



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24-27

2024 Texas Master Naturalist Photo, Art, & Media Contest RULES AND REGULATIONS

General Rules

- All Texas Master Naturalists and Chapters may submit entries.
- TMN reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the requirements of the contest rules and regulations.
- TMN also reserves the right to change the category in which a photo is submitted.
- Only registered attendees for the state meeting may vote.
- Only first place winners of each category will receive ribbons.
- Digital entries may be used by the Texas Master Naturalist Program according to the uses described in these rules. By entering digital entries in this photo contest, entrants grant the Texas Master Naturalist Program royalty-free and non-exclusive right to use, with full credit given to the photographer except during judging, at Texas Master Naturalist events during the contest, and to promote this and future contests and program events in publications, websites, display panels, or promotional products. Entrants waive the right to inspect or approve the final use of their photographs by the Texas Master Naturalist Program and for the uses stated above. Additional permission will be requested to use photographs for purposes other than listed above. All submitted digital photographs remain the property of the photographer.

Entry Submission

August 1, 2024 12:00 AM through September 15, 2024, 11:59 PM CST

Categories

Individual member submissions categories:

- Photo –
 - Plants or Fungi
 - Wildlife: Birds
 - Wildlife: Insects and arachnids
 - Wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibians
 - Wildlife: Other
 - Chapters at work/play
 - Scenic
 - Detail & Macro
 - Digitally Enhanced Photos
- Art –
 - Paintings or Drawings
 - Sculptures, Carvings, & Ceramics
 - Sewing or Stitchery

Chapter submissions categories:

- Newsletter
- Scrapbooks
- Brochures

Entries

- Entries **must be submitted** between August 1, 2024, 12:00 a.m. and September 15, 2024 11:59 p.m. CST.
- One (1) entry per member, per category (A member may submit one bird photo, one plant photo, one insect photo, etc.).
- For chapter submissions, One (1) entry per chapter, per subcategory.
- Entries will be uploaded using the State TMN website <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>.
- Entries **MUST** be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- If a category is not selected on the form, the contest host committee will select a category.
- All entries must use the file naming convention: Photoname_Categoryname#. For example: TemptingFate_Photos3 (for Photo Wildlife-Insects).
- Submission files may not exceed 15MB.
- Accepted photo formats: JPEG, GIF and PNG are accepted photo formats. High resolution photos of at least 300 dpi are preferred for best quality.
- Accepted video (see Art Categories for details) formats: MP3, MP4, MOV, WEBM
- Accepted Newsletter, Scrapbook, Brochure format: PDF.
- Photos including people are restricted to Chapters at Work/Play, Newsletters, Brochures, and Scrapbooks. Entries will be rejected for all other categories if people are included in the photo. Photos with recognizable people may later be used for program promotions. It will be assumed the author has subject image permission.
- All images and artwork submitted must be the work of the individual or chapter submitting them. Participants may be required to provide proof of the original.

Review and Posting

- Entries and associated forms will be checked for errors and completeness.
- Adjustments will be made by the committee if needed (e.g. category reassignment).
- The committee will contact the submitter if there are any problems or questions regarding the entry.
- Entries will be posted to the State Annual Meeting App for voting by registered attendees.

Judging and Awards

- First, second, and third place awards in each subcategory will be decided by all registered Annual Meeting attendees) using the Annual Meeting App.
- Only the first-place winners of each category will receive ribbons.
- Categories with less than three submissions will not be awarded places within the category but will still compete with overall best of show.
- Best in Show will be decided by the contest committee and state leadership team.
- Voting will begin October 1, 2024 at 12:00 a.m.
- Voting ends at 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, October 25, 2024**
- Winners will be announced on **Sunday, October 27th**, at the Annual Meeting Contest Awards Ceremony.

Categories Rules and Regulations

CHAPTER MEDIA	
1	<p>Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one newsletter issue (i.e. one monthly issue) can be submitted by a chapter. • If the PDF format causes loss of newsletter content or otherwise having its presentation format altered, contact the host chapter contest chairperson listed below to discuss alternative formats that might be acceptable.
2	<p>Scrapbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters may submit a PDF of their scrapbook. This can be created by taking photos of the scrapbook and creating a digital version of it. • This may not be the best way to illustrate what the scrapbook might look like in-person. This does give chapters an opportunity to showcase their scrapbook if they choose to submit it to the contest. • *New rule* If your chapter's scrapbook has won in the past three years, it is not eligible for entry.
3	<p>Brochure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pages of the brochure must be included and have appropriate resolution for viewing the content.

PHOTOGRAPHY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the intent of this contest to focus on plants, fungus, and animal species seen in <u>the wild</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All subjects must be in their natural habitats in Texas. ◦ Photos taken in your backyard of native plants, birds, butterflies, or other species that 'visit' are accepted. • No digital entries of domestic, farm, ranch or zoo animals are allowed. • No digital entries of cultivated vegetable-garden plants are allowed. • Digital entries that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified if not properly submitted to the digitally enhanced category. • Acceptable digital alterations are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness, and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDRI/HDR (high dynamic range imaging). • Except for the digitally enhanced photo category, photo composites (combination of two or more digital entries that are not of the same scene) will not be accepted. The addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the digital entries, or the use of artistic digital filters and effects will not be accepted. Examples of artistic filters and effects NOT acceptable are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others that do not show the scene in its natural way. • All entries for the 2024 TMN Photo, Art, & Media Virtual Contest must not have been submitted to this contest in previous years. 	
1	<p>Plants or Fungi</p> <p>Images of flowers, trees, other flora, or fungi, as the main subject.</p>
2	<p>Wildlife: Birds</p> <p>Images of birds as the main subject.</p>
3	<p>Wildlife: Insects and Arachnids</p> <p>Includes images of insects and arachnids as the main subject.</p>

4	<p>Wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibia Includes images of reptiles or amphibians as the main subject.</p>
5	<p>Wildlife: Other Includes images of other wildlife including marine life not covered by other categories or other mammals as the main subject.</p>
6	<p>Chapters at Work/Play Includes images of at least one chapter member working on a chapter approved TMN project or event with some way of identifying this as a TMN project. Example: sign, logoed hat, or t-shirt, etc.</p>
7	<p>Scenic Includes images in which elements of land, water, sky, or other natural elements are the primary subject. Excludes close-ups or small focal points of nature. Ships, buildings, or other man-made structures should not provide the main focus in this category.</p>
8	<p>Detail & Macro Includes images that are zoomed in close on an object to see its finer details or to make small objects appear life-sized or larger than normally seen with the naked eye. Examples: A full-frame insect in a five-by-seven-inch photo is well above life-size; Insect eyes, veins on a leaf, a reflection in a water droplet, etc.</p>
9	<p>Digitally Enhanced Photos This is the only category in which significant digital manipulation is allowed. This category is intended to show how the elements of nature can be expanded to create unique photographic images that become art.</p> <p>Includes nature as art, a single or composite image that has been digitally manipulated, or an image greatly manipulated with digital filters, HDR digital imaging, etc. to create a graphic or artistic effect. Examples of artistic filters and effects that ARE acceptable are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, and stained glass. These effects may alter how the image would look naturally.</p> <p>You may also use photo composites or double exposures such as the combination of two or more digital entries that are not of the same scene (in this case, all locations must be stated). The photographer must note the digital techniques used to create the picture.</p>

ART

The following art media can be submitted by a TMN member (one entry per/subcategory) as part of this year's contest. The subject matter must represent some aspect of nature within or seen in Texas.

- Media Types:
 - Paintings or Drawings
 - Sculptures, Carvings or Ceramics
 - Sewing or Stitchery
- Entries must not exceed 15MB. High quality images of at least 300 dpi are recommended for best display.
- Single digital image for drawings or paintings.
- Short video for sculptures, carvings, sewing, or stitchery. Permitting a video allows the voters to see the full beauty of the submission.
- Accepted video formats: MP3, MP4, MOV, and WEBM.
- Accepted photo formats: JPEG, GIF, and PNG.

