ‘HIGH-RES’ with your name on the discs. Tiff files will be used for publication if selected as a winner. (Include original

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RAW files, if available.)

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## RULES

Nature's Best encourages every photographer to practice responsible nature photography.

- All photos must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the scene.
- Nothing should be added to an image, and aside from dust spots, nothing should be taken away.
- Normal processing of RAW image files and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable, as is cropping, but no more than 50% of the image should be a crop from the original.
- Panoramas, HDR, focus stacking, and in-camera double-exposures are permitted as long as manipulation is disclosed upon entry of image in contest notes.
- Photography from a blind is allowed.

Read [Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography](#) for best practices in documenting wildlife.

Learn how to bring more birds to your home with native plants on [audubon.org](#).

### \* MEANS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

- Images must be of non-captive species in natural situations. No pets!
  - Entrants must not infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person, or submit images involving the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer.
  - Entrants must not infringe upon any federal or private land regulations.
  - Nesting animals must not be photographed with wide-angle or macro lens. Stay at a safe distance.
  - Animals must not be lured with bait including live animals, dead animals or parts of animals, processed meat, or decoys such as fake mice.
  - Nocturnal wildlife must not be photographed with a flash at night.
  - Do not use remotely triggered cameras that use direct flash or for which bait or another lure has been supplied to attract the animal. Setting a camera trap around a fresh kill or cache is generally acceptable, as is the use of a flash with a filter that only lets through infrared light.
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## ENTRY FEE AND ENTRY FORM

If mailed, a check or money order for \$30 (US dollars only—*NO foreign checks or foreign money orders*) must be included with your entry, made out to: **Nature's Best Photography**. Do not staple check to form. Youth entries are free. Or you may use a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express charge card on your entry form, or phone in your information to 703-467-9783. Each submission must be accompanied by an entry form with all information clearly filled out. Mail to: **Nature's Best Backyards, 1130 Bellview Road, McLean, VA 22102**

## EXPERTISE LEVEL DEFINITIONS

- **PROFESSIONAL LEVEL** is for individuals 19 years of age and older who have earned \$5,000 or more on their photography (any photography, not just nature photography) in the past year.
  - **AMATEUR LEVEL** is for individuals 19 years of age and older who have earned between zero and \$4,999 on their photography (any photography, not just nature photography) in the past year.
  - **YOUTH LEVEL** is for individuals who are 18 years old or younger as of September 30, 2020.
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## QUESTIONS?

Email [backyards@naturesbestphotography.com](mailto:backyards@naturesbestphotography.com) or call 703-467-9783 and leave a message.

IF YOU NEED TO ENTER BY MAIL, PLEASE USE THIS FORM



# ENTRY FORM

FIRST NAME / MIDDLE INITIAL / LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME \_\_\_\_\_  PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER  AMATEUR  YOUTH (UNDER 18) / BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APARTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP / POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY FEE: \$30 (US) / YOUTH FREE (18 AND UNDER - ENTER BIRTHDATE ABOVE)

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (NO FOREIGN CHECKS)  CALL OUR OFFICE TO CHARGE OVER THE PHONE 703-467-9783

DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE CHECKS TO ENTRY FORM.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER  VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE (3 OR 4 DIGITS ON BACK OF CARD) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR CARD \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF IMAGES (EACH PAID ENTRY IS LIMITED TO 25 IMAGES) PLEASE INCLUDE A SHEET WITH YOUR PHOTO CAPTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER OF DIGITAL IMAGES

SENT ON USB DRIVE (SEND US COPIES OF YOUR IMAGES NAMES OR LABELED WITH YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME)

I UNDERSTAND THAT CONTENT IN MY USB DRIVES WILL NOT BE RETURNED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONTEST.

\* NOTE: WE CANNOT RETURN SUBMISSIONS. NO PRINTS.

## DEADLINE TO MAIL: POSTMARK BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR ENTRY FEE AND IMAGES TO:

Nature's Best Backyards  
1130 Bellview Road, McLean, Virginia 22102 USA  
Phone for courier delivery: 703-703-3010

FOR NBP OFFICE USE

QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP/EXTRA TIME?

Call 703-467-9783 or E-mail [backyards@naturesbestphotography.com](mailto:backyards@naturesbestphotography.com)

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## NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS PHOTO COMPETITION

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### PHOTO USE & RIGHTS

The winning photographs will be published in a 2021 edition of NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazine and may be shown in online galleries and other NATURE'S BEST BACKYARDS (NBB) photography competition promotion opportunities, including, but not limited to, a compilation book or calendar, electronic collection of winners and web pages providing NBB information, updates, rules and ongoing photography tips.

The NBB competition is open to ALL photographers except employees of NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazine. Your entry to this contest constitutes your agreement to allow your photographs, your name, occupation, city and state of residence to be published as selected award winners in NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY magazines, print and digital exhibitions, events, and other public venues, published on websites owned by or in alliance with NBB as award winners; and used for promotions of the NBB. **Entrants retain ownership and all other rights to future use of their photographs.** NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY shall have the right to verify, in their sole judgment, winner eligibility.

**LEGAL CONDITIONS:** By entering this awards competition, you agree to certain legal conditions. By entering, participants release and hold harmless Nature's Best Publishing LLC (the Company), its respective subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives from any and all liability for any injuries, loss, claim, action, demand or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the NBB, or any prize won, any misuse or malfunction of any prize awarded, participation in any NBB-related activity, or participation in the NBB.

Participant agrees that any and all disputes that cannot be resolved with the Company, and causes of action arising out of or connected with the NBB, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, before a court of competent jurisdiction located in Virginia, which court shall apply the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without regard for rules of conflicts of law. In any such dispute, participant shall, under no circumstances, be entitled to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, other than participant's actual out-of-pocket expenses (if any) associated with participating in the NBB. Participant hereby waives all rights to have damages multiplied or increased.

Any attempt by an entrant or other individual to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of the NBB is a violation of criminal and civil laws, and should such an attempt be made, the Company reserves the right to seek damages to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The Company is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by website users or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the NBB, or by any technical or human error that may occur in the processing of submissions to the NBB, including but not limited to any misprints or typographical errors. The Company assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. The Company is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer equipment, servers, providers, computer on-line systems, software, or failure of email on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet, including injury or damage to participant's or to any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating or uploading images or information in the NBB.

If, for any reason, the NBB is not capable of completion as planned, including by reason of infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures or any other causes beyond the control of the Company that corrupts or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Awards, the Company reserves the right at their sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the NBB.

In no event will the Company, its subsidiaries, affiliates and related companies, their advertising and promotional agencies, or their directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives be responsible or liable for any damages or losses of any kind, including direct indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages arising out of participant's access to and use of the Company website or the downloading or uploading and/or printing of material from said sites. Without limiting the foregoing, everything on the Company site is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. Some jurisdictions may not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability for incidental or consequential damages, so some of the foregoing limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. Check your local laws for any restrictions or limitations regarding these limitations or exclusions.

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**VOID WHERE PROHIBITED**