

The Official Rules of Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray NWR 2026 Photo Contest

ELIGIBILITY

The 2026 Photo Contest is open to all professional and amateur photographers.

Refuge Employees, their families and members of The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge Board and their families are ineligible.

By submitting an entry to the Photo Contest, entrants certify that their participation in this Photo Contest is not illegal or in violation of any law, regulation, treaty or administrative act, and that the laws of their governing jurisdiction of residence at the time of entry do not prohibit or restrict the receipt of any Prize under this Photo Contest.

SPONSOR

The Photo Contest is sponsored by: Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray NWR
P.O. Box 1348
Anahuac, TX 77514

ENTRY PERIOD

The 2026 Photo Contest will run for 13 weeks and begins at 12:00AM on Sunday, March 1, 2026 and ends at 11:59PM Time on Saturday, May 30, 2026. Entries submitted before the Entry Period or after the end of the contest will not be eligible. The time shown on the email submission, per Yahoo's email server, will determine the official time the image(s) were submitted to the Photo Contest.

ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN DURING THE CONTEST (March 1, 2026 and May 30, 2026) however, they do not have to have been taken during the week in which they are submitted.

WHAT TO ENTER

The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge is committed to a future for people and nature. For our 2026 Photo Contest, we'd like to see your best photographs at Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge.

To ensure eligibility for the contest, photos submitted **must be in JPEG format at 300ppi**, no larger than **10MB**; and **the longest side of the photo must be at least 1800 pixels long**. All photographs should 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.

Multiple images that are combined into a single panoramic image are acceptable as long as they show the original scene accurately. HDR images are acceptable as long as they accurately show the original scene as it appeared when the photographs were taken.

Each week, a winner from that week (images submitted Sunday-12:00AM through Saturday-11:59PM) will be chosen as the *Photo of the Week*. That photo will be displayed on The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge's Facebook page and website.

The winner of the 2026 Photo Contest will be chosen from the winning Photo of the Week photos.

NOTE: *No one person can win the final prize in two consecutive photo contests. No one contestant can win more than two weekly contests.*

Entries should include metadata, if at all possible. Caption information should include:

- Name of location (Skillern Tract, Frozen Point, Shoveler Pond, etc.)
- Detailed caption of subject matter
- Date image was taken

Previously published material for which non-exclusive rights were granted may be entered if you still maintain the right to grant us a license. You must be able to disclose, upon request, when and where the photo appeared previously to The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge.

*****Please do not include watermarks on the submitted photos.*****

If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted; and you must be able to provide copies of those releases to The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge.

THE FOLLOWING SUBMISSIONS ARE INELIGIBLE

- Images taken outside the beginning and end of the contest
- Images not taken at Jocelyn Nungaray NWR National Wildlife Refuge
- Images taken from drones
- Images of captive animals photographed in zoos and commercial game farms
- Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including, but not limited to copyright and photographs of persons without the necessary consent required by law in your jurisdiction
- Photos that contain sexually explicit, nude, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content
- 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

The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge shall determine entry eligibility in its sole and absolute discretion.

HOW TO ENTER

All images must be submitted through our photo submission e-mail address foarphotos@yahoo.com including the contestant's name, email and other information about your photo submission.

You may enter 3 images per week starting each Sunday and ending on Saturday during the contest. The Sponsor reserves the right to reject any entries that do not comply with these Official Rules. By entering, you indicate your unconditional agreement to, and acceptance of, these Official Rules and Sponsor's decisions, which are final and binding. You cannot win a prize unless you comply with all requirements in these Official Rules.

Entrants may be asked to supplement their submission (such as with a paragraph about their photo or the highest resolution version of their photo).

JUDGING

Photos will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit and subject matter relevance to promote Jocelyn Nungaray NWR.

FOAR will notify the winner via the contact information provided at the time of entry.

PRIZE:

The winning photo will be chosen from the 10 images chosen as "Photo of the Week". The winner will win a:

- GoPro Hero 13-Black Action Camera (Approximate Value at \$329.00)

You will retain all rights to any photograph you submit including ownership if applicable.

If you submit a photograph to enter the Photo Contest, you grant The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge the nonexclusive right to:

- Display the photograph on the FOAR website, publicity banners, signs and pamphlets
- Use the photograph on the Internet and in Social Media in support of our mission
- Use the photograph in internal and external communication materials, including but not limited to, web sites and web publications, fact sheets, fund raising publications, advertising, multimedia presentations and membership services.
- Use, in connection with the Photo Contest, your name, state and country of residence in promotions and other publications

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge will endeavor to credit all photographs with the name of the person who took the photograph.

RELEASE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor and their respective parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (the “Released Parties”) from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Photo Contest or receipt or use of any prize, including, but not limited to: (a) unauthorized human intervention in the Photo Contest; (b) technical errors; (c) printing errors; (d) late or undelivered mail; (e) errors in the administration of the Photo Contest; or (f) injury or damage to persons or property. You waive the right to claim any attorneys’ fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages.

QUESTIONS

Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to: foarphotos@yahoo.com