



2026 Photo Contest & Exhibit

(All photos will be placed on exhibit, whether you win or not!)

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Scan the above QR code with your phone to register for the contest online.

**All prints MUST be mounted on foam core or
matte board backing.**

PHOTO CONTEST 2026

Bangor State Fair Eastern Maine Camera Club c/o the
Cross Insurance Center
515 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04401
Telephone: (207) 561-8300
www.bangorstatefair.com
www.eastmainecameraclub.photos

LOCATED IN Bangor State Fair CIC Ballroom

Rule Summary (Please read ALL rules carefully to avoid disqualification. Additional rules and details are on pages 2 through 4.)

- Mounting and Matting: **ALL PRINTS MUST BE MOUNTED ON A FOAM CORE OR MATTE BOARD BACKING, NO EXCEPTIONS.** (See Rule #7) If you are unable to do the mounting yourself, some local arts and crafts businesses may be able to do it for you. If you are unsure what is meant by a “backing,” please contact info@eastmainecameraclub.photos.
- How-to video — [Click here to view a YouTube video showing a simple method of mounting your photos on foam core.](#) Or use the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smyKkOH2_vg
- There are many more like this on YouTube if you want to look for alternatives to the method shown in this video.
- Print mattes are not absolutely required but are encouraged to help protect your print while being handled and stacked with other photos. (See Rule #7)
- Print sizes: At least 8 X 10 inches, but NOT larger than 16 X 20 inches, including the matte (See rule #6).
- The contest is open to everyone of all ages.
- Number of entries: You may enter one black & white photo AND one color photo in each category.
- Photo subjects must conform to the topics shown.
- Your identifying information must be written on the back of the print mounting. This is in addition to your information on the entry form and photo tickets. (See Rule #8.) This is in case the photo ticket gets separated from your photo.
- Important Dates: Deliver photos in person – bring your prints to the Cross Insurance Center, Woodrow Cross Entrance (Corner of Main and Buck Streets) on Monday, July 27, 2026, 4:30 to 7:30 PM. Pickup photos, receive prizes – Monday, August 10, 2026, 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

What are the rules for entering this contest?

1. This contest is open to all photographers of all ages.
2. Entries will be limited to one black & white and one color print in each category. Prints may be prepared using either a film or digital photographic process. You may not use the same image in more than one format, e.g. you cannot use the same beautiful flower close-up in color prints and B&W prints. You are NOT required to enter a photo in every category, only the ones you wish to enter.
3. Beginning this year, you should register your entries on the Bangor State Fair website at: https://crossinsurancecenter.formstack.com/forms/2026_bangor_state_fair_photo_contest_registration or use the QR code on the title page of this rules packet.
The deadline for online entry is midnight on Saturday, July 25, 2026. You may still register your prints on the drop off day, Monday, July 27th between 4:30 and 7:30 PM, if you do not have access to the internet.

Entry fees (Fees are per person. Please make checks out to Bangor State Fair):

First two (2) photos – \$15. Add \$2 for each additional photo.

4. Any photograph which is determined by the committee or judges to not conform to the category entered will be moved into a more appropriate category for judging, unless this causes the entrant to exceed the number of prints allowed in that category. If there is no category available, the image will be disqualified.
5. Pictures entered in a previous Photo Contest at the Bangor State Fair will not be accepted and will be disqualified.

How must I prepare my photos for the contest?

6. Prints (image area) must be 8 inches by 10 inches or larger, but NOT larger than 16 inches by 20 inches, including matte. Other aspect ratios within the size limits are acceptable.
7. **All prints must be mounted on a backing, preferably foam core**, either 1/8 inch or 1/4 inch, but a heavy matte board may also be used as a backing. Photos without mattes on the front side of the print are OK as long as the print and the backing are exactly the same size. No construction paper. No frames. No canvas wraps. (SEE ILLUSTRATION BELOW.)

Photo Mounted on **Backing**



Front **Matte** in Place



8. The following information must be placed on the reverse side of each entry, on the backing: the entrant's name, address, phone number, the category (see Categories on page 4), and the location where the photo was taken. This is in addition to the information on the photo tickets, in case they get separated from the print. Please include a title for the image on the back. There can be NO writing or anything else added to the front of the print which might influence or distract the judges. DO NOT sign the front of the print.
9. Complete the Bangor State Fair Photo Contest Registration Form (on Page 5) and the Photo Tickets for your prints prior to delivery to the Cross Insurance Center. Attach the photo tickets to your prints (one for each print) per the instructions included with the registration form.
10. Image Manipulation—The following rules regarding image manipulation will apply:
 - a. Color or B&W prints in all categories EXCEPT Nature may include any addition, modifications or manipulations, as long as they are the original work of the maker. Traditional toning (e.g. sepia, blue, silver) is allowed in all B&W categories, INCLUDING Nature, as long as it is still a monochrome image.
 - b. Nature images may not show the "hand of man," nor contain artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens or obviously set arrangements. Any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement is ineligible. Limited manipulations may include resizing, cropping, selective or overall lightening or darkening and restoration of the original color of the scene. No special effect filters, including blur to simulate out-of-focus areas, may be applied. Sharpening is allowed but must appear natural. Conversion to black and white is obviously allowed for the B&W nature category, but the conversion must be complete, i.e. no selective display of color within a B&W scene, or vice versa.
11. Photos must be delivered to the contest in person.
 - a. To deliver photos in person, bring your prints to the Cross Insurance Center Woodrow Cross Entrance (Corner of Main and Buck Streets) on Monday, July 27th, from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. There will be signs to guide you.
12. All photos must be picked up at the Cross Insurance Center by their makers, or someone acting for them, on Monday, August 10th, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Pickup will be at the same entrance as delivery. Arrangements must be made with the Eastern Maine Camera Club or Bangor State Fair if you are not able to collect your entries during this time.

For further information, email info@eastmainecameraclub.photos.

ALL PRINTS MUST BE MOUNTED ON A FOAM CORE OR MATTE BOARD BACKING, NO EXCEPTIONS.

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

(Note: One Black & White plus one Color print per category. No nudes in any category.)

1. People
2. Children
3. Nature—the “hand of man” cannot be evident in the picture.
4. Animals
5. Flowers
6. Open—Any subject matter in good taste.
7. Maine—Photos that symbolize Maine and were taken in Maine.
8. Destination Orono—Photos depicting the City of Orono, Maine as a place to come to for business, entertainment, shopping, sight-seeing, educational opportunities, or just to live.
(This is the second in a series of Destination topics. We will pick a different city in Maine each year that the contest is run.)

Prize money and ribbons in all the above categories include: First Place, \$50.00; Second Place, \$35.00; Third Place, \$15.00; Ribbons only will be awarded for Honorable Mention.

BEST IN SHOW: \$100.00 each for best color print and best black & white print, regardless of category. Best-in-Show winners are selected by the judges from all the first-place winners.

New This Year: \$100 People's Choice Award voted on by fair attendees

The contest committee reserves the right to not award ribbons and premiums to photos deemed not worthy by the judges, or to combine categories when numbers of entries are insufficient. Prize money will be forfeited if any print is removed from display before Mon, August 10th.

ALL DECISIONS OF THE CONTEST COMMITTEE AND JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.
DEVIATION FROM THE ABOVE RULES WILL AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFY YOUR ENTRIES. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE GIVEN REASONABLE CARE. THE COMMITTEE OR BANGOR STATE FAIR CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR DAMAGED PHOTOS, OR PHOTOS NOT PICKED UP WITHIN 30 DAYS.

Questions? Email info@eastmainecameraclub.photos.

ALL PRINTS MUST BE MOUNTED ON A FOAM CORE OR MATTE BOARD BACKING, NO EXCEPTIONS.

2026 PHOTO CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM &
PHOTO TICKET INSTRUCTIONS



Cross Insurance Center
515 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04401
Telephone (207) 561-8300
www.bangorstatefair.com

<p>PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>STREET _____</p> <p>CITY _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE _____</p> <p>EMAIL _____</p>	<p>Number of Photos Entered:</p> <p>_____ Color Prints</p> <p>_____ Black & White Prints</p>
<p>Fee Enclosed (One form and fee per person. Only one person per form) ALL PRINTS MUST BE MOUNTED ON FOAM CORE OR OTHER RIGID BACKING</p> <p>\$ _____ (\$15 for 2 prints, \$2 for each additional)</p>	
<p>Submit this form, along with the photo(s), fee, and Photo Ticket(s) from the Photo Ticket forms at the same time. Photos must be dropped off in person on Monday, July 27, 2026, from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Cross Insurance Center, Southwest Entrance.</p>	

1. Fill out a photo Ticket for each entry.
2. Do not write in the "Seq. num." or "Awards" boxes. These are for contest officials only.
3. Place the mounted photo face down.
4. Write your name, address, phone number, category, and location photo was taken on the back of the mounting board in case the Photo Ticket comes off.
5. Place the Photo ticket face down in the lower right hand corner of the mounting board. Align the ticket so that it hangs below the mounting board, as shown.



6. Tape the top of the ticket to the mounting board as shown.



7. Fold the ticket up at the dotted line.



8. Use a post-it note or small piece of tape to temporarily hold the ticket up for judging.



9. When the contest officials hang the photo for display after the judging, the ticket will be released so that it hangs below the mounting board to identify the photographer.



