

# 2024 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 Sunday, December 31, 2023.**

## 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. Online submission can be completed at [www.vaforestry.org](http://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.

# 2024 *Virginia Forests* Photo Contest Entry Form

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Photography Contest Category:

*(select the applicable category)*

**Working Forests & Industry**

**Virginia Flora**

**Virginia Fauna**

**Virginia Landscapes**

**Forest Recreation**

**New Forests**

Photographer's Name:

Photographer's Email address:

Image Filename: (EXAMPLE:Title\_CategoryCode\_PhotographerLastName)

Image Description:

Location where image was taken:

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

\*\* Please note that a failure to include the correct 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:

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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.