

Monaca Public Library
2nd Annual Photography Contest

Through the Lens:
Beaver County Proud!

Annual photography contest featuring photographs taken in Beaver County. Open to both amateur photographers and professional photographers.

General Guidelines:

1. All submissions must be formatted to 8x10 and printed with no matting or framing.
2. There will be a separate category for professional photographers. Please note we are defining an amateur as someone who makes less than 50% of the annual income from photography.
3. Ages: This contest is open to adults (age 19+), teens (13-18) and children ages 7 to 12.
4. Important Dates to remember:
 - a. Entries accepted by: Saturday January 31, 2026, at the Monaca Public Library. No online or digital submissions accepted
 - b. Photos will be on Display and Peoples Judging will start Friday February 7th thru Saturday February 21st
 - c. Reception for all participants—Saturday February 28st
5. Adult and Teen participants may submit one photo in each category with a maximum total of 8 photos possible. Youth participants may choose from any of the categories listed but are limited to 3 photo submissions in total. Professional photographer—1 submission, category #9
6. Photos can be recently taken, or taken in the past.
7. The front of the photos cannot include any identification of the person who took the photo, or entrant. Digital editing should be kept to a minimum.
8. Editing should be kept to a minimum (formatting, lighting, color correction). No AI-generated images accepted. No photo collages accepted. No stock image photos accepted.
9. But for those who enjoy using Photoshop and other editing applications can enter one photo into the “Edits Gone Wild” Category
10. All submissions must be photos taken within Beaver County, Pennsylvania.
11. All submissions should be family-friendly; no nudity, drugs, alcohol, or violence. Please keep subject matter tasteful and appropriate for all ages.
12. Please be respectful of property, animals, and other people when taking photographs.
13. Photos containing images of people: Photographer is responsible for obtaining permission from any persons included in their submissions
14. Any and all questions can be asked by contact the Monaca Public Library at 724-775-9608

Submission Categories:

Divisions will be separated into age groups as follows:

- **Youth (7 – 12)**
- **Teens (13 – 18)**
- **Adults (19+, amateurs)**

*Amateurs are persons who make less than 50% of their income from photography work.

1. Naturescapes (include mountains, vistas)
2. Architecture or Landmarks in Beaver County
3. Plants
4. Animals
5. Abstracts/Miscellaneous
6. Action shots (cars driving, racing, etc.)
7. Skyfocus (sunsets, sunrises, clouds, stars)
8. Portraits-people
9. Professional photographer submission—can be any subject, limited to one image

Submission and Judging Guidelines:

- All entries must be submitted to Monaca Public Library by Saturday January 31, 2026, at 4: 00 pm.
 - No matted or framed photographs will be accepted.
 - No photo collages will be accepted.
 - No photographs taken outside of Beaver County will be accepted.
- Judging by the public (“Peoples Choice” will happen between February 7 thru February 21, 2026.
- Reception for all participants—Saturday February 28th @ 3:00 pm.
- Photographs will be available for pick-up after the Saturday February 28th Reception.
- The Peoples Choice judging--the public--will be asked to judge photographs based on the following criteria:
 - Representation of the contest theme (Beaver County!)
 - Adherence to the submission category

- Quality of image (framing, focus, composition, lighting, color, etc.)

Prizes and Winners

People's Choice awards:

9 First Place Awards (per Category): 1st Place Ribbon • \$10 Amazon Gift Card

Best in Show – 1 best in show selected · \$20 Amazon Gift Card and Best in Show ribbon. A Local Judge/Artist will select the Best in Show award.

Monaca Public Library **Photography Contest Entry Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Circle Division: Youth (7-12) Teen (13-18) Adult (19+)

Circle your individual Category Submission(s) below (maximum of 8 for Adults and Teens, and maximum of 3 for Youth):

1. Naturescapes (include mountains, vistas)
2. Architecture or Landmarks in Beaver County
3. Plants
4. Animals
5. Abstracts/Miscellaneous
6. Action shots (cars driving, racing, etc.)
7. Skyfocus (sunsets, sunrises, clouds, stars)
8. Portraits-people
9. Professional photographer submission—can be any subject, limited to one image

Number of photos/different categories submitted: _____

NOTE: If submitting more than 1 submission, please attach to this form a list of the submissions, and list the location, name, title of piece if have one, and date.

Copyright, Intellectual Property, and Hold Harmless

Participants retain all other rights to their images. Photographers agree to allow Monaca Public Library to display their entries within the Monaca Public Library for the public to vote, “People’s Choice” voting.

#1-- Circle one of the following: I WILL ALLOW or I WILL NOT ALLOW my winning photo(s), to be posted on the Monaca Public Library’s Facebook page. NOTE this is not required.

#2—REQUIRED—place initials to left of the hold harmless statement below:

_____ I agree to indemnify and hold the Monaca Public Library and its employees, officers, and agents, harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, actions, proceedings, damages, losses, costs and expenses, including attorneys’ fees, for any loss, theft (either digitally or physically), or damage done to photos, that may occur while my photo is being used as part of the Monaca Public Library’s “Through the Lens: Beaver County is Beautiful!” Photo Contest and exhibition.

Signature

Date