

Society of Biology Photography Competition 2015

Terms and Conditions

Individual entrants are responsible for ensuring that they have read and abided by the terms and conditions before submitting their photographs. No allowances will be made for instances where this is not the case.

Any entry found not to comply with the competition rules is liable to be disqualified.

Eligibility

1. The Organiser of the competition is the Society of Biology, Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU. The competition is open to anyone except those involved in its organisation, employees of the Society of Biology and their immediate family, sponsors of the competition, judges and their immediate family.
2. The competition is free to enter and is open to Society of Biology members and non-members. Entrants must not be professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from the sale of their photographs.
3. Entrants to the Young Photographer of the Year category must be under 18 years of age at the time of the closing date (31st August 2015).
4. Prior to submission, entrants must not have offered any of their entries for sale, been paid for any publication of their entries, or won or been runner-up in any other photographic competition with any of their entries.
5. The closing date for submissions is midnight on 31st August 2015 and any submissions received after this time will not be considered for the competition. Once an entry has been submitted it cannot be edited.

Camera and file type specifications

6. Entries must be digital images or scans of transparencies (any format). Poor quality scans will not be permitted. Transparencies and prints are not permitted. Each entrant may submit a maximum of 3 images to the competition. Black and white images are permitted.
7. Images should be submitted as high resolution JPEGs or PNG files no larger than 10 MB. If you are successful in being shortlisted, we will request your original file for further judging and reproduction purposes, with no interpolation applied. Please keep copies of all your original and resized images safe. Images submitted must be of sufficient resolution to produce high quality large scale prints from. If the original file is not received, the image may be disqualified from the competition.

8. There are no restrictions on the type of camera used but it should be noted that part of the judging criteria will be technical excellence and it is therefore recommended that you use the highest possible quality setting on your camera. The original file should be as large as you can achieve with your equipment. The image should have been taken using a camera with a sufficiently high resolution to allow the image to be printed at A2 size for the purposes of exhibition.

Adjusting your image

9. The faithful representation of what was captured at the time of the shot being taken must be maintained. Digital adjustments are only acceptable if limited to minor cleaning work (removing dust spots), levels, curves, colour, saturation and contrast work. Sharpening and minimal cropping is allowed. Stitched images are not permitted.
10. Compositing, multiple exposures, sandwich shots and double exposures are not permitted. Adding or removing elements into/from the image is not allowed. Pictures that have been digitally manipulated beyond the terms of this rule will be disqualified. The judges reserve the right to exclude any image they believe may have been excessively treated so as to alter its authenticity.
11. Black and white images are permitted. Digital files or scans of transparencies can be submitted. Dodging, burning and toning of these are allowed.

Subjects and Ethics

12. The competition asks photographers to put the welfare of animals first and to safeguard their environment and that they do not do anything to injure or distress animals or destroy the environment in their attempt to get their photographs. If the Organiser or the judges suspect that a picture was taken using cruel or unethical practices, the entry will be disqualified.
13. It is the photographer's responsibility to be aware of and comply with the national or international legislation (e.g. in the case of protected species) governing the country in which their images are taken. Pictures must be accompanied by copies of the relevant permits and these should be scanned and emailed, or posted to the Organiser's address with the entrant's full name and information on which picture it relates to.
14. All photographers will be asked to declare that the images they are submitting comply with the competition rules and that the picture information they provide is complete, true and accurate.

Notification

15. If your entry is shortlisted you will be notified in September. Shortlisted entries will be notified if they are finalists by 1st October and will be informed if they have won a prize. The full details of the winner, runner-up and highly commended entries will be announced for the first time at the Society of Biology Annual Awards Ceremony which will take place on 15th October 2015 in London (Venue TBC).
16. If the Organiser is unable to contact winners after reasonable attempts have been made, the Organiser reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
17. Those shortlisted for the Young Photographer category will need to provide proof of age and will also need to provide a signed statement from a parent or guardian that the entrant's submission is solely the work of the entrant.

Judging

18. Judges appointed by the Organiser will choose the winners. The Organiser's decision on all matters relating to the competition is final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the competition's judging and organisation.
19. Should the quality of entries fall below the standard required, the Organiser reserves the right not to award prizes. Such decisions shall be unchallengeable.

Copyright and Reproduction

20. The copyright of the entire image must belong to the entrant.
21. Entrants will retain copyright in the photographs that they submit. By entering the competition, all entrants grant the Society of Biology the right to publish and exhibit their photographs at awards event(s) and to use the image(s) in any way, including, but not limited to, The Biologist members magazine, a calendar, marketing materials, newsletters, posters, and on website(s). Entries may also be retained and used for the Society of Biology's photo library. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. Entrants whose photographs are one of the finalists or runners up also agree to take part in post-competition publicity. While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee this.
22. Media will be allowed to publish winning images free of charge for the purpose of promoting the photography competition without express permission from the photographer. All images used by the media will be credited to the photographer.
23. Third parties will not be granted permission to use images for other purposes without express permission from the photographer.

Liability

24. All entries are sent at the photographer's risk. The Society of Biology regrets that it cannot accept liability for any loss or damage of any images entered in the competition (howsoever caused) nor for any other loss or damage resulting there from.

Disclaimer

25. The Society of Biology reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control. Any breach of these terms by an entrant will void their entry. The Society of Biology reserve the right to request the return of a prize if, at a later date, the entrant has been discovered to be in breach of these terms.