

Take Your Best Shot – Esko Nature Photography Contest

Who: any student presently attending Esko School District in grades 7 – 12.

What: submit up to three of your best digital nature photos for any or all months of the contest. Images must be taken during the month you are interested in submitting for. Example, the best photo for October must have been taken during the month of October.

When: September 2011 – August 2012; a winner will be chosen for each month of the year with a grand prize photo being chosen from the monthly winners in September 2012.

How: see submission guidelines below

Monthly Winners: each monthly winner will receive an exclusive “Nature Photography Contest” t-shirt with the above logo (logo designed by our own Mr. Kemptar)

For Inspiration: visit the gallery of Mark “Sparky” Stensaas at <http://www.sparkyphotos.com> . He is a local photographer and author/publisher of natural history books.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Enter up to three images per month of outdoor landscapes, close-ups, etc. Image subjects are to be natural phenomena only and not human subjects. One photo will be chosen each month as a finalist. Contest entries will be judged on technical quality, composition, originality, and artistic merit. All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing should be added to an image and nothing should be removed. Adjustments to the image should be made at the point of the camera using the camera's available controls. Cropping images using an image editor, like GIMP or Photoshop, is acceptable.

SUBMISSION DROP-BOX: the **submission drop box** must be used for your digital submissions.

Go to:

www.esko.k12.mn.us

then: Academics > High School > Science > **Evavold**

click on **Mr. E's Drop-Box**

under “Your Class” drop down to “**Nature Photography Contest**”

Upload and Submit

DEADLINE: Entries will be accepted beginning at 12:00am the first day of each month and up to 11:59pm the last night of the month.

DIGITAL ENTRIES: Please send digitally captured images taken at the camera's highest resolution. Send your entries in these formats:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTRY AND GOOD LUCK!

- Highest Resolution
- Largest Size
- JPG or JPEG format only!

If your computer bogs down submitting large image files in the Drop-Box, submit large image files one at a time.

DIGITAL IMAGE FILE NAMES: It is important to name each electronic image file with your first and last name—this is how we track your images. The best way to do this is to use the “save as” command in your image management program. Highlight the image file name and rename it with your FIRST and LAST name and a one- or two-word brief title description of your subject then save as a jpeg. Do not have spaces in your name, instead, use (_) between words. (Example: johndoe_lion.jpg)

YOUR SUBMISSION MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. **IMAGES.** Limit of three per month.
2. **LIST OF CAPTIONS AND CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS.** Send or email a typed list of the following information for each image: (* = required information)
3. **TITLE:** Common name of subject or species (Latin name not necessary).
4. **LOCATION:** Formal name of garden/park/forest/preserve, city, state or province, and country.
5. **YOUR NAME** (as you would like it to be published) and your city, state or province, and country.
6. **CAPTION:** Describe (up to 100 words) the natural history of your subject; the behavior displayed; the challenge of getting the shot and how it was resolved; the unique gear, preparation, or photographic set-up used; and perhaps a humorous anecdote about getting the shot.

(optional) CAMERA body, manufacturer, and model.

(optional) LENS (for zoom lens, include focal length used); Lens accessories (filters, tele-extenders, extension tubes).

(optional) SHUTTER SPEED.

(optional) APERTURE setting.

(optional) ISO setting.

(optional) FLASH: manufacturer and model, settings such as ‘full’, ‘fill’; Flash accessories (remote triggers, extenders): manufacturer, model.

(optional) TRIPOD (or car window mounts, bean bags, etc.): manufacturer and model; Tripod head: manufacturer and model.

If UNDERWATER: camera, housing, and strobes: manufacturer and model for each.

QUESTIONS? Call Chris Evavold at 218-879-4673 or e-mail cevavold@esko.k12.mn.us.

***Take Your Best Shot is not responsible for damage/loss of images/image information incurred during submission.**

****Photographers must not infringe on the rights of any other photographer, landowner or other person.**

*****Photographs involving willful harassment of wildlife, destruction of habitat or property are unacceptable.**

NOTE: Failure to comply with contest guidelines will lead to disqualification.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTRY AND GOOD LUCK!