

# Milam County Nature Festival 2013 Photo Contest Rules, Judging Criteria and Entry Form

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Milam County Nature Festival 2013 Photo Contest is sponsored by the El Camino Real Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists and is held in conjunction with the 4th Milam County Nature Festival, to be held on April 12-13, 2013.

The contest will be judged prior to the festival. All photos received by the deadline and adhering to entry criteria will be considered in the judging. All entries (space permitting) and winning photographs will be on display for public viewing during festival hours at the nature festival site, Rockdale Fair Park, in Rockdale, TX on April 13. There will be a short awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m., honoring the contest winners. All entrants are encouraged to attend and may pick up their photos at this time.

Additional copies of this form may be obtained from the AgriLife Extension Office in Cameron, the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce in Rockdale or downloaded from the El Camino Real website at:  
<http://txmn.org/elcamino/photo-contest/>

## OBJECTIVE OF CONTEST:

To promote awareness and appreciation of the natural world around us by encouraging participants to look for nature in their own back yards, around the county and throughout Texas. It is our hope that participants will help by using and sharpening their photography skills to spread this message throughout our county and beyond, while broadening their personal experience with nature.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

There Will Be Three Age Divisions and Each Will Have Five Photo Categories

The **Three Age Divisions** are based on the age of the submitter as of the submission deadline date:

1. Adult - Ages 18 and older
2. Teen - Ages 12 through 17
3. Child - Ages under 12

The **Five Categories** within each Division are:

1. **People in Nature** - Photo should show a person or persons interacting in a natural setting or with nature in some way.
2. **Wildlife** - Wild animal life, including mammals, insects, aquatic life, birds, reptiles, etc. should be the focus of the photo.
3. **Landscape/Scenery** - Scenes of natural landscapes, wildscapes, seascapes, skyscapes (sunsets, clouds, etc) or underwater scenes should be the focus of the photo.
4. **Plants/Flora** - Any photo that focuses on plants or flower/plant structure and not on a scene or landscape.
5. **Funny Nature Photo** - The subject of this photo can vary (including people, plants, animals, scenes), but it must depict an object or scene in the natural world or having to do with nature that has a humorous aspect.

## **AWARDS**

1. First, Second and Third place ribbons will be awarded in each Category in all three Divisions.
2. One Best of Show Award will be presented to one photo in each age Division.

Judging will be completed between the submission deadline and the Festival event. Judges decisions on all entries are final. Winners will be contacted prior to the Festival at the email and/or phone numbers provided on the entry form.

## **RETRIEVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND AWARDS**

All winning photographs with their ribbons will be on display at the Milam County Nature Festival on April 13, 2013 until the awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m., after which they may be claimed. Space permitting, ALL entries will be posted or available for viewing. Participants may pick up their photos and/or awards following the Awards Ceremony or at the Cameron AgriLife Extension Office until two weeks after the festival. Unclaimed awards and photos after that will not be returned to participants.

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

1. Eligibility of Photos: All photographs must have been taken in the state of Texas, by the person submitting the photo.
2. Number of Entries: A person may enter one photograph per category in their age division, for a total of 5 photos. Photos may be submitted only one time.
3. Entry Fee: NONE.
4. Entry Deadline: ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED by end of day March 29, 2013. Mailed entries must be postmarked by Friday March 29, 2013.
5. Photo Format: Photo submissions must all be 8x10 prints on photo paper of your choice, either true Black and White (grey-scale) or Color photos, unmatte and unframed. Photo submissions not adhering to these guidelines will not be accepted for judging.
6. Editing: Digital editing is allowed and is part of the artistic content being judged of a nature photo. Such editing is limited to elements such as brightness, sharpness, contrast, color hues, cropping, red-eye or artifact removal, etc. and must NOT include major restructuring, inserts or overlays, or combinations of photos that would differ from the single original photographic content.
7. Negatives/Originals: Entrants must be able to provide original digital photo file (including all meta data), transparencies, film negative, disk, or print if requested.
8. Right of Refusal: Photograph must NOT be offensive, degrading, or portray that any animal was harmed during the taking of the photograph. The El Camino Real Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

Participants should be mindful of the criteria used in judging entries. In general, contest judges establish a viewing distance when evaluating photo quality. 8X10 photos are generally viewed from 14 to 16 inches. Participants should use viewing distance and the following criteria as guidelines:

- **FOCUS**

Sharp and clear with fine resolution, appropriate use of depth-of-field or intentional fuzziness for desired effect.

- **EXPOSURE**

Not too light or dark with good clarity and balance.

- **LIGHTING**

Appropriate use of shadows, time of day and lighting angles for desired mood or effect. Good color hues or black and white grey scale.

- **PRINT QUALITY**

Absence of blemishes, scratches, overly enlarged (graininess), or pixilation.

- **SUBJECT**

The selection and use of a subject to deliver a message in a creative way for the chosen category.

- **COMPOSITION**

The placement of the subject in the photo, demonstrating artistic ability, a pleasing order or balance among all components of the photo.

- **IMPACT**

The ability of the photo to capture the attention of the viewer or convey a strong message.

- **UNIQUENESS**

Use of originality, camera angle, lighting, subject or other effects that demonstrate creativity and make the photo different or special.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY:**

The El Camino Real Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists, and/or its sponsors, employees, agents, members, or volunteers involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, damaged, or non-displayed photographs. By entry, the participant accepts this release.

**DISPLAY AND FUTURE USE RIGHTS:**

By submitting an entry to the contest, the entrant grants permission to the El Camino Real Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists and any other public or private agency authorized by the El Camino Real Chapter, the use and rights associated with the use of the photographic likeness, in our non-profit promotional publications and other media, without compensation. Photos may be scanned or photographed for future marketing uses.

**HOW TO ENTER CONTEST:**

1. Choose the appropriate Category and correct age Division for each photograph you submit. Each photo may only be submitted in one Category and age Division. Choose an appropriate and creative Title for the photograph. Complete all entries on the Photograph Label / Release entry form.

2. Cut out and securely attach the completed "Photograph Label/Release" entry form in the middle of the back of the UNMATTED and UNFRAMED photo. Orient it so the top of the form indicates the top of the photo on the reverse side as you want it viewed (some photos may not be obvious). Please include a good phone number in case we have questions regarding your entry and so we can notify you of any awards earned. ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLETED LABEL/RELEASE FORM ATTACHED.

3. Deliver your photographs in person or by mail to either the AgriLife Extension Office in Cameron or The Rockdale Chamber of Commerce in Rockdale:

Nature Festival Photo Contest  
AgriLife Extension Office  
100 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Cameron, TX 76520  
254-697-7045

Nature Festival Photo Contest  
Rockdale Chamber of Commerce  
1203 W. Cameron Ave.  
Rockdale, TX 76567  
512-446-2030

Hours for photo drop-off are: Monday-Friday, 9-12 and 1-4.  
All entries must be received or postmarked by Friday March 29, 2013.

***Entries that do not follow the proper labeling procedures WILL be disqualified.***

***See attached Photograph Label/Release Entry Form.***

*The Texas Master Naturalist program activities are coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.*

**ALIGN THIS LABEL TO INDICATE THE TOP OF PHOTOGRAPH**

PHOTOGRAPH LABEL/RELEASE Entry Form - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

DIVISION: Circle One: 1: Adult - Age 18 & Older 2: Teen - Age 12-17 years 3: Child - Age under 12 years

CATEGORY: Circle One: 1: People in Nature 2: Wildlife, 3: Landscape/Scenery, 4: Plants/Flora, 5: Funny Nature Photo

Title of Photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, County, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Location and Date Photo Taken (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Camera Brand/Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Editing Software Used or "None": \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Email contact: \_\_\_\_\_

*I represent that I took the original photograph and either performed or supervised any editing of it. I do hereby consent and agree that the El Camino Real Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists (the chapter) has permission to scan my photograph, take photographs and/or record video and/or audio of me and/or my submitted property and to use these for non-profit educational, promotional, and/or marketing purposes. I further do hereby give the right to exhibit any such works publicly or privately, including posting on the aforementioned organization's websites. I waive any rights, claims, or interests I may have to control the use of my identity, the identity of the subject(s), or likeness in the photographs, video or audio and agree that any uses described herein may be made without compensation or additional consideration. I agree that "the chapter" will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, damaged or non-displayed photographs. I agree that if I wish to pick up the physical photograph after the awards ceremony I will do so either then or within two weeks at the AgriLife Extension Office in Cameron, otherwise the physical photograph may be kept or discarded at the Chapter's discretion.*

I represent that I have read and understand the foregoing statement and I am competent to execute this agreement.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If individual is under the age of 18, consent of the legal parent or guardian is needed.

Parent/Guardian name (please print):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Cut along dotted lines and affix securely in middle of photo back, oriented so judges know what you consider to be the TOP of your photo in either Landscape or Portrait layout.***