



## 2017 Montcalm Conservation District Photo Contest

The Montcalm Conservation District (MCD) Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers who are residents of Montcalm County. Participants can enter as many as three photographs total each year. Each photograph has to fit in one of the four natural resource or conservation photo topics listed below and **have been taken in Montcalm County.**

MCD has provided required entry instructions that include a complete description of how to submit photographs, accepted photo formats, judging, use of the photos and prizes. Please follow these instructions and guidelines carefully to ensure eligibility in the contest.

If you have any questions, please contact Nick Sanchez at (989) 831-4606 Ext 5 or by email at [nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net).

### **Photo Topics**

Before taking your photographs or submitting them for the contest, please review the detailed explanation of the photo categories. Judges reserve the right to determine if a photograph is appropriately categorized and change a photograph's category accordingly.

1. Nature up Close
2. Down by the Water
3. Old Farmhouses and Barns
4. Kids and Trees

### **Photo Contest Category Explanations and Examples**

**\*Remember that the photo contest is being run by the Conservation District, keep that in mind when you choose your best photos. They should be related to conservation in some way. \***

### **Awards**

Three top winners will be selected from the best of the photos submitted by kids (ages 16 and under) and three top winners will be selected from the best of the photos submitted by adults (ages 17 and up). Each first place winner will receive a \$50 gift card, each second place winner will receive a \$20 gift card and each third place winner will receive a \$10 gift card. All photographs submitted will be displayed at the Montcalm Conservation District Annual Meeting, where winning photographers will be awarded. The annual meeting will be held in October 2017 (dates, time and location to be announced). First place winning photographs (2) will be displayed on the front and back of the annual report.

### **Entry Instructions**

**Complete and Submit Entry form, Photo Release Form and Subject/Model Release Form (if applicable) for each photo entered.**

Forms and photographs should be submitted digitally by email to [nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net). Forms should be submitted as email attachments or printed forms. Forms requiring a signature can be signed using a pdf editing program or can be signed and scanned as a pdf or jpeg and then emailed to the Montcalm Conservation District. More detailed information on photograph submissions is included in the Entry Guidelines section below.

## **Entry Guidelines**

The deadline to enter the 2017 Montcalm Conservation District Photo Contest is 4:30 p.m. **Sept. 1, 2017**. All entry forms must be submitted in a digital format. Participants can enter as many as three photos total. Only amateur photographers are eligible to compete. An amateur photographer is one whose majority of income does not come from photography.

In order to be eligible for the contest, entries must follow the guidelines below:

**1. Multiple Submissions** If you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of three photographs per participant), you must complete an entry form, photo release form and model/subject release form (if applicable) for **each** photograph. Any photo without its own entry form and release form will not be considered for the contest.

**2. Photo Format** Photos must be submitted in digital format (jpeg or tiff files **only**) to [nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net). No printed photos will be accepted. Each photo must be named and emailed according to the photo file name guidelines below.

**3. Photo File Names** Photo files must be named by category and last name. Name each photo file for entry as follows:

**Nature up Close:** NC-First & Last Name

**Down by the Water:** DW-First & Last Name

**Old Farmhouses & Barns:** OFB-First & Last Name

**Kids and Trees:** KT-First & Last Name

For example, Nick Sanchez, wishes to submit a photograph for the Nature up Close topic. His file name would read as follows: NC-NickSanchez.jpg

***Your photo must be labeled or named as outlined above to be eligible. TIP: To rename or label a photo, right-click the photo and choose Rename.***

**4. Photo Email Guidelines** For each photo submitted by email, the subject line of the email must be the category you are entering (use the categories listed below):

Photo Contest – Nature up Close

Photo Contest – Down by the Water

Photo Contest – Old Farmhouses and Barns

Photo Contest – Kids and Trees

**Do not** add anything else in the subject line.

**5. Digital Enhancement** Minor digital enhancements for cropping, red-eye removal, filters and corrective functions are permitted, but images that have been judged to be altered in any significant manner will be disqualified. Contestants are not permitted to place borders, frames or backgrounds around their images or to place watermarks, dates, signatures or copyright images onto photos.

**6. Previously Published Photos** Do not send photo reproductions from a printed publication. Previously published photos are not eligible for the MCD Photo Contest.

**7. Photo Rights** All entries can be used by MCD, and MCD reserves the non-exclusive right to use all photographs in publications or for promotional purposes. The photographer retains rights to their photo for other uses. MCD is not the exclusive owner.

## **Required Forms**

Completed, signed forms must be received for entry to be eligible for contest.

**1. Entry Form:** 2017 Montcalm Conservation District Photo Contest Entry Form and Photo Release Form. *Please note:* If you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of three photos total per participant), you must complete an entry form and photo release form for *each* photo.

Any photo without its own entry form and release form will not be considered for the contest.

**2. Model/Subject Release Form:** Photographs that include recognizable people must include a signed Model Release form before the photograph will be accepted into the photo contest and displayed. A parent or guardian must consent for people under 18 years old. The Model/Subject Release form must be attached to the Photo Entry form. The Model/Subject release form is included in the Entry form information.

## **Judging Standards**

Photos will be judged on technical merit and composition. For technical merit, judges may check to see if the photo is well-framed, properly exposed and sharp and clear. For composition, judges determine if the photo features a recognizable center of interest, action and imagination and creativity. MCD reserves the right to disqualify entries not meeting the rules and guidelines.