

2025 Virginia Forests Photo Contest Guidelines

I. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Individuals may enter *one* photograph in each category. (See **Categories and Codes** in next section.)
- B. An entry submission form **must** be completed for **EACH** photograph.
- C. All entries must be photographs that have been taken in Virginia.
- D. Any digital or film camera or mobile phone camera can be used. Photographers are responsible for image quality.
- E. All photographs must be .jpg format.
- F. Photographs containing minors must include verification of permission for use in VFA publications.
- G. **CONTEST DEADLINE:** submit both images and entry submission forms by **11:59 pm on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**

II. CONTEST CATEGORIES AND CODES

1. **Working Forests & Industry** [CATEGORY CODE: *Industry*]
This category includes photographs of people, places and activities related to commercial forestry and forest products industries.
2. **Virginia Flora** [CATEGORY CODE: *Flora*] This category includes photographs of plants and fungi in its environment. Native Virginia flora are preferred subjects in photographs in this category.
3. **Virginia Fauna** [CATEGORY CODE: *Fauna*] This category includes photographs of mammals, reptiles, birds, and insects within the environment. Native Virginia fauna are preferred subjects in photographs in this category.
4. **Virginia Landscapes** [CATEGORY CODE: *Landscape*]
Photographs in this category feature Virginia landscapes as the main subject: natural landscapes, seascapes, the sky (sunsets, sunrises, clouds, etc.) or underwater images.
5. **Forest Recreation** [CATEGORY CODE: *Play*] Submissions to this category include examples of recreational activities that are common within forests such as hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, etc.
6. **New Forests in Virginia** [CATEGORY CODE: *New*]
Photographs in this category celebrate the diversity of forests and forest landowners. Photos of urban forests, newly established forests, new or transitioning forest landowners, and other images related to “new” forests can be included.

IV. PHOTO SIZE AND EDITING REQUIREMENTS

A. Preferred Photo Size

1. To ensure that your photo can be reproduced at the best quality for print, adjust your camera/phone settings to capture the image at the highest resolution setting. Each photograph should be no less than 3300 pixels on its longest side at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) resolution.
2. Checking and Editing image size:

- a. **PC:** Right-click on image file, select *Properties* from the sub-menu and click on the *Details* tab in the Properties box. The longest side should be at least 3300 pixels.
- b. **Mac:** Right-click (or hold down the Control key and click) the image thumbnail and choose *Get Info*. The size will be under the *More Info - Dimensions* section. The longest side should be at least 3300 pixels.
- c. **Online Editing Software:** Pixlr is a free, powerful editing software. <https://pixlr.com/editor/>
- d. **Editing Software:** Adobe PhotoShop, Lightroom, Paint (PC), and Preview (MAC)

B. Photo Editing

Permitted modifications include:

- Cropping, resizing, and rotating/straightening photo
- Red-eye removal
- Corrective functions to improve the natural appearance of the image such as white balance, brightness, contrast, levels, color balance, saturation, sharpening, noise reduction.

Modifications NOT permitted include:

- Adding, removing, or replacing elements in the image
- Artistic filters (including apps on mobile, photo to art-type filters, etc)
- Added borders or frames

V. STEPS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRIES

Step 1: Image Identification

Change each image filename using the following naming convention:
Title_Category Code_Photographer Last Name *Example:*
Oak_FF_Johnson

Step 2: Complete Entry Form and Upload Images

Each photo must be submitted with an accompanying entry form (See following page). Online submission can be completed at www.vaforestry.org.

**** Please note that a failure to include the correct identification in the image filename **and** on the entry form will be returned to the submitter for completion. When images are resubmitted, they must be received before the deadline or will not be included in the competition.*

2025 Virginia Forests Photo Contest Entry Form

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

Winners will be featured in Virginia Forests magazine.

Photography Contest Category:

(Choose a category and, if applicable, select Youth Entry for those photographers who are 18 and under. You may enter ONE photo per category as part of the contest. Please use a separate entry form with each submission.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Working Forests & Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ENTRY: Age: ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Flora	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ENTRY: Age: ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Fauna	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ENTRY: Age: ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Landscapes	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ENTRY: Age: ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ENTRY: Age: ____
<input type="checkbox"/> New Forests	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ENTRY: Age: ____

Photographer's Name:

Email address for notification:

Image Filename: (PLEASE USE THIS NAMING FORMAT::
Title_CategoryCode_PhotographerLastName)

Image Description:

Location where image was taken:

Species name *(both common and scientific)* when applicable:

Photos without species identification will be returned to the submitter for completion. When images are resubmitted, they must be received before the deadline or will not be included in the competition.

Date image was taken:

Any additional details about the image or how it was taken:

By participating in the *Virginia Forests* magazine photo contest, you are granting permission for Virginia Forestry Association to use your photo in its publications (both print and electronic) for purposes of education and member engagement. Photo credit will be given when possible.

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