

Musconetcong Student Nature Photography Contest

The Musconetcong Watershed Association is thrilled to announce a brand-new nature photography contest for students of high school age in our watershed communities. We are excited to highlight the beauty of this river that has been designated “National Wild & Scenic” by the National Park Service, while also showcasing the talents of the youth who call it home. Whether you have the latest and greatest camera or a smartphone, we want to see the incredible photographs you’re able to capture. Winners will have their photographs displayed throughout the Musconetcong Watershed in addition to receiving a mounted canvas print of the winning shot.

Categories

- Flora & Fauna
 - This category includes photographs of living organisms such as plants, animals, fungi, and lichens.
- Musconetcong Landscapes
 - This category includes photographs where the subject is a body of water (river or lake), a mountain ridge, or some other larger view.
- Working in the Watershed
 - This category includes photographs that capture the history and culture of the Musconetcong River Valley, such as agriculture as well as historic buildings, bridges, and other structures.
- Playing in the Watershed
 - This category includes photographs that capture the forms of recreation that the Musconetcong River Valley enables us to enjoy, such as fishing, paddling, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

A panel of five judges will select one winner and one runner-up in each category. Additionally, there will be a “best in show” overall winner.

Eligibility

Any student in grades 9 – 12 enrolled in a “Watershed High School”:

- Delaware Valley Regional H.S.
- Hackettstown H.S.
- Hopatcong H.S.
- Jefferson Township H.S.
- Lenape Valley Regional H.S.
- Mount Olive H.S.
- North Hunterdon H.S.
- Phillipsburg H.S.
- Roxbury H.S.
- Sparta H.S.
- Voorhees High School
- Warren Hills Regional H.S.
- West Morris Central H.S.
- Home-schooled or private-school students ages 14 – 18 living in areas served by the above schools
- Vocational Technical Schools for Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties

Rules

- It's free to participate in this contest!
- Photographs must have been taken:
 - Solely by an eligible participant (sorry, siblings and parents!)
 - Within the Musconetcong River Watershed. Not sure what that means? Check out [this map](#) on our website. Your safest bet is to take photographs on or near the Musconetcong River, as well as any streams that flow into the Musconetcong. If you're still unsure, please contact us using the information at the end of this document.
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered. A complete submission will have:
 - Your photograph, which should be a .jpeg file no larger than 10 MB
 - Submission category (see above)
 - Your name
 - Grade (or equivalent if home-schooled)
 - School (or hometown if home-schooled)
 - Date and location of the photograph; location can be the name of a park, waterbody, or the municipality. You do not need to include street addresses.
 - Equipment used (smartphone or the brand and type of camera)
 - A caption for the photograph (1 – 3 sentences), including any interesting details or inspiration for the picture
 - If the photograph contains a clearly identified person (for example, their face is visible), you must include proof of consent from that person, or that person's parent/guardian if younger than 18 years of age, using the Model Consent Form. With this in mind, it's often best to photograph only people you know and can get consent from!
- You may submit up to three photographs total. Please send your photograph(s) and all submission information to contest.mwa@gmail.com. **All submissions must be sent to this email account in order to be considered for the competition.**
- Editing
 - We want you to balance the skills of identifying and photographing an interesting subject while also showcasing any photograph editing skills you may have.
 - What we allow: Basic editing, such as cropping, retouching (contrast, lighting, color enhancement), use of filters, *provided it does not affect the authenticity or nature of the photograph*.
 - What we won't allow: Extreme editing, such as adding or deleting elements.
 - Decisions on acceptable levels of editing are up to our judging panel.
- Ownership of Submissions
 - You retain the copyright for all of your submitted photographs. However, by submitting, you consent to these photographs being used by the Musconetcong Watershed Association for promotional and educational purposes that further our mission. If you'd like to be properly credited when we share these

photographs and are younger than 18 years of age, please submit the Name Usage Consent Form.

- Deadline
 - The deadline for submission photographs is Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:59p.m.
- Winners will be announced Monday, January 23, 2023.
- Our five winners and four runners-up will have their photographs displayed at multiple locations throughout the watershed (such as a library or coffee shop, specific locations to be determined), and all will be invited to a “reception” to gather at each of these locations on a specific night in order to meet and discuss their photographs with visitors/attendees.

Questions? Please contact:

Ryan Jiorle

Community Engagement Coordinator

Musconetcong Watershed Association

ryan@musconetcong.org

(908) 537-7060