

Cuyahoga Valley Photographic Society

2026 Photo Contest

Submission Window

Open: Sunday October 4, 2026 – Close: midnight Sunday, November 1, 2026

All digital files must be emailed as attachments to cvpscontest@gmail.com

Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Live at Hines Hill Conference Center

All photographers submitting images are invited to attend the Awards Program. We encourage all CVPS members to attend and enjoy the presentation and discussion about the winning images.

CONTEST RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Please read all requirements before submitting your photos.

- Open to current members of Cuyahoga Valley Photographic Society. You must have a current membership with the Photo Society. If you are unsure, please check with the Conservancy. If you are not currently a member of the photographic society, you may sign up at: <https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/join/cuyahoga-valley-photographic-society/>
- Photos that have won an award in any category in previous Cuyahoga Valley Photo Society photography contests are ineligible for the 2026 Contest.
- Entries must have been taken within the boundaries of any State, Local or National Park, Wildlife Refuge or preserve or National Forest in the United States. Entries in the CVNP category must have been taken within the boundaries of the National Park (see <https://www.nps.gov/carto/hfc/carto/media/CUVAmap1.pdf>) or the Metro Parks included within the National Park boundaries. Photos taken in near by parks (e.g. Viaduct Park or the Nature Realm) may be submitted in other categories.
- Up to four entries per photographer will be accepted. More than one photo may be entered per category.
- Entries must be submitted as JPG/JPEG email **attachments** to cvpscontest@gmail.com, using "CVPS Photo Contest Submission" in the subject line. No entries other than email attachments will be accepted. **Please do not embed photos in your email.**
- **File Requirements:** Please review carefully
 - File Type:** JPG/JPEG
 - Resolution:** 1920 pixels on the longest side, **Please make sure your photos have been resized to 1920 pixels on the long side before submitting them.**
 - Digital color space:** sRGB

File Name: Do not use personally identifiable information in the file name. Use springpeeper.jpg rather than janedoe1.jpg or jd1.jpg.

Metadata: Include the photographer's full name in the author field in the metadata.

- All images must reflect the subject matter in a realistic way. Digital darkroom techniques may be used to optimize the image so that it still closely resembles the real scene (e.g., minor adjustments to color, contrast, sharpness; cropping; removal of dust spots; realistic use of HDR; black and white conversion).
- No additions or deletions or AI modifications are allowed
- No text should be visible on the image when it is displayed or projected, e.g. no watermarks with the photographer's name or signature.
- Photographs may be taken with any device, including cell phones.
- Black & White/monochrome photos may be submitted in any category.
- Entries received after midnight Sunday, November 1, 2026 will not be considered.

2026 CATEGORIES

- A. Landscape
- B. Wildlife
- C. Macro/close up – smaller subjects (for example, plants, insects, mushrooms) represented as large in the frame.
- D. CVNP – Any images taken within the boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and adjacent Metroparks (e.g. Brecksville, Bedford).
- E. Images taken as part of a CVPS Photowalk between the day the walk location was announced and the critique or at a CVPS workshop

First place awards will include a \$100 gift card; second place, a \$50 gift card; and third place a \$25 gift card. Additional prizes TBD.

An award including a \$200 gift card will also be presented for the Tim Thomas Best of Show.

SUBMISSION DETAIL

In the email, please provide the contact information for the photographer (**Name, Phone Number, Email address, Photo Society member number**) and the following information for each photograph being entered into the contest:

1. **File Name** (the name of each electronic photo file that you are attaching)
2. **Category** (the contest category to which you are submitting each photo)
3. **Photo Title** (the title of each photo that you would like to use)
4. **Location** (approximate location where each photo was taken, e.g., Mentor Marsh SNP, Mentor, Ohio)

For your convenience, feel free to copy and paste the section below into the submission email or fill out the submission form at www.cvps.org on the Contest page and include it in your email.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

CVPS Member number: _____

File Name	Category	Photograph Title	Park Location

File Requirements

File Type: JPG/JPEG

Resolution: 1920 pixels on the longest side

Digital color space: sRGB

File Name: Do not use personally identifiable information in the file name. Use springpeeper.jpg rather than janedoe1.jpg or jd1.jpg.

Metadata: Include the photographer's full name in the author field in the metadata.

By submitting a photograph to the CVPS Photo Contest, you affirm that you are the photographer and that the photograph was taken within the boundaries of a local, State, or National Park in the United States.

The Photo Society reserves the right to:

- Decline entries if any of the requirements are not met.
- Reclassify any entry deemed to be a better fit for a different category.
- Re-size any images that do not meet the requirements above and change the color space to sRGB. The resulting image may not look as you intended.
- Combine categories where there are insufficient entries.

By entering photos in the contest, you are granting to the Cuyahoga Valley Photographic Society and the Conservancy for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park a non-exclusive license to use those photos to promote the Contest and the Photo Society, including but not limited to posting them on the CVPS web site and Facebook page, and to project them during the Contest awards ceremony. If you have questions regarding the 2026 Photo Contest, email cvpscontest@gmail.com