



2025 Photo Contest Guidelines

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound is excited to announce the return of our Summer Photo Contest—an invitation to showcase what makes the South Sound home. This year's theme, *Love Where You Live*, is all about capturing the everyday beauty, meaningful moments, and special places that make our communities shine.

Eligibility

The photo contest is open to residents of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties, as well as photographers from outside these areas whose photos were taken here. There is no fee to enter.

Contest Categories

- Community Celebrations & People: This category is a unique opportunity to showcase the diversity and vibrancy of your community. Who makes up your community? What makes your community vibrant? Share photos of iconic events, community celebrations or gatherings, and the individuals that make up your community.
- Landscape & Wildlife: How does nature enrich your community? Share photos of the farmland, lakes, mountains, forests, wildlife, or other natural wonders. This could also include cityscapes and the iconic murals and buildings that are representative of your community.
- Nonprofit Mission in Action: Who serves your community? Share images of your favorite nonprofit in action.
- Youth Category (Ages 0-17): What do you love about where you live? Take a photo and share it with us. This category is open to photographers ages 0-17, and a Parental or Guardian Permission Consent Form must be included in their submission.

Prizes

The winner of each category will receive a \$250 cash prize or have the option to spread the love and donate their award as a grant to a nonprofit of their choosing, as well as a canvas of their winning photo. The second-place winner of each category will receive a \$100 cash prize or have the option to donate their award as a grant to a nonprofit of their choosing, and the third-place winner of each category will receive a \$50 cash prize or have the option to donate their award as a grant to a nonprofit of their choosing.

2025 Important Dates

- **July 1:** The 2025 Photo Contest opens for submissions
- **August 28:** Photo Contest & Committee Interest Forms close for submissions at midnight PDT
- **Mid-September:** Photo Contest Review Committee members will receive virtual access to the judging form to help select 3 winners in each Photo Contest category.
- **October:** Contestants will be notified of decisions, and sometime after, a showcase will be posted on our website.

Submission Guidelines

- There is a limit of five photographs per entrant.
- Entrants to the Youth Category (Ages 0-17) must provide permission from a parent or legal guardian to participate as part of their submission.
- Print entries are not accepted. Only electronic files submitted via our photo contest entry form will be entered into the contest.
- Standard processing of the original file is acceptable. See below for more details.
- The electronic file name must include the entrant's first initial and last name, i.e., JSmith.jpeg (include a number if submitting more than one— JSmith1.jpeg)
- The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound reserves the right to disqualify any entry deemed unsuitable for consideration due to objectionable content, such as profanity, nudity, drug, alcohol, or tobacco use, or cruelty to persons or animals.

Image quality: Minimum 3600 x 4800 pixels

Format: .jpeg or .png accepted

Image Editing Restrictions

- Acceptable image editing of the original file examples include:
 - cropping
 - minor adjustments to color, white balance, tone, lighting levels and curves, shadows and highlights, saturation, contrast, and sharpness
 - moderate dodging and burning
 - stitched panorama
 - sharpening, removal of dust spots, and moderate reduction of image noise
- Photographs that have been digitally or otherwise altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Examples include:
 - HDR frame stacking

- images that have been manipulated by the addition, removal, or alteration (painting over, cloning, or blurring) of anything in the original subject and scene that were photographed
- borders, signatures, or watermarks
- changes in color so significant that the processed colors are widely different from the original colors

Special Note: Your photo submission authorizes the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound to use your image in marketing materials. You are responsible for obtaining permission to photograph subjects featured in your submission. All photos must be original work taken by the entrants. No third party may own or control any materials the photo contains, and the photo must not infringe upon the trademark, copyright, moral rights, intellectual rights, or rights of privacy of any entity or person. No compensation will be provided for the submitted photos other than the prize awards outlined in the contest rules. Photo credit opportunities may or may not apply and are at the discretion of the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound and its media partners.

Questions?

Contact Mary Lam-Witcher, Philanthropy & Communications Officer, at mary@thecommunityfoundation.com or call us at 360.705.3340.