



ARIZONA WILDLIFE VIEWS

Official Rules: Arizona Wildlife Views photo contest

Do you want to see your photo on the cover of *Arizona Wildlife Views*? Do you have a knack for capturing great photos of wildlife? Then you won't want to miss the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 20th annual wildlife photo contest.

One best in show and 11 winners will be showcased in the 2027 calendar, which is published as part of the November-December 2026 issue of *Arizona Wildlife Views*. The best-in-show photo is published on the cover of the issue and as one of the photos representing a month. Winning photos may also appear in future issues of *Arizona Highways* magazine.

All photos must depict wildlife native to and found in Arizona, and all photos must have been taken in Arizona settings. Entrants are responsible for complying with the Official Rules; not doing so may result in disqualification.

All photographs must be submitted through [Arizona Highways' platform](#).

The deadline to submit photograph(s) is 5 p.m. MST on Aug. 14, 2026.

OFFICIAL RULES

Eligibility

The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers, age 18 and older, and to amateur photographers under the age of 18 with parents' permission. Employees of the contest Sponsor (the Arizona Game and Fish Department) and members of their immediate family (spouse, parent, child, sibling and their respective spouses, regardless of where they live) or persons living in the same households of such employees, whether or not related, are not eligible.

Content

This contest is for photographs of Arizona wildlife. All photos must depict wildlife native to and found in Arizona, and all photos must have been taken in Arizona settings. As defined in Arizona statute, the term "wildlife" does not include insects, including dragonflies, butterflies, scorpions or arachnids. Photos of pets, livestock, horses, or burros are not eligible. Photos that include people or recognizably man-made objects including roads, powerlines, fence posts, bird feeders, artificial water supplies and bird bands are not eligible. Foliage, plants and/or habitat should be native to Arizona.

Captive animals photographed in major zoos, wildlife research facilities or rehabilitation centers are permitted if the location is identified. The other elements of the photo must not be identifiably man-made. Photos of captive animals photographed in game farms or roadside zoos, or animals from these facilities photographed elsewhere with a handler's control, will be disqualified.

In order not to encourage behavior that may disturb wildlife, photos of baby birds in a nest, or of baby elk, deer, or pronghorn bedded down, will not be accepted. Photos of federally listed (threatened and endangered) species will not be accepted, unless it is clear that the animal was not manipulated to get the shot.

Submissions and Format

All photos must be submitted through *Arizona Highways'* digital platform.

Format: Photos must be in RGB color format, horizontal, 300 dots per inch, 8 bit, and at least 9x12 inches when printed at 300 dpi. The pixel width should be 3600 and pixel height should be 2700. Photos that do not meet these requirements may be disqualified. Please note that these dimensions will be used to prepare final winning photographs for publication, and some cropping may be done at the Sponsor's discretion.

The photograph, in its entirety, must be a single work of original material taken by the contest entrant. Photographs in which content has been altered will not be accepted, nor will photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization or altered using artificial intelligence tool(s). Do not add signatures or watermarks to photos.

Note about smartphones: Even at actual size, photos from a typical smartphone are 10.8x8.1 inches at 300 dpi, which is too small to qualify for this contest.

Entry Procedure

1. Each contestant may submit a maximum of three (3) entries.
2. Each submission must contain the following:
 - Name of photographer (how you would like your name published in the magazine)
 - Mailing address (good through December 2026)
 - Email address
 - Telephone number (good through December 2026)
 - Species/location for every photo
 - Technical metadata for each photo

Prizes

Eleven first-place awards will be given, plus one "Best in Show" for the cover photo. There is a limit of one winning photo per photographer. All winners receive cash prizes and complimentary copies of the calendar issue of *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine. No prize transfer, assignment, or substitution by winners is permitted. Winners will be notified via email. Winners are required to register with the Arizona Procurement Portal in order to receive their cash prize. Any winner who fails to register in a timely manner will not receive a cash prize, and the photo will still be published with credit.

Honorable mention will also be given to photos of particular merit. All honorable mention photographers receive complimentary copies of the calendar issue of *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine.

The names of winning photographers and those selected for honorable mention will be posted on www.azgfd.gov/photocontest and provided to the media.

Judging

Entries are judged separately and anonymously — there is no personal information included with photos during the judging process. Winners will be announced in November 2026. Decisions of the judges are final and binding.

Entries are judged on the basis of:

- creativity
- photographic quality
- composition
- effectiveness in conveying the unique character of the subject

Entries subject to disqualification:

- photos too small (follow format above)
- photos of insects, livestock, and wildlife not native to Arizona
- photos of baby birds in a nest, or of baby elk, deer, or pronghorn bedded down
- photos depicting: fences, hummingbird feeders, people, and man-made objects

- wildlife not clear or close enough
- photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization, edited with artificial intelligence or have a watermark/signature

Deadline and Proof of Submission

The deadline for receipt of entries is 5 p.m. (MST/Arizona time) on Aug. 14, 2026. Entries received after this deadline will be disqualified. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt. Entries must be made by the authorized account holder of the email address submitted at the time of entry. "Authorized account holder" is defined as the natural person who is assigned to an email address by an internet access provider, online service provider, internet domain owner, or other person or organization (e.g., business, educational institution, etc.) that is responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted email address.

Winners

Winners' names will be posted online at www.azgfd.gov/photocontest and www.arizonahighways.com after Nov. 1, 2026.

Rights and Permissions

Photographers retain copyright to their submitted photographs. By submitting one or more entries, contestants agree that, if selected as a winner or for honorable mention, the photo can be published with photographer credit in the calendar issue of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's magazine, *Arizona Wildlife Views*. Winning and honorable mention photos also may be used in promotions of *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine and the calendar photo contest, including, but not limited to on the department's website; in Arizona Game and Fish newsletters; on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's social media platforms including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and LinkedIn accounts; or publication in the form of slides on television or in videos. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will not use any submitted photos in any other way or for any other purpose without permission and agreed-upon compensation. Winning and honorable mention photos may also be used in future issues of *Arizona Highways* magazine, as well as in promotions for *Arizona Highways* magazine, including but not limited to on the *Arizona Highways* magazine website; on cover wraps; and on *Arizona Highways*' social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and Pinterest, with complete credit given to the photographer. *Arizona Highways* also will not use any submitted photos in any other way or for any other purpose without permission and agreed-upon compensation.

The Sponsor reserves the right to verify the validity and originality of any entry and/or entrant (including an entrant's identity and address) and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these Official Rules or who tampers with the entry process.

Updated May 1, 2026