

## Photo Contest Rules and Instructions

Sponsor: County of Somerset, Administrator's Office, County Administration Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 20 Grove Street, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876-1262.

**1. Regulations:**

Professional and amateur photographers may enter this contest by submitting up to five (5) images regardless of theme taken in Somerset County, New Jersey. Each entrant must also submit a complete entry form. By entering this contest, each entrant gives the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership permission to use their entry (including photographs), in whole or in part, for display on the website and other printed publications without compensation. Each entrant grants the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership a non-exclusive license to use, reproduce, publish, display, and distribute their entry, in whole or in part, and entrants will retain the right to use entries for their own purposes. This contest begins on August 15, 2017 and ends on September 15, 2017 ("Contest Period"). Entrants who do not provide all required information will be disqualified.

**2. Eligibility:**

This contest is open to residents and employees of the County of Somerset, New Jersey.

**3. Submission Rules:**

Entrants can submit up to five (5) color or B/W photographs in JPG or PNG format only. All photos must be high resolution: 300 dpi minimum; at least 1900 pixels x 800 pixels; not to exceed 10 MB per photo. Be careful to not reduce resolution when saving any cropped images. Vertical images will be drastically cropped if chosen. You may only alter a photo's brightness and contrast (no manipulation, special effects, multiple exposures, etc.). "Shopped" photos or HDR shots are not allowed. The County of Somerset has sole discretion to disqualify photographs considered to be in violation of these official rules. In addition, all photographs must be taken and solely owned by the entrant, and must not infringe upon any rights of any third party including, without limitation, copyright, trademark and right of publicity or privacy.

**4. Submission Information:**

Photographs are to be submitted electronically. All photo files must be named in the following format. If you are submitting more than one photo, add a number to the end as shown below. File names should correspond to the information on the entry form.

Format: Last name\_First name\_Theme\_Number.jpg

Example: Smith\_John\_Architecture\_1.jpg

**5. Deadline:**

All submissions must be received by the County of Somerset Administrator's Office by September 15, 2017 by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. No late submissions will be accepted.

**6. Judging:**

A panel of judges will select the winner and runner up for each theme as well as an overall winner in both the professional and amateur categories. Representatives of the County of Somerset will serve as judges. All entries will be judged on artistic expression,

creativity and originality, the quality of the image, and the relevance to the listed themes. All decisions of the judges with respect to all aspects of this contest are final and binding. The County of Somerset reserves the right to disqualify entries which do not conform to these official rules or are deemed to be inappropriate. Please do not contact the County of Somerset Administrator's Office to find out if your submission has been received. When you submit your entry, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. Winners will be contacted by e-mail or phone.

**7. Publication and Display:**

In addition to the rights granted to the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership in Section 1 above, submission of any entry constitutes agreement to allow photographs to be reproduced, published and/or exhibited by the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership. Entrants grant the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership (except where prohibited by law) the right to use and publish their names, likenesses, and/or any information contained in their entry in print and/or other media in connection with the contest, including on the internet, by the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership without additional compensation, notice, review or approval.

**8. Subject Release Forms:**

Entrants are responsible for acquiring releases from identifiable individuals featured in their photographs. The release form for use in connection with this contest can be found below. Failure to submit a release form for identifiable individuals appearing in a photograph will result in the photograph's disqualification (in the County of Somerset's sole discretion).

Photo Subject Release Form

If a subject release form is required, the subject release form must be scanned and attached to the entry.

**9. General Agreement:**

Submission of entry to the contest automatically constitutes the contestant's agreement to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the County of Somerset and acceptance of all conditions set forth in these official rules. Entries not complying with these official rules will be disqualified at the County of Somerset's sole discretion. It is the responsibility of the contestant to ensure that publication of the photographs by the County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership raises no legal claims and does not infringe upon the rights of any third party, including, without limitation, copyright, trademark and right of publicity or privacy.

The County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership are not responsible and/or liable for any of the following, whether caused by the County of Somerset, the Somerset County Business Partnership, the entrant, or by human error: any late, lost, damaged, incomplete, illegible, destroyed, misdirected or postage-due entries or mail; miscommunications, misdirected transmissions or other errors of any

kind whether human, mechanical or electronic. The County of Somerset reserves the right to cancel, modify or suspend the contest without notice, including, without limitation, if, for any reason, this contest is not capable of running as planned. By entering, participants agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County of Somerset, its officers and its staff, and the Somerset County Business Partnership, its officers and its staff, from any and all liability arising from or in connection to this contest, including without limitation, a breach or alleged breach of any of the above representations and warranties.

**10. List of Winners:**

The County of Somerset will post a list of winners and their winning entries at [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us) after the conclusion of the photo contest. Winners will also be notified by mail or e-mail.

## **FAQs**

### **Why should I enter the contest?**

The County of Somerset would like to know what you as a resident or employee value and would like to see represented on the official website. The Somerset County Business Partnership would also like to know what you as a resident or employee value and would like to see represented in the "Somerset County Destination Guide." This is an opportunity to add your personal input to the official website and the guide. Through your community and civic involvement in the photo contest, your photos will help to develop an image of what the County of Somerset is about.

### **How will my pictures be used? Will I get recognition for my photos?**

Your entries may be used on the official County of Somerset website or in the "Somerset County Destination Guide." The winning photos will be showcased on the website and highlighted in printed material. The County of Somerset and the Somerset County Business Partnership will credit all photos used, meaning, if not already, you could be a published photographer!

### **Who else will be entering?**

Our goal is to involve all residents and employees within the County of Somerset. The County of Somerset ideally would like to receive entries representing the diverse demographic, landscape, community aesthetics, cultural and historical significance, and overall richness of the County.

### **How will winners be notified?**

The County of Somerset will notify winners by e-mail, telephone, or written correspondence in Fall 2017. Winners' photos will be displayed on the website and in the "Somerset County Destination Guide." The overall winner's photo will be displayed on the website, Somerset County Directory, the "Somerset County Destination Guide" and possibly the Somerset County Employee 4-H Fair staff t-shirt.