



2018 Ionia Conservation District Photo Contest

The Ionia Conservation District (ICD) Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers who are residents of Ionia County. Participants can enter as many as four photographs total each year. One photograph may be submitted for each category. Each photograph has to fit in one of the four natural resource or conservation photo categories listed below and **have been taken within the State of Michigan (unless the category specifies that it be taken within Ionia County)**.

ICD 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 Melissa Eldridge at (616) 527-2098 ext. 3077 or by email at melissa.eldridge11@gmail.com.

Photo Categories

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
2. Fields and Streams
3. Farm Life
4. Kids In Nature

Photo Contest Category Explanations and Examples

- Nature includes anything natural located within Ionia County. This category can also include vintage or antique photographs of Ionia County nature, however, these need to be submitted in a digital format.
- Fields and Streams includes many subjects and the photographer is encouraged to use artisan work to create the best water photo of Ionia County.
- Farm Life includes examples of life on the Ionia County farm an might have people, animals, equipment, buildings, or other farm related subjects.
- Kids In Nature includes finding kids outside in nature within Ionia County. kids with trees, soil, plants, and animals are encouraged.

Awards

Three top winners will be selected for each category. Each first place winner will receive a \$25 Meijer gift card, each second place winner will receive a gift certificate for \$15.00 worth of native trees or wildflowers and each third place winner will receive a gift certificate for \$10.00 worth of native trees or wildflowers. Winning photographs will be displayed and awarded at ICD's Annual Meeting, which will be held on March 15, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

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 Melissa.eldridge11@gmail.com or in person at the Ionia Conservation District office, 431 Swartz Ct., Suite #300, Ionia. 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 Ionia Conservation District. More detailed information on photograph submissions is included in the Entry Guidelines section below.

Entry Guidelines

The deadline to enter the 2018 Ionia Conservation District Photo Contest is 4:30 p.m. **March 7, 2018**. All entry forms must be submitted in a digital format. Participants can enter as many as four 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 four 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 melissa.eldrdige11@gmail.com or in person at the Ionia Conservation District office, 431 Swartz Ct., Suite #300, Ionia. No printed photos will be accepted. Each photo must be named and emailed (or submitted in person) 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: N-LastName

Field and Stream: FS-LastName

Farm Life: FL-LastName

Kids In Nature: KN-LastName

For example, Rachel Koleda, wishes to submit a photograph for the Field and Stream category.

Her file name would read as follows: FS-Koleda.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
Photo Contest - Fields and Streams
Photo Contest – Farm Life
Photo Contest – Nature

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 ICD Photo Contest.

7. Photo Rights All entries can be used by ICD, and ICD 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. ICD is not the exclusive owner.

Required Forms

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

1. Entry Form: 2018 Ionia Conservation District Photo Contest Entry Form and Photo Release Form. *Please note:* If you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of four 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.