



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists

Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation

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On the Front Lines – So You Can Be in the Woods, On the Water or At the Range!

2026 Photo Contest Theme: “Pennsylvania’s Pollinators”

For Immediate Release

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The 2026 Contest will be a **PHOTO** contest. (Some counties may still hold poster contests.)

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists (PFSC) and the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation (PWF) Invites Youth to Share their Love and Connection with the Outdoors through Photography in the Annual Art Contest.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists and the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation host a uniquely themed wildlife contest each year. This contest is not just about winning, but about encouraging creative expression and fostering an appreciation and understanding of the outdoor world. It's open to all school-aged children in grades 4-12 who live in Pennsylvania, regardless of whether they attend public, private, or home schools. Entries will be judged against others in the same age group. Through these contests, we aim to inspire our youth to delve deeper into the wonders of Pennsylvania's wildlife, fisheries, and natural resources.

2026 Theme: “Pennsylvania’s Pollinators”

Pollinators are essential for the health of our environment, aiding in the reproduction of flowering plants and the production of many crops.

This year's theme, "Pennsylvania's Pollinators", is a powerful reminder of the crucial role our pollinators play in preserving our ecosystem.

Do you know how many types of pollinators are native to Pennsylvania? When we think of pollinators, butterflies are what usually come to mind. But what else is considered a pollinator? When are they most active? What will happen if our pollinators disappear? What is causing the demise of our native pollinators? What do you see in your backyard resulting from a pollinator?

For this year's contest, we are looking for depictions of Pennsylvania's Pollinators and the results of their work.

Get Excited, Get Involved, Get Outside! By looking closer at nature, and learning more about pollinators, you will see how conservation efforts promote and protect our natural resources and how you can make your neighborhood a better place to live so you can enjoy the outdoors in your backyard.

All photos and entry forms must be submitted electronically.

A link to entry forms, rules, deadlines and instructions can be found at <http://www.pawildlife.org>

“Conservation is our obligation to the future of Pennsylvania!”

2026 Photo Contest Details and Rules:

Only one entry per student

Photographs entered **must be submitted electronically**, in color or black and white. All submissions must be original photographs taken by the student submitting the entry to the contest. No trail cam photos are allowed. Photos must have been taken in Pennsylvania between March 2025 and February 2026 of the current contest year by the person entering the contest.

Contact Form: Must be submitted with your photo (see below).

Interpretation: Each entry must include a brief interpretation of how your outdoor depiction relates to the contest theme. Submissions will be judged on the photo **and** the brief interpretation of how the image depicts the theme.

Prizes at the State Level for Each Category: Senior (grades 10-12), Junior (grades 7-9), and Sub-junior (grades 4-6): First Place - \$75, Second Place - \$60, and Third Place - \$50.

DEADLINE: Photos must be submitted electronically to Beth@pfsc.org by March 1st.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES

1. No name shall appear on the front of the photo.
2. Theme: The photo must depict the current theme.
3. The Contact Form and a short interpretation must be submitted with the photo. (Form attached below or available for download on the PWF website. <https://pawildlife.org/art-contest>)
4. Interpretation: Each entry must include a brief interpretation of how your outdoor depiction relates to the contest theme.
5. Photos must be the student's original work, taken between March 2025 and February 2026. Submissions will be judged on both the photo and the brief Interpretation of how the photo depicts the theme.
6. One submission per person. Take lots of photos, then select your best shot.
7. Submitted photographs will become the property of the PFSC. Submission implies permission to share winning entries in PFSC publications and online.
8. Photos will be judged at the following levels: Senior (grades 10-12), Junior (grades 7-9), and Sub-junior (grades 4-6)
9. Winners will be notified by mail and announced at the PFSC's spring meeting in March. Winners will be published in PFSC/PWF's quarterly publication, The Conservation Lantern, and on the PWF website and may be showcased throughout the year at other promotional events.

Questions about the contest or for information on rules or how to enter: (717) 232-3480 / Beth@pfsc.org

Submitting Photos:

Photos must be submitted electronically to Beth@pfsc.org.

Download Interactive Contact Form

PHOTO CONTEST ARTIST CONTACT INFORMATION FORM:

(Must be submitted with the photo)

STUDENT'S NAME:

GRADE:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

SCHOOL NAME:

COUNTY:

CONTACT PERSON NAME:

PHONE:

Your electronic signature below verifies that you understand that entries become the property of PWF and PFSC and may be reproduced or published in print media or electronically without additional compensation. Winning entries may also be displayed at other events.

I certify that this is my original artwork: _____
Student's Signature Date

Interpretation: (Must be Typed)

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