

# 2026 TVAA Photo Contest Rules

- \$5 per entry. Total of **5** Photos per individual.
- Photos will be accepted from **July 17-27, 2026** only.
- Display space is limited. Photos will be hung in order received until category space is full. Please get your entries in early!
- Photos cannot exceed 11x14 but can be smaller. All photos must be mounted or matted.
- Framed photos cannot be accepted.
- The photographers name may not appear on the front of the submission.
- Photos can be picked up after **September 1, 2026**.
- Photos left more than 30 days will be donated to charity.
- Full or part-time professional photographers who receive all or a majority of their income from photography are not eligible to compete. All others may enter - regardless of age or address, a digital shooter or a film lover, an outdoor enthusiast or a studio photographer - you can enter the contest.
- Submissions must be taken with a camera, through a lens, Cell phone photos are ok.
- Photos can only be submitted one time – please do not enter the same image from a previous contest.
- Images will be judged on overall photographic and artistic quality.
- Cash prizes for Best of Show and First Place in Each Category. Ribbons will be awarded to all placing photos and honorable mentions.
- Categories must have a minimum of 4 entries to be eligible for cash prize consideration.

**Prizes:** Best of Show Ribbon & \$200, 1st place Ribbon and \$25 in each eligible category, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable mentions all receive ribbons. All ribbons will be hung at 4pm. If you win a ribbon and attend our reception event, please let one of our members know so we can get photos for the newspaper!

**First SATURDAY Photo Contest Awards Reception**  
August 1, 2026 from 1-4 pm at  
Gallery N Gifts (100 W. Tehachapi Blvd.)

**Permitted Modifications:** Photos that are “stitched” into a panoramic are eligible in all categories. Images may be cropped. Red-eye removal and spot editing is allowed. One step enhancement (such as “AutoFix”, “QuickFix”, “AutoLevels”, etc.) is allowed. Use of filters to sharpen or soften is allowed. Use of corrective functions such as contrast, brightness, tone, hue, lightness, color balance, tint are allowed. In other words, **minimal** – one step corrections are allowed. Not everyone has the experience or skill to use Photoshop type programs – those images should be classified as Digital Art.

Please complete an entry form for **EACH** photo entered  
and secure to the back of your photo.

# 2026 TVAA Photo Contest Categories

**Inside tip:** When the judges have a tie for their favorite photo in a category, they will look at extra factors such as: Does the photo really fit the category? Is it matted/mounted nicely? Do the category rules ask for specific title information? So be sure to read the rules completely, and if your photo doesn't fit a category, save it for the next contest!

**Landscape/ Nature:** These images showcase outdoor beauty. Note: please specify in the title or description the name of the location.

**Animals:** These images are of all kinds of animals, birds, etc. Please specify in the title or description if the animal was photographed in the wild or in a captive setting.

**Black & White or Sepia:** Speaks for itself.

**Sports:** Sports related photos.

**Celebrate Tehachapi:** We're looking for photos featuring our town. Scenery, landmarks, anything that captures the small town charm of our beloved Tehachapi. (Tehachapi wildlife photos should be entered in the Animals category.)

**People/ Portrait:** These images showcase people.

**Digital Art:** This category is appropriate for digital art - images created or drastically altered in software like Adobe Photoshop®. If the digital artistic work is the main attraction of the photo, or plays a big part, enter it here. Photoshop® composites and creations, Images greatly manipulated with software filters, HDR photos, Photos stitched into a panoramic. \*AI images not allowed.

**Youth Photography:** A chance for our youth to showcase their talents. Use the above categories as guidelines for competition. All photographers 18 and under will be included in this category. **Entries that are not labeled YOUTH CATEGORY will be entered into the above general categories. Please include your age with your submissions.**

*The categories are not written in stone and are considered suggestions more than rules. We reserve the right to determine when a photo fits or does not fit into a particular category. Photos deemed inappropriate for family viewing may be removed from consideration without the entrant being notified. By entering your submission you grant us the rights to publish your photo on our website or use for promotional purposes.*

## 2026 TVAA Photo Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Category: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Photo Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Gallery Use:  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Entry Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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