

2026 RMOWP PHOTOGRAPHY & WRITING COMPETITION

We look forward to members sharing their writing and photographic work through the 2026 RMOWP competition. Submissions lead to recognition of your talents and provide professional growth and enhancement for everyone in RMOWP. To enter the contest, you must be a member of RMOWP, and you can join RMOWP when you enter. Entries must be **postmarked or dropboxed** no later than Monday, June 29, 2026. The entry fee is \$20.00 for all entries. Submissions will be displayed at the conference in Grand Junction, September 29 through October 2, 2026. Awards will be presented at the conference banquet.

- The judges will award first, second and third place for each category, and the winners will receive certificates. A Best of Show will be chosen for Photography Categories 01-12, and a Best of Show will be chosen for Written Works Categories 24-29. The best of show winners will receive a \$50 award. The judges may also give discretionary honorable mention awards.
- All photographs entered must have been produced since January 1, 2025, except for Member's Choice and published photographs. There are no time frame limits for Member's Choice photographs. Published images must have been published since January 1, 2024. There is no time limit for the creation or publication date of written works, books, video and video clips. However, they may not have been entered in a previous RMOWP contest.
- Images that have received an award in a past RMOWP contest may not be entered in any category of this contest. Images can only be entered in one category. If an image qualifies for more than one category, you must choose only one category for the image.
- Entry material can be taken or based anywhere in the world.
- Entries are limited to three (3) per category except for Member's Choice which is limited to two (2).
- Fill out the entry form and include a copy with your submission. Type or print the information clearly. Use as many pages as necessary. The entry form and rules will be available for downloading from the RMOWP website.
- Submit digital images for categories 01 through 13 and 40. They can be submitted on a CD, a DVD, or a USB flash drive that can be read on a PC, or through Dropbox. Do not attach tape, stickers or labels to a CD or DVD. Do not submit slides. However, scanned images from film are eligible.
- The image size should be 1,800 pixels on its long end at the highest quality jpg format. (File sizes can be changed in Lightroom, Photoshop, Windows Photos and Preview for Macs). The file name of each digital image should be the 2-digit *category number underscore photographer's first name underscore photographer's last name underscore image title*. (Example: 04_Ron_Smith_Elk Bugling at the Moon). The file name should be a maximum of 50 characters long. Try being creative with titles.
- Members are on their honor to not alter or manipulate the images submitted (except categories 09, 12 and 13). Using standard Lightroom and Photoshop features that crop, lighten, darken, change contrast, saturate, sharpen, remove noise, change shadows and adjust white balance and temperature are allowed. Masking is also allowed as part of processing. Deletion of minor features, such as a small branch, geometric patterns from lens flare, dust or water droplets is allowed. Deleting features greater than about 10 percent of the photo (think of the nine cells created by the rule of thirds) or that change the nature of the photo, except by cropping, **are not allowed**. Inserting features **is not allowed**. However, when there is insufficient space between a subject and the edge of a photo, processing features such as Photoshop's Generative Fill are allowed to extend the edge as long as the extension does not exceed 1/6 of the photo. A stitched panorama or an HDR processed image is not considered manipulated.
- Entries can be picked up at the awards banquet, designated not be returned or requested to be mailed back. **Please provide postage for return mailing.**
- If you have questions, please call or email Awards Committee Chair, Frank Zurey, 303-358-4610, frank@zureyphoto.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY

You may enter up to three images each in categories 01 through 12.

01. Images from Last Conference – These images must have been shot in conjunction with RMOWP’s 2025 conference in Taos, New Mexico. Photos may be of organized events or taken by individual initiative at the site of the conference and its workshops and field trips.
02. Scenics – These depict the natural world in which the center of attention is not flora, fauna, people, or man-made structures, although these subjects may be included as part of the larger scene. Examples include broad landscapes, waterfalls, streams, and rock formations.
03. Flora – Flora can include flowers, trees, leaves, cactus, and other plants that can be part of a larger scene but should clearly be the center of attention in the picture.
04. Fauna – Fauna can include a single subject or group of subjects. It includes all of the animal kingdom, including mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects or any living creature except humans. The fauna can be part of a larger scene but should clearly be the center of attention in the picture.
05. People in Nature – This category depicts a single person or a group of people in a natural setting.
06. Historical – Historical photos depict scenes and/or structures of historical interest, such as old mines, ghost towns, ancient Indian dwellings, old forts, churches or similar historical sites.
07. Cultural – Cultural photos depict outdoor festivals and would probably, but not mandatorily, include people in the photos. Examples would be Cinco de Mayo, harvest festivals, dances and parades.
08. Natural Phenomena – These photos are of natural **physical** occurrences in nature, such as storms, floods, forest fires, sunsets and auroras. Biological phenomena should not be included. Images of autumn foliage and bird migrations should be submitted in Flora (or Scenics) and Fauna, respectively.
09. Altered/Composite – Images in this category are manipulated by adding components, deleting major features (that comprise more than about 10 percent of the photo) or significantly changing the nature of the photo. Cropping is not considered altering or manipulating. A stitched panorama or an HDR processed image is also not considered manipulated.
10. Black and White Images – These images only include outdoor subjects in Categories 1 through 8. The image could be shot as B&W or changed to B&W during processing. However, a quality B&W image requires more skill and processing than simply changing a color file to gray scale.
11. Novice images – This category is open to members who have not been competitive in any RMOWP photo category, other than Novice, and consider themselves to be novice-level photographers. Enter only outdoor subjects included in Categories 1 through 8. Getting an award in the novice category does not disqualify you from continuing to enter images in the novice category. We would like to see novice photographers continue to enter this category until they are competitive in other categories.
12. Published Images - Submit a digital file of your image. Subjects may include anything qualifying for categories 01 through 10. Images must have been published since January 1, 2024. Photographs may be entered that were published in newspapers, books, magazines, calendars, postcards, posters, newsletters, eBooks, eMagazines, etc. If several photographs are published in a publication, only one photograph from the publication is to be submitted for competition. A pdf of the publication can be submitted with the entry in this category. Include the internet location of ePublications.

MEMBERS' CHOICE - PHOTOGRAPHY

13. Members may submit no more than two matted prints. The entries can be in any category (categories 1 through 10.) Print size is a maximum of 8 x 12 inches that is matted with a final size not to exceed 12 x 16 inches. The entries should not be framed. These entries will be displayed at the conference. Members will judge entries at the conference. Entries may be brought to the conference or may be submitted along with your other entries. **DO NOT PLACE YOUR NAME ON YOUR ENTRY.** Put the title of the photo and "Members' Choice" **on the back** of each submission. Submit a digital file of your entry either with your contest entry, at the conference or by email to frank@zureyphoto.com. You might consider contributing your entry to the annual auction. There is **no time-frame limit** for having taken the photograph for Member's Choice.

WRITTEN WORKS

Entries will include outdoor topics such as scenic areas, travel, history, wildlife, natural resource management, regulations, legislation or environmental issues. There is **no time limit** for the publication date. However, a written work may not have been entered in a previous RMOWP contest. If an individual has more than one written work in a publication, individual articles from that publication can each be submitted for competition. **Record the title, publication and publication date on the entry form.** Submit a printout of the article, a copy of the written work or a pdf of the publication. For ePublications, provide the website where the article can be found.

24. Newspaper, Magazine, or other publications - Articles/Columns/Editorials/Short Stories.
26. Newsletter Writing and Web Writing - Articles/Columns/Editorials/Short Stories.
28. Unpublished Written Works - If the unpublished work is a book, submit one chapter. An unpublished written work may be entered in only one RMOWP contest.
29. Books - Entries will include outdoor topics and may be portions of the book when more than one author contributed. A stand-alone chapter in a book should be entered in Category 24.

VIDEO AND VIDEO CLIPS

30. Full-Length Video - A video should tell a story through the process of editing. Entries should include outdoor topics. Documentaries accomplish this with interviews, narration, images and with video of pertinent material to the story line. In this way, the viewer will hear the story and see the corresponding video. Another way to do this is with text on screen. The text tells the story along with images and video clips. Please provide a trailer of less than 60 seconds that can be used to illustrate the video.
31. Video Clips - Video clips are nominally 10 to 30 seconds long with a few seconds of lead-in and lead-out before the subject comes into frame. They are the building blocks of full-length videos. Judging criteria include proper exposure, good composition, focus, proper white balance, steady camera work, and degree of technical difficulty. It is critical to pan, tilt, or zoom smoothly so as not to introduce a jarring motion. Enter only outdoor subjects included in Categories 1 through 8. Do not include sound or titles. Submit your video clips in the .mov or .mp4 format at the highest resolution that your camera produces (but not 4K). Use of the digital darkroom is encouraged for preparation of your video clip. Lightroom and Photoshop support editing video. Examples of other video editing software are iMovie, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premier, Adobe Premier Elements, Adobe After Effects and Clipchamp.

ART

40. Art Works with an Outdoor Theme.

Subject matter must follow an outdoor theme. Sketches and paintings from any media or mixed media are eligible. Two-dimensional and three-dimensional photographic-based art or a sculpture from any other media is eligible. Due to the size and delicate nature of most artwork, do not send originals. Submit digital images of your art. Although not mandatory, please bring the work to the conference so others may enjoy your talent. You might consider contributing your art to the annual auction.

Angelo Sciuli Humorous Photo Challenge

There is **no time limit on when the image was taken** (cave paintings included). You can submit three humorous photos. The humorous photo should be a digital image with an outdoor theme that fits into contest Categories 01 through 08. Include a caption or description with the humorous photograph. Altered or composite images are not eligible. Follow the contest rules for sizing. The **file name** of the humorous entry should be *hum* underscore *photographer's first name* underscore *photographer's last name* underscore *image title*. (Example: hum_tom_smith_elk dancing). You do not have to enter the annual contest to submit humorous photos. A slide show of all the funny and frequently tacky entries is presented at the conference.

Send all entries on a CD, a DVD, or a USB flash drive to:
Frank Zurey, 31901 Warrens Road, Golden, Colorado 80403

For Dropbox, the email is frank@zureyphoto.com.
Put your entire entry in one folder with your name on the folder.

Enclose \$20.00 to cover all entries (checks payable to RMOWP)

Deadline – Postmarked or Dropboxed Monday, June 29, 2026