

Florida's State Forest PHOTO CONTEST

The State Forest Photo Contest is an enhancement to the forest management and recreation program. Photography is one of the leading recreational activities enjoyed by the citizens and visitors of the state of Florida. The State Forest Photo Contest is a tool to promote and enrich this activity for state forest visitors.



Photograph Submission

Contestants will complete, sign, and submit the Photograph Submission form. If under the age of eighteen (18), a parent or legal guardian must complete and sign the forms. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department) employees are not eligible to participate in this contest. Up to ten photographs, all for the same contest quarter and by the same photographer may be submitted with one Photograph Submission Form. When the ownership of a submitted photograph is contested, the Department reserves the right to discontinue use of the photograph and disqualify the photograph from the contests. Any photograph that includes recognizable people also requires a signed Model Release, DACS-01330 from those recognizable people, in order to be eligible for the contest. A parent or legal guardian must consent and sign the Model Release for people under the age of eighteen (18) recognizable in a submitted photograph.

Submitted photographs are recommended to be a minimum resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels or higher. Acceptable formats include: .jpg, .gif, .bmp, .psd, and .tif. Prints are not acceptable. Photographs may be horizontal or vertical. Photographs can not include borders, frames, dates, watermarks, signatures, or copyright images on the photographs. Digital enhancements for minor cropping, contrast, saturation, or red-eye removal are allowed. Significant enhancements or manipulations, which include but are not limited to dodging, adding content, or rearranging content will disqualify the submitted photograph. All submitted photographs must be taken within a Florida State Forest or upon its waters. Each photograph can only be submitted once.

Photograph submissions can be submitted by email or by mail on a CD. Submissions by email will include the digital photographs and scanned required forms listed above. Submit entries to: FLDOFRecreation@doacs.state.fl.us in a format that does not exceed a total email size of five (5) MB. Submissions by mail will include the photographs on a CD labeled with the photographer's name and all required forms listed above. Mail to:

Florida Division of Forestry
State Forest Photo Contest
3125 Connor Blvd. Suite C-25
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

Submitted materials will not be returned. The Department recognizes that the photographer owns the photograph and the copyright to the photograph. The Department reserves the right to crop photographs as necessary. The photographer allows the Department non-exclusive rights to use and publish the photograph on its website, in publications, calendars, brochures, or displays to promote Florida's State Forests.

Photograph Judging

All submissions will be screened for acceptability. Acceptable submissions will be judged by Department personnel. The judges will review the photographs based by category. The categories are: nature (wildlife, plant life, natural landscape), recreation (hunting, fishing, trails, camping), and artistic (creative, illusion). The winning photograph along with the top photograph from each category will be posted to the contest website quarterly. Each photographer may only win once per contest year. The decisions of the judges are final.

All submissions received by the twentieth (20th) of each ending quarter month (March, June, September, & December) will be judged for that quarter. Submissions received after the twentieth (20th) of each ending quarter month will be included in the following contest. The winning photographs will be judged at the end of the year for the title of the Florida State Forest Photo of the Year.

State Forest Photo Contest Prizes

Contest prizes will be awarded through the support of the Friends of Florida's State Forests. Prizes will be awarded as indicated:

Quarterly winners will receive:

- One T-shirt.
- One Primitive Campsite at a Florida State Forest of choice up to 3 days.

Annual winner for the Florida State Forest Photo of the Year will receive:

- One Florida's State Forests Annual Day Use Entrance Pass.
- One Friends of Florida's State Forests membership for one year.
- One framed enlargement of their photograph.

Conditions

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to change the rules of the State Forest Photo Contest as necessary. Any rule changes will be posted on the Division of Forestry website at www.fl-dof.com under 'State Forest Recreation'.

