



2026 NACD Photo Contest

The NACD Photo Contest is open to all amateur photographers who reside in the U.S. or its territories in the following categories:

Conservation Practices (CP)

- Showcases conservation methods, such as contour buffer strips, cover crops, crop rotation, wetland restoration, riparian buffers, and nutrient management.
- Highlights conservation efforts that support environmental sustainability and resource management.

Close-up Conservation (CC)

- Focuses on detailed aspects of conservation, such as soil health, water in various forms, insects, farm animals, irrigation techniques, earthworms, roots, and composting.
- Highlights the small yet significant elements of conservation efforts.

Conservation in Action (CA)

- Captures conservation district activities, such as educational programs, field days, irrigation use, community meetings, and hands-on conservation practices.
- Highlights farmers, landowners, district staff, and volunteers engaged in conservation efforts.

Agriculture and Conservation Across America (ACAA)

- Features barns, crops, farm practices, livestock, grazing, pastures, tree farms, and youth participating in conservation-related activities.
- Captures the relationship between agriculture and conservation across different regions of the U.S.

Contest Rules:

- Minor digital enhancements for cropping, red-eye removal, filters, and corrective functions are permitted. However, images that are significantly altered may be disqualified.
- Contestants may not add borders, frames, watermarks, dates, signatures, or copyrighted images to their photos.
- Previously published photos are not eligible.



Submission Process:

- NACD Photo Contest is open to the public and does not require submission through local or state contests.
- Participants may submit their entries directly through the online submission form on the NACD Contests page.
- Each contestant may submit up to five photos.
- A description of each photo is required in the submission form.
- The national submission portal will open for 2026 photo contest entries on **March 31, 2026, at 8:00 AM EST.**
- All national contest submissions must be received by NACD **by 11:59 PM local time on December 1, 2026.** Submissions received after this deadline will not be accepted

File Requirements:

Submissions must be in JPEG, PNG, or TIFF format with a high resolution (300 dpi or higher).

Each photo file must be named using the following format, using full state name (no abbreviations), underscores, and numbering files by submissions:

Category_Level_LastName_FirstInitial_State_Submission#

Example: A 16-year-old from Texas named John Smith submits two photos:

- **CC_Y_Smith_J_Texas_1** (Close-Up Conservation, Youth Division)
- **CA_Y_Smith_J_Texas_1** (Conservation in Action, Youth Division)

Example: A 21-year-old from Maine named Anita Jones submits a photo:

- **ACAA_A_Jones_A_Maine_1** (Agriculture and Conservation Across America, Adult)

Photo Evaluation Criteria:

- **Conservation Message (50%):** The photo aligns with the theme and effectively conveys a conservation message.
- **Visual Appeal (30%):** The image is compelling, well-composed, and high-quality.
- **Originality (10%):** The photo showcases a unique perspective or creative approach.
- **Universal Appeal (10%):** The image should engage a broad audience and communicate effectively.



Awards:

- One winner will be selected for each category and age division.
 - **Adult Division:** 19 and older as of December 1, 2026.
 - **Youth Division:** 18 and younger as of December 1, 2026.
- **First-place winners** will receive a **\$100 cash prize**.
- **Second-place winners** will receive a **\$50 cash prize**.

Additional Notes:

- All entries become the property of NACD. NACD reserves the non-exclusive right to use submissions in official publications and promotional materials.
- The photographer retains rights and use of their photo.
- A signed photo release form must be submitted for any identifiable individuals in the photos.

NACD Contact Information:

National Association of Conservation Districts 509 Capitol Ct, NE, Washington, DC 20002 Phone: (202) 547-6223 | Website: www.nacdnet.org

Contest Questions? Email stewardship@nacdnet.org