

# 2026

## PHOTOGRAPHY IN SUSSEX COUNTY

Committee Presents

Photography Exhibition at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/NJ State Fair

Friday, July 31, through Saturday, August 8, 2026

### ENTRY INFORMATION

Each entrant may enter up to three (3) printed, matted images. Entries are limited to Sussex County residents, members of one of the three Sussex County camera clubs, or currently registered students in a Sussex County school. Part-time residents must list their Sussex County address on the entry form. The photos must have been taken within five (5) years by the entrant (all age groups included). The entrant certifies that he/she used a camera to produce all components of the photos being entered (no AI elements included). The image may be printed by a third party/company. Nothing that identifies the entrant may be visible on the front. Entries must be in good taste and family friendly. Images deemed unfit by the committee will be excluded. The expectations of the committee are that any artist's work will be as original as possible. The committee leaves the originality up to the integrity of the artist.

### ENTRY FORMS & RULES

Entry forms and rules are available at the **Fair Administration Building** and at **Sparta Photo and Video** in Sparta. They are also available online at [www.sussexcountyfairgrounds.org](http://www.sussexcountyfairgrounds.org). (Click on "Be a Part of the Fair," "Be an Exhibitor," scroll down to "Art, Photography..." then click on "2026 Photography in Sussex County Rules and Entry Form.") Printed copies and the online version will be available by Saturday, April 4. Complete one entry form per image and affix it to the back of the entry. For entries not dropped off at the Fair Administration Building, an envelope containing the entry fee should be taped to the back of each entry. Any questions should be directed to Eileen Stemley ([stemcenter@aol.com](mailto:stemcenter@aol.com)).

**Entry Fees:** \$5 for each adult entry and \$1 for each student entry, paid by cash or check.

**Entry Drop Off Locations:** Entries may be dropped off at two locations.

1. Fair Administration Building, 37 Plains Road, Augusta on Saturday, July 18 from 10 am to 2 pm and Sunday, July 19 from 10 am to 2 pm.
2. Sparta Photo and Video, 43 Theater Center, Sparta, until Wednesday, July 15 during regular store hours.

### DIVISIONS

Entries are divided first by the type of artist, then again by the subject of the image.

There are 4 divisions based on age and/or experience of the artist.

**Student Division:** This Division is open to students from 3 to 18 years old.

**Adult Amateur Division** (19 years and older): This Division is for photographers who have not won three blue ribbons or rosettes at this level in previous fair competitions. Excludes professional photographers.

**Adult Advanced Division:** This Division is for photographers who have not won three blue ribbons or rosettes at this level, have had some professional training, or are college students studying photography. Excludes professional photographers.

**Masters Division:** This division is for those who have won three blue ribbons or rosettes at the previous level or who are professional photographers.

**Professional photographers** are defined in this contest as artists who have met 2 or more of the following criteria:

- a) Has sold art work through commercial channels.
- b) Has been contracted by a third party (for pay or gratis) to photograph a subject, location, product, or event.
- c) Has exhibited in professional galleries, art exhibits or juried photography/craft shows.
- d) Has an on-line portfolio website.
- e) Has held membership in a professional photographer's association or guild.
- f) Has served as a judge, critic or instructor of photography or videography.

For this contest, "professional photographers" need not make all or part of their income from their photographic services. This Masters/Professional Division separates their work from hobby/amateur photographers.

**NOTE:** Any entrant has the option of beginning or placing themselves at a higher level, but will not be permitted to revert to a previous level.

## PRESENTATION OF WORK

**MATTING:** Each print is to be presented on a single backboard with a cut-out window framing the front. A completed entry form is to be attached to the back. If unclear, indicate TOP on the back of the matting board.

Prints presented with flush mounts, frames, glass, or wires will not be accepted. Conditions in the Richards Building are normally quite hot and humid during the exhibition. As a courtesy, the exhibit hosts will do some "first aid" on any photos that need it. However, if an entry requires more than simple "first aid" the entrant will be asked to pay for those materials (\$5 per adult and \$3 per student entry, cash or check only). Please be sure that your technique and materials are up to hanging in the extreme conditions for the duration of the Fair.

### SIZING:

**Adults:** Prints may be any size but must fit on a 16" x 20" mat.

**Students Aged 3 to 16:** While 8" X 10" is recommended, prints may be any size but must be mounted on 11" X 14" mat.

**Students Aged 16 to 18:** Mat size may be 11" X 14" or 16" X 20"

**NOTE:** Any deviation from these mats and backing requirements will not be accepted.

## RIBBONS, ROSETTES & CASH AWARDS

**Ribbons:** 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3rd place and honorable mention ribbons will be awarded in all divisions and categories provided a suitable number of entries are submitted in each category. Each First-Place winner in the Student Division will be awarded a \$10 cash prize.

**Historic America 250 Awards:** NEW for the 1776-2026 America 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. This category celebrates America's independence and spirit in photos of historical sites, settings and symbols. As examples, images may be historic battlefield landscapes, statues, monuments, military or battle reenactments, colonial-era architecture, artifacts or people in colonial costumes, or other symbols of America's proud history. Two special first place rosettes will be awarded – one for students and one for adults. Each entrant may enter 1 image in this category, as part of their 3 total entries

**Sussex County Awards:** These photos must be taken in Sussex County and preferably demonstrate some aspect of life in the County. Location taken is to be stated on the Entry Form. Rosette and cash awards are presented for first place winners in this category. First place student winner receives a \$10.00 cash award, and the adult winner receives a \$25.00 cash award. There are also second and third place ribbons in these categories, as well as honorable mentions.

**Photo Art:** This category is for highly computer manipulated photos and photos that have been post processed by blending multiple images to create one final image. All images and composites must be the work of the entrant. The entrant may not use generative AI elements in the creation of the image. Two Rosettes are awarded in Photo Art. One rosette for the student division and one for the adult division.

**Best in Show Rosettes:** Best in Show rosettes are awarded to: **Adolf Fassbender Award** (Amateur Division), **Adult Advanced Division, Masters Division**, and the **Charles Current Award** (Student Division). The Charles Current Award also includes a \$50 cash prize. **People's Choice Award** is chosen based on popular vote.

**NOTES:** 1. All first place, rosette and cash winners will be notified by e-mail or telephone, be sure to include your e-mail and phone number on the entry form. 2. No photo may be entered in more than one category by the photographer.

## PHOTO PICK-UP

Entries may be picked up at the Fairground's Richards Building from Noon to 3:00 pm on Sunday, August 9.

If you are picking up prints for someone else, please come with details on how many prints were entered, the division/category, and ID numbers. Entries not picked up on Sunday will be available at Sparta Photo and Video, 43 Theater Square, Sparta, where they will be held for 90 days then destroyed.

**NOTE:** Any questions should be directed to Eileen Stemley ([stemcenter@aol.com](mailto:stemcenter@aol.com)).

# "PHOTOGRAPHY IN SUSSEX COUNTY" Entry Form (Photo Show at the NJ State Fair)

Please enter your information clearly and attach this form to the back of each entry. Cash or check only. **\*\*See Entry Rules.**  
Each person may enter a total of 3 images, 1 of which may be in the "Historic America 250" category.

2026

Photographer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Circle if you are member of: PSC SCC VCC Camera Club

SCORE	AWARD

**INSTRUCTIONS: 1. SELECT your Division 2. CIRCLE one Category # that matches your entry\*\* 3. ATTACH this form on the back of your mat**

<b>STUDENT DIVISION</b> (3 to 18 years) Open to students from age 3 to 18 only. <i>Student mat size: 11" by 14"</i> <i>(Category #5 can be 11" by 14" or 16" by 20")</i>	<b>ADULT AMATEUR DIVISION</b> (19 years and older) Open to those who have won up to 2 blue ribbons or rosettes at this level in former competitions at this Fair. Excludes professionals. <i>Adult mat size: 16" by 20"</i>	<b>ADULT ADVANCED DIVISION</b> Open to those who have won up to 2 blue ribbons or rosettes at this level, have some professional training or are studying photography in college. Excludes professionals. <i>Adult mat size: 16" by 20"</i>	<b>MASTERS &amp; PROFESSIONAL DIVISION</b> Open to those who have won three blue ribbons or rosettes at the previous level. Includes all professionals. <i>Masters/Prof. mat size: 16" by 20"</i>	
<b>#1</b> Age 3-6 years <b>#2</b> Age 7-9 years <b>#3</b> Age 10-12 years <b>#4</b> Age 13-15 years <b>#5</b> Age 16-18 years <b>#6</b> Photo Art & Composites Student Division (All Students)  <b>#7</b> "Sussex County Award" Student Division (All Students) Where taken:	<b>#8</b> All Monochrome <b>#9</b> Country Life <b>#10</b> Flora/Plants <b>#11</b> Wild/Zoo Animals <b>#12</b> Domestic Animals <b>#13</b> Birds <b>#14</b> Landscape <b>#15</b> Insects <b>#16</b> Waterscape <b>#17</b> Humor <b>#18</b> General	<b>#19</b> People <b>#20</b> Architecture <b>#35</b> Photo Art & Composites (All Adults)  <b>#36</b> "Sussex County Award" (All Adults) Where taken:  <b>#38</b> "Historic America 250" 1 per entrant (All Adults)	<b>#21</b> People <b>#22</b> Animals <b>#23</b> Landscape <b>#24</b> Flora/Plants <b>#25</b> Still Life <b>#26</b> Architecture <b>#27</b> All Monochrome <b>#28</b> General <b>#35</b> Photo Art & Composites (All Adults)  <b>#36</b> "Sussex County Award" (All Adults) Where taken:  <b>#38</b> "Historic America 250" 1 per entrant (All Adults)	<b>#29</b> People <b>#30</b> Animals <b>#31</b> Architecture <b>#32</b> Landscape <b>#33</b> General <b>#34</b> All Monochrome <b>#35</b> Photo Art & Composites (All Adults) <b>#36</b> "Sussex County Award" (All Adults) Where taken:  <b>#38</b> "Historic America 250" 1 per entrant (All Adults)
<b>#37</b> "Historic America 250" 1 per entrant (All Students)				<b>#37</b> "Historic America 250" 1 per entrant (All Adults)

The photographer certifies the entrant created all elements/components of the entered photo. Initial here: \_\_\_\_\_ If you are interested in selling this image, check here \_\_\_\_\_ (We'll contact you if a buyer is interested.) We reserve the right to change divisions or categories for best fit.

**Signature of Entrant or Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

I grant the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show permission to use my entry photograph and photographs of me for editorial, trade, advertising, web content, and other purposes in any manner and medium. Furthermore, I understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use. This use agreement does not assign the copyright to the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show.

Entrant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not use my photograph or photos of me \_\_\_\_\_