

Chatham Borough Sponsors “Explore Chatham” Photography Contest

Contest Rules

Purpose

The Chatham Borough Environmental Commission and the Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee are jointly sponsoring a photography contest. Included in the missions of these organizations are finding ways to educate and connect people with the ecology and history of Chatham Borough. In 2012 the “Explore Chatham” portion of the Borough website was created to help make these connections. The purpose of the photography contest is to give photographers an outlet to share their work and have it judged, while at the same time inspiring others to connect with Chatham Borough in perhaps a new and insightful manner.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all photographers ages 8 and over. Contestants must be able to prepare digital files, fill out an entry form and submit the digital files. Photos must be taken outdoors in Chatham Borough during 2012 or 2013. The photographer must identify the subject of the photograph (e.g. name of animal or plant), and the park or nearest street where it was taken. No identifiable persons should be in the photograph. Entrants must not submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, damage to the environment by the photographer, put any individual or animal in danger, or infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person. Contest officials reserve the right to refuse photos with inappropriate content.

Divisions

Provided there are sufficient satisfactory entries, there will be first, second and third place winners in four categories in two divisions:

Youth: ages 8-17

Adult: ages 18 and over

Categories

Photographs must fit into one of the following categories to be considered:

Wildlife: wild animals of all kinds, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and insects

Plants: including trees, flowers and fungi growing naturally in the wild

Landscapes/Weatherscapes: scenic or wild, natural places, unusual weather events or effects

Historic: uniquely Chatham Borough historical sites or architectural details

Digital Alterations

All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness, removal of dust and scratches, cropping and black and white conversions. Multiple exposures of the same scene that have been combined to produce a single “High Dynamic Range” image are also acceptable.

Not acceptable are photos created by combining two or more images not of the same scene, the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photos, or the use of artistic digital filters and effects. Examples of artistic filters and effects are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others which do not show the scene in its natural way.

Format

Photo submissions may be submitted on a CD or flash drive or e-mailed as attachments to a message. The file must be in JPG format. Any aspect ratios from 1:2 to 2:1 are acceptable. Please size any e-mailed file so that the longest dimension is no more than 800 pixels (file size is less than 600KB) and set the quality to “high.” (Not sure how to do this? Try: <http://webresizer.com/resizer/> or <http://pixlr.com/editor/>.)

In order to ensure anonymous judging, please do not include signatures or watermarks that would reveal the name of the photographer.

Winners may be asked to provide a higher resolution file that we can print and display. This higher resolution photo may contain the photographer’s signature.

Entry Process

Contestants may submit their entries online or through the US Mail in a 2-step process. (1) The entry form must be filled out giving contact information and permissions. (2) Photo files must be submitted. No more than five photographs may be submitted by a single person. Entry forms and instructions for completing this process are on the Chatham Borough website at <http://chathamborough.org/photocontest>

Prizes and Recognitions

Images will be judged on originality, uniqueness of the subject, technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit. There will be up to three prize winners per category per division. All winning entries will be announced and exhibited on-line. There will be a prize presentation at a location to be announced later.

Winners will also be announced in a widely-circulated news release, including to local media and the hometown media for any non-residents.

Copyright

The photographer retains full copyrights to his or her images, however, participation in the contest requires the contestant to give Chatham Borough permission to use the photographs without compensation on the Chatham Borough website as well as on the Explore Chatham website, for display at the Municipal Building and the Library, and in news releases which may appear in print or on third party websites for the purpose of publicizing Chatham Borough, the contest and the presentation of the awards.

Timeline

Submission Dates and Deadline: Begin submitting now. **Deadline is midnight, Saturday, October 26, 2013.**

Judging: Begins the Week of November 4, 2013

Winners Announced: Week of December 2, 2013

Submittals

Entry forms and photographs may be submitted either by e-mail to:

photocontest@chathamborough.org,

or by US Mail to:

Explore Chatham Photo Contest
54 Fairmount Avenue
Chatham, NJ 07928