

An aerial photograph of a dense forest of evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, showing a repeating pattern of conical tree tops. The image is framed by a solid gold border at the top and bottom.

NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY
INTERNATIONAL AWARDS 2020
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. How do I start a Contest Entry Account online to submit my photos?

First, sign up to start a "User Account" on the NBP website to upload photos and manage entries to current and future contests by clicking here: **Sign up**

Set up a login with your email and password (must be at least 10 characters long, contain 1 lower case letter, 1 upper case letter, and 1 number). You will get an email receipt and link to the digital platform to enter photos.

On the top right of the NBP website, you will see "My Account Dashboard." This tool to manage your account shows when you are logged in. It has links to update your contest account information, to log out, and it takes you to lists of the contest entries associated with your account. From here, use the "Manage My Entry" button at the bottom right of your account home page to access your contest entries while the contests are open.

2. Can I review my submissions?

Yes. If you entered the competition online, you may review your submissions at any time by logging in to your Contest Account. Your "Account Dashboard" will then appear at the top right of the NBP website where you may manage your uploads, check your entries, replace images, edit captions, and log out.

Log in to your account: **Log in**

3. How do I prepare my photos to enter?

- (a) Choose images that fit the categories. See the **Entry Guidelines PDF** (*pages 3-4*).
- (b) Gather images you want to enter and save COPIES of them
- (c) Save COPIES of your photo files as low resolution (lo-res) Jpegs.
Select the RGB mode (not CMYK) at 72 ppi for the initial review.
The preferred color space is Adobe RGB 1998 or sRGB.
- (d) Size your image between 1000 to 2000 pixels on the longest side.
- (e) Save as ".jpg" format between 500K and no larger than 5MB.
- (f) Do NOT add borders or watermarks to your images. The photos are reviewed blind, meaning the judges do not know who took them at the time of review. Adding your name may disqualify your entry. We will take every precaution to protect your images.
- (g) Entrants MUST NOT infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person, or submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer. Photos that do not conform to these requirements will be disqualified.
- (h) Each image you want to submit MUST be taken of wild animals in their natural habitat and/or wild places. No images showing pets, captive wildlife, or game-farm animals will be accepted.

4. How do I prepare my videos to enter?

- (a) You will need to copy and paste a link to your video (from Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) into the Entry Form.
The link must connect to a video that is no longer than 5 minutes in length or as short as 30 seconds for initial judging. We would like your submission to be HD video; 4K is absolutely welcome.
- (b) You must save a still from or about your video as a lo-res RGB Jpeg (*see sizing requirements in #3. above*) to choose for the "Select your Photo" area to be able to enter your video submission. If your video moves into final judging, a hi-res Tiff of this image will be requested to represent your video in the magazine.
- (c) The soundtrack should not distract from the video's message. Softer music is usually best, unless you're trying to highlight specific actions or moments. If possible, include the natural sounds of wildlife.

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5. How should I name my digital photo files before uploading?

Save COPIES of your images in a contest folder on your desktop or hard drive. Name your photos with your FirstnameLastname_species.jpg. Leave no extra spaces in the name and use an underscore between name and species or subject. Save your image file as a Jpeg so that “.jpg” appears at the end of the file name (example: JillJones_brownbear.jpg). If you submit more than one photo of the same species, name the images with different names, such as: JillJones_brownbear2.jpg.

When you upload your photos, you will be asked to fill in some information: the species or location of the photo and optional information about the shot such as city, state, and country of the shot, and the camera equipment used. This info can be sent to us later (if your image reaches the next round).

You may write a brief story behind the shot; the judges will see this caption during the review process. You will be able to add more to your caption after the first round of review if your images are selected for the semi-final round of judging.

6. May I mail my entries?

Yes. If you are unable to use the digital entry platform you may mail in your entries and fees. You should write your name, address, the species, the location the photo was taken, and the camera equipment you used on the back of your Entry Form (*page 7 on the PDF*) or in a Microsoft Word .doc or .docx or an .rtf or .txt text document saved on USB drive. IMPORTANT: Mailed digital images will not be returned.

IF YOU MUST SEND VIDEO FILES FOR FINAL JUDGING ON HARD DRIVE YOU WANT TO BE RETURNED: You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) of adequate size for the safe return of your materials, with sufficient postage. For courier returns, include a completed shipping form with a courier account or credit card number, expiration date, and security code for payment. Check or charge information for the amount of the return postage using the return method you request is acceptable in place of a SASE. Videos sent on drives with insufficient return method and information will not be returned.

7. For older or historic photos, may I mail transparencies or digital scans?

Send ONLY digital scans of your transparencies, please. NO slides, transparencies, prints, or glass mounts. High quality digital scans will be accepted for final judging—no originals.

8. How many Winners will there be?

There will be a total of 13 Winners.

- Grand Prize / Windland Smith Rice Award
- Youth Photographer of the Year
- Conservation Story Award
- One Winner for each of these 10 categories:
 - African Wildlife, Animal Antics, Art in Nature, Birds, Landscapes, Ocean Views, Outdoor Adventure, Polar Passion, Wildlife, Video
- There will also be approximately 85 Highly Honored images chosen for this year's 25-year NBP collection. For the complete category descriptions, see the **Entry Guidelines PDF** (*pages 3-4*).

NOTE: Judges reserve the right to move images to categories that may be a better fit for the contest.

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9. How do I know what level of expertise to enter?

Choose according to these levels of expertise:

- The Professional category 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.
- The Amateur category 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.
- The Youth category is for individuals who are 18 years old or younger as of April 16, 2020.

10. What should I do if I have problems during the entry or payment process?

Email awards@naresbestphotography.com or call 703-467-9783. Leave a message with your first and last name and contact phone number or email address clearly stated. The contest team at NBP will get back to you as soon as possible. Sometimes when the online system is very busy, you might get an error message, especially in the final days of the contest. Refresh the page, give it some time, and try again.

11. Is there a limit on the number of photos I can submit?

No! You are limited to a total of 25 photos per entry, but if you have more than 25 images you would like to enter, you may start as many entries as you like in 25-image or video groups.

12. Will other entrants be able to see my photos?

No. Only the Nature's Best Photography International Awards Judging Panel will be able to see your photos.

13. Who owns the rights to my photos?

You own the rights to your photos. By entering the Nature's Best Photography International Awards Photo Contest, you grant Nature's Best Photography a non-exclusive license to your photos ONLY for uses related to the contest. (For a more complete explanation, see the [Entry Guidelines PDF](#) last page.)

14. What if I have trouble with my digital submissions?

If you are having trouble uploading your photos, make sure they meet the photo entry requirements. Individual photos must be Jpegs. Images must be between 500KB and 5MB. Make sure your submissions are properly labeled with your name and no extra spaces. If you are having ANY trouble or need extra time, please email awards@naresbestphotography.com or call 703-467-9783.

15. How much can I manipulate my photos?

Photos may not be digitally altered beyond standard optimization (minor burning, dodging; limited color correction and cropping; the removal of dust; etc.). Do not to crop more than 50% of an image as it will affect picture quality. Adjusting the exposure or contrast is fine, but do not, for example, remove branches or add a bird into a scene. This will cause your entry to be disqualified. Be prepared to submit your RAW or original file when requested by the judges. Black and white and panoramic stitched and HDR images are allowed.

16. Does it matter when or where my photographs were taken?

Photos taken at any time depicting wild animals in their natural habitats or wild places are eligible. **GROUNDWORK FOR ELIMINATION:** Entries must be of non-captive species taken in natural, wild situations! NO game-farm or for-hire animals permitted. NO live baiting or placed carcasses (*natural occurrences are allowed*). No images showing pets, captive wildlife, or game-farm animals will be accepted.

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17. Who will judge the contest?

The 2020 Judging Panel: Steve Freligh, co-founder and publisher, *Nature's Best Photography* magazine; Charles A. Veatch, Chairman of the Board, Nature's Best Photography; Margot Raggett, photographer, *Remembering Wildlife*; Craig Sholley, African Wildlife Foundation; Natalie Cash, Wildlife Conservation Society; Stephen Frink, Divers Alert Network; Annie Griffiths, Ripple Effect Images; Charles Poe, Smithsonian Channel; Karine Aigner, photographer and picture editor; Marc Dantzker, RangeWide Productions; Deborah Freligh, co-publisher and art director, *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. Our judges are experts in photography, wildlife, conservation, and film. Learn more: **NBP Judges**

18. How will the entries be judged?

All entries will be judged based on overall appeal, originality, artistic merit, conformity to the rules, and technical quality. Entries go through several rounds of judging. To ensure fairness, our judges do not see photographers' names in relation to images during the initial rounds of review. They will only see the photo and the notes added to each entry while they are ranked. Votes are compiled into a report where all judges' rankings are tallied. Photographers that reach the semifinal round of judging are emailed with instructions to provide high resolution files, original raw files, complete captions, and camera specs. The quality of each semifinal image and video is closely examined and reviewed before the judges ultimately reach an agreement on the winners and finalists.

19. When will the winners be determined? When will they be notified?

The finalists will be determined by September 2020. All entrants will be emailed to announce the winners. Finalists will be published in the 2020 Fall/Winter Awards Edition of *Nature's Best Photography* magazine.

20. Who is restricted from entering?

Employees, officers, and directors of Nature's Best Photography, judges, photo contest funding providers, distributors, advertising, and promotion agencies are not eligible to participate.

21. May I submit a photo I submitted in another photo contest?

Yes, as long as the image did not already win another Nature's Best Photography competition.

22. May I submit a photo that's been published in a magazine or book?

Yes, as long as it was not already published in *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. Let us know where this image has been viewed previously.

23. If I withdraw from the awards, can I get a refund?

No, once you have officially entered your information and we have accepted your payment, we cannot offer you a refund, unless there is a problem with starting an entry. Email or call for help.

24. What if I still have questions?

If you can't find your answer here or in the [Entry Guidelines PDF](#), please email awards@naturesbestphotography.com or call 703-467-9783.

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