



**“Picture Middlesex County”
Photo Contest Guidelines**

<https://discovermiddlesex.com/picture-middlesex-county/>

Picture Middlesex County Photo Contest Guidelines

Picture Middlesex County is a photography contest running twice a year. The first round will be in effect from February 10, 2020 – May 4, 2020 (“Spring Round”). The second round will be in effect from August 3, 2020 – November 2, 2020 (“Fall Round”). The winning photos of the Spring Round will be displayed at Celebrate Middlesex County, and winning photos of the Fall Round will be displayed at the 2021 Reorganization Meeting. Winners may be publicly recognized at these events and receive a plaque/award.

**While participating in the Picture Middlesex Contest, we ask that you follow current health guidelines and maintain a 6-foot social distance from other people.*

Photo Contest Categories

There will be one winner per category and one overall winner for each round of the contest.

The categories are as follows:

- Landscapes
(Parks, gardens, waterfronts, farms, sunrises, sunsets)
- Nature/Wildlife
(Plants, flowers, trees, animals, insects, birds, seasons, storms)
- Transportation
(Planes, railroad/trains, vehicles, boats, roadways/dirt roads, interstates, bicycles, walking)
- Arts & History
(Historic sites, landmarks, public art, festivals)
- Cityscapes
(Buildings, architecture, skylines)
- Lifestyle
(People, community, photos that display life in Middlesex County)

Contest Rules

No purchase or payment necessary to enter or win.

Photo Eligibility

To enter, you must be a New Jersey resident. County employees are permitted and encouraged to participate. Ages 17 and under require parent/guardian consent on the entry form. The competition is open to **amateurs and professionals**. The photo subject must be **in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and**

must be taken within the timeframe of the contest. Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Do not submit a photo taken by someone other than you. You must be the sole owner of the copyright of any image submitted. By submitting an entry to the photo contest, entrants represent that their participation in this contest does not violate any applicable law. Your submission of the photo and entry form is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder of the photo. Your submission of the photo also ensures that you have permission to photograph any recognizable people in the photo.

The image must be the original taken by the entrant/photographer. The entrant represents that the image submitted has not been previously published or previously authorized for publication, except for posting on entrant's personal electronic accounts. Entrant further represents that the image was not produced by the use of deceptive or surreptitious means without the knowledge or consent of the persons depicted in the picture or in violation of the privacy rights of the owner of the premises depicted in the picture.

Number of Entries

An individual may submit no more than two (2) entries per category per round of the contest.

Photo Subject Restrictions

Photos must be appropriate for posting on a public government website. Photos will not be eligible for the contest if they contain:

- Obscene, provocative, sexually explicit, nude, violent, or other offensive or inappropriate content.
- Images that violate or infringe upon another person's privacy rights or copyrights.
- Images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer.
- Images that involve putting any individual or animal in danger.

Applicability of the above eligibility standards shall be determined in the sole and absolute discretion of Middlesex County.

Ownership/Rights

Photographers retain the copyright to their photograph(s). By entering the contest, photographers agree to have their submitted photograph(s) displayed on the Middlesex County, NJ website. No fee or other form of compensation will be remitted to a photographer if his/her photo(s) is/are selected by Middlesex County NJ for placement on its website or social media platforms. By entering the contest, photographers also agree to allow Middlesex County NJ to feature their photo(s) in any publication produced by Middlesex County NJ Government or any other entity. Photographers also agree to allow Middlesex County NJ to display their (photos) at various locations in Middlesex County NJ. By entering the contest, the photographer is giving Middlesex County NJ permission to use the photo(s) in current and future publications pertaining to Middlesex County NJ.

Photo Formats

We will only accept digital submissions in a .jpg format. Entries that are color images, black and white images, sepia-toned and duotone images are eligible. **Minor** digital enhancement is permitted.

All photographs must accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.

The entry form will accept images up to 10MG. If you are chosen as a finalist, you must be able to provide the image at no less than 300dpi at 8.5 x 11 inches.

Permitted:

- Images may be resized, cropped or rotated as necessary
- Red-eye removal and spot editing.
- One-step enhancement (such as “Auto Fix, “Quick Fix” “Auto Levels”, etc.)
- Use of filters to sharpen, soften, blur, de-speckle, or remove noise.
- Use of corrective filters to improve the natural appearance of the image such as levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, tone hue, saturation, lightness, value, color balance and tint.

Not Permitted:

- No watermarks, signatures, or copyright notices may be added to images. All winning images will be displayed with the photographer’s name.
- Adding or replacing elements in an image is not permitted.
- Artistic filters are not permitted.
- Adding borders or frames to images is not permitted.

How to Enter: You may submit up to two photos per category, per round of the contest. Please click on the link for the category or categories you'd like to enter below.

[Arts & History](#) (i.e.: historic sites, landmarks, public art, festivals)

[Cityscapes](#): (i.e.: buildings, architecture, skylines)

[Landscapes](#): (i.e.: parks, gardens, waterfront, farms, sunrise, sunset)

[Lifestyle](#): (i.e.: people, community, photos that showcase life in Middlesex County)

[Nature/Wildlife](#): (i.e.: plants, flowers, trees, animals, insects, birds, seasons, storms)

[Transportation](#): (i.e.: planes, railroad/trains, vehicles, boats, roadways/dirt roads, interstates, bicycles, walking)

The Judging Panel reserve the right to reject any additional entries or entries that do not comply with these Official Rules. By entering, you indicate your unconditional agreement to, and acceptance of, these Official Rules and Judging Panel decisions, which are final and binding.

If selected as a winning entry, entrants may be asked to supplement their submission (such as with the highest resolution version of their photo).

Judging

Entries will be judged anonymously on the basis of creativity, photographic quality, composition, artistic merit, and subject matter relevant to conveying the beauty and unique character of Middlesex County, New Jersey. A panel will judge the entries and all contest decisions are final. Entries that fail to comply

with the Official Rules will be disqualified. Entries may be placed or moved into appropriate categories at the sole discretion of the judges. All valid entries will be considered.

Winners

A winning photograph will be chosen among each of the six categories. An overall winning photograph will be chosen among all of the submitted photos. Winners will be notified 2-3 weeks after the contest deadline by phone or email using the information on the entry form. If a potential winner is unreachable after seven (7) days, or if the winner is unavailable for prize fulfillment, an alternative winner will be selected.

Prizes

- Winning category participants will receive public recognition during Celebrate Middlesex County (for the Spring Round winners) and the Middlesex County 2021 Reorganization meeting (for the Fall Round winners)
- Winning photographs may be featured on Middlesex County's website, social media sites, and in future marketing or promotional materials.

Additional Terms and Conditions

Middlesex County NJ is not responsible for lost, misdirected, misplaced, illegible, unintelligible, incomplete or late entries. Proof of sending any communication to the County shall not be deemed proof of receipt of that communication by the County. In the event of a dispute as to the owner of an online entry, the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter will be deemed to be the owner. The Photo Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited. Middlesex County is entitled to interpret these rules as needed and its decisions are final. Middlesex County reserves the right to disqualify any entrant that Middlesex County has reason to believe is not the original work or does not meet qualifications or contest rules. All winners are subject to all requirements set forth in the Official Rules. By participating in this contest you agree to release and hold harmless Middlesex County and all its employees, officers, affiliates, agents and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, losses of any kind resulting from your participation in this contest, including, but not limited to, infringement of intellectual property rights and/or privacy rights and/or damage to persons or property. Entrant waives the right to claim any attorneys' fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages. Middlesex County and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents and advertising and promotional agencies assume no responsibility for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of action, or losses of any kind arising in whole or in part from this contest.