



# The official rules for the 2016 Mainspring Conservation Trust Photography Contest

## ELIGIBILITY

The Digital Photo Contest ("Photo Contest") is open to all legal residents of the United States. Employees of Mainspring, as well as the immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members of those employees, are not eligible to enter.

## ENTRY PERIOD

The Photo Contest begins at 12:00am EST on September 15, 2016 and ends at 11:59pm EST on December 31, 2016 (the "Entry Period"). Entries submitted before or after the Entry Period will not be eligible.

## WHAT TO ENTER

Mainspring wants to see the beauty of the Southern Blue Ridge in the eyes of the people who explore it. Entries will be judged in the following categories:

Landscape/Waterscape  
Plants  
Wildlife  
People in Nature

To ensure eligibility for the contest, please review these guidelines:

- Submit image sizes at a minimum of 3600 pixels in the long dimension.
- Accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared.
- Editing with minimal post processing for natural appearance is preferred over garish colors and over processing.
- Entries may originate in any format — including, but not limited to digital files, digital prints, color transparencies, color prints, or black and white prints — so long as they are submitted electronically in a .JPEG .jpg, or .png form.
- Multiple exposures that have been combined to produce a single "High Dynamic Range" image are acceptable.

*If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted, and must be able to provide copies of those releases to Mainspring upon request.*

The following submissions are ineligible:

- Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright.
- Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content.
- Images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer.
- Images that involve putting any individual or animal in danger.
- Images taken more than three years prior to the beginning date of the Contest (September 15, 2016).

Mainspring shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.

## JUDGING

Photos will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit and subject matter relevance to humans and nature. Judging will be conducted by a panel of Mainspring employees and guest judges to be selected by Mainspring at its sole discretion (the "Panel"). The Panel will evaluate all valid entries and pick the following winners in the following categories:

Categories:

1. **Landscape/Waterscape:** Includes any photo of mountains, farms, waters (including underwater) or forests.
2. **Plants:** Best still life image of native plants, blooming flowers, etc.
3. **Wildlife:** Note that images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer, will be ineligible.
4. **People in Nature:** Illustrates above and beyond the hope that people and nature can thrive together on this planet. Includes people camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, biking, running, etc.

Photos from all seasons are acceptable and encouraged.

## POTENTIAL WINNER REQUIREMENTS

Except where prohibited, a potential winner may be required to complete and return an affidavit of eligibility, including proof of age, and liability/publicity release within 14 days. If a potential winner is a minor, his/her parent or legal guardian will be required to sign the documents on his/her behalf.

## PRIZES

Mainspring will award a first, second and third place prize in each of the four (4) categories. In each category, first place winners will receive \$150, second place \$100 and third place, \$50.

All winners are responsible for paying any income taxes and any and all other costs and expenses not listed above. If the prize value equals or exceeds \$600, a winner will need to complete, sign and return an IRS W-9 form prior the award of any prize.

## QUESTIONS

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to Molly Phillips at [mphillips\(at\)mainspringconserves\(dot\)org](mailto:mphillips@mainspringconserves.org).

## YOUR RIGHTS

Your photographs help tell the story of Mainspring's conservation work in the Southern Blue Ridge. Thank you for helping to further our mission through your photography.

**You will retain all rights to any photograph you submit -- including ownership if applicable.**

If you submit a photograph to enter the Photo Contest, you grant Mainspring Conservation Trust a royalty-free, nonexclusive right, in perpetuity, to:

- Use the photograph on the Internet and in Social Media in support of our mission.
- Use the photograph in Mainspring's internal and external communications materials, including but not limited to web sites and web publications, fact sheets, fund raising publications, advertising, multimedia, presentation and membership services, *Land Steward* and annual report.
- Provide your photograph to other individuals and organizations for Mainspring-related use in news stories, newsletters, reports, slide shows, displays, web pages, videos, membership premiums, and the like.
- Use your name, city, state and country of residence in promotions and other publications.
- Retain a digital copy of your photograph that will be archived in the Mainspring's photo library and accessible to staff via Mainspring's internal online photo archive.
- Mainspring will endeavor to credit all photographs when the full name is available.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Photo Contest is impaired in any way, Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, either: (a) suspend the Photo Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Photo Contest; or (b) award the prize(s) from among the eligible entries received up to the time of the impairment. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and seek damages from any individual who tampers with the operation of the Photo Contest, violates these Official Rules, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. Proof of sending any communication to Sponsor by mail shall not be deemed proof of receipt of that communication by Sponsor. In the event of a dispute as to the owner of an online entry, the authorized account holder of

the e-mail address used to enter will be deemed to be the owner. The Photo Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.

## **RELEASE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, Facebook, Twitter, their respective parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (the “Released Parties”) from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the

Photo Contest or receipt or use of any prize, including, but not limited to: (a) unauthorized human intervention in the Photo Contest; (b) technical errors; (c) printing errors; (d) late or undelivered mail; (e) errors in the administration of the Photo Contest; or (f) injury or damage to persons or property. You waive the right to claim any attorneys fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages.

## **ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS**

When you enter, you will automatically become an e-supporter of Mainspring Conservation Trust. This includes special event invitations, digital messages and a monthly e-newsletter. You may cancel and unsubscribe at any time.

## **DISPUTES**

You agree that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of, or connected with, the Photo Contest or any prize awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate court located in North Carolina. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, your rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of Sponsor in connection with the Photo Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of North Carolina, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of North Carolina or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than North Carolina.

## **RESULTS**

Winners will be announced via Facebook, Mainspring’s e-newsletter, and posted on Mainspring’s website ([www.mainspringconserves.org](http://www.mainspringconserves.org)). Winners will be notified by the email address in which they submitted their photograph(s) no later than February 1, 2017.

## **QUESTIONS**

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to Molly Phillips at [mphillips\(at\)mainspringconserves\(dot\)org](mailto:mphillips@mainsspringconserves.org).