

Society of Biology

International Year of Biodiversity

Photographic Competition

Ready, aim, inspire!

Theme

The UN has designated 2010 the 'International Year of Biodiversity'. To mark and celebrate this, the Society of Biology is organising a photographic competition for non-professional photographers. Entrants may submit one image per category. Entrants are free to interpret how they capture photographically images that celebrate, explore, comment on or reveal aspects of biodiversity from around the world. Further details about the UN International Year of Biodiversity are at www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

Categories

- Land – biodiversity associated with land
- Air – biodiversity associated with the air
- Water – biodiversity associated with water
- Close up – biodiversity unseen by the naked eye

Prizes

Best in Show – £1,000

Category Winners – £150 in cash, £100 in Park Camera vouchers (four categories, one winner per category, a value of £250 per category winner)

Top Young Photographer (aged 17 or younger on 3 September 2010) – £250 worth of vouchers

There will be additional prizes for runners up and certificates for 'highly commended' entries.

Dates

Competition opens 20 April 2010, closes 3 September 2010

Shortlist – 24 September 2010

Decision/notification – 8 October 2010

Awards – 3 November 2010 at the Society of Biology Science Communication Awards /IYB Photographic Competition Awards event, Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU. Times to be confirmed.

Entering the Society of Biology's International Year of Biodiversity photographic competition

1. Entry is free and open to non-professional photographers only (see Item 2 in the Competition Rules)
2. Entries can be sent via email or by post. Entries by email should be sent to photocomp@societyofbiology.org. Each image should be submitted as a JPEG file, 2-3 mb in size. Entrants submitting more than one image are advised to send EACH image in a SEPARATE email.
3. Each entry (by email or post) must include:
 - Name of the photographer, address, contact telephone numbers (daytime and evening) and email address
 - The category that the image is being entered into
 - Title of the image
 - General details regarding where, when and how the image was taken
 - A completed entry form
4. Entries can sent by post, with your image(s) on a CD-ROM, to Society of Biology Photographic Competition, Society of Biology, 9 Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EF.
5. All entries submitted by post or by email must be received by 3 September 2010. No exceptions will be made, and the Society of Biology takes no responsibility for delayed or lost entries submitted by post or by email.
6. See Competition Rules for full details. Failure to comply with the Competition Rules will result in your entry being disqualified.

Competition Rules

Individual entrants are responsible for ensuring that they have read and abided by the rules before submitting their photographs. No allowances will be made for instances where this is not the case. Any entry found not to comply with the competition rules will be disqualified.

1. The Organiser of the competition is the Society of Biology, 9 Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EF. The competition is open to anyone except those involved in its organisation, employees of the Society of Biology and sponsors (Wiley-Blackwell and Park Cameras) of this photographic competition.
2. The competition is open to Society of Biology Members and non-members. Entrants must not be professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from the sale of their photographs. The photo competition is not open to Society of Biology staff or sponsors of the competition, as well as their immediate family members.
3. Entries must be digital images or scans of transparencies (any format). Poor quality scans will not be permitted. Transparencies and prints are not permitted. Each entrant may submit only one image per category, and may enter one or more categories. No image may be entered into more than one category. Black and white images are permitted. Pictures must have been taken on, or after, 20 April 2009.

4. Digital guidelines

Format

Images should be submitted as JPEGs – those submitted by email should be between 2-3mb each. For initial submissions, the image should be at least 1,400 pixels along its longest edge.

Please name your images in the following manner. name.subject – e.g. billparry.cobra.

If there is more than one image of the same subject, then billparry.cobra1, billparry.cobra2.

If you need a longer name, use an underscore in the description – e.g. billparry.spitting_cobra

File size requirements for all entries

Digital images must have been taken on a sufficiently high resolution camera – at least ten (10) million pixels, on the highest setting for Adult entrants; seven (7) million pixels for those entering as a Young Photographer.

Original, high resolution images as RAW, tiff or jpeg files must be available if short-listed, with no interpolation applied.

Adjusting your image

The faithful representation of what was captured at the time of the shot being taken must be maintained. Digital adjustments are only acceptable if limited to minor cleaning work (removing dust spots), levels, curves, colour, saturation and contrast work. Sharpening and minimal cropping is allowed. Stitched images are not permitted.

Compositing, multiple exposures, sandwich shots and double exposures are not permitted. Adding or removing elements into/from the image is not allowed. Pictures that have been digitally manipulated beyond the terms of this rule will be disqualified. The judges reserve the right to exclude any image they believe may have been excessively treated so as to alter its authenticity.

5. Labelling images

All submissions, by email or post, must include the following details:

- Name of the photographer, address, contact telephone numbers (daytime and evening) and email address
- The category that the image is being entered into
- Title of the image
- General details regarding where, when and how the image was taken, including equipment used
- All finalists will be required to provide details about their pictures: species, where, when and how the image was taken. Details of equipment used will also be required – camera, lens, exposure, speed, and any other equipment used.

6. Black and white images are permitted. Digital files or scans of transparencies can be submitted. Dodging, burning and toning of these is allowed. Please refer to rule 4 for additional information on digital submissions.

7. Subjects and Ethics

The competition asks photographers to put the welfare of animals first and to safeguard their environment and that they do not do anything to injure or distress animals or destroy the environment in their attempt to get their photographs. If the Organiser or the judges suspect that a picture was taken using cruel or unethical practices, the entry will be disqualified.

8. Declaration of truth

All photographers will be asked to declare that the images they are submitting comply with the competition rules and that the picture information they provide is complete, true and accurate.

If an image reaches the final round of judging, you must supply a high resolution .tif or .jpeg file for reproduction in the exhibition and calendar/diary (see item 11 below). We will contact you by email or telephone to request these in early October 2010.

Those short-listed for the Youth category will need to provide proof of age and a signed statement from a parent or guardian that the entrant's submission is solely the work of the entrant.

9. Judges

Judges appointed by the Organiser will choose the winners. The Organiser's decision on all matters relating to the competition is final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the competition's judging and organisation. Should the quality of entries fall below the standard required, the Organiser reserves the right not to award prizes. Such decisions shall be unchallengeable.

10. Notification

Winners and runners-up will be notified by 8 October 2010. The results will be announced at an awards ceremony in London on 3 November 2010.

If the Organiser is unable to contact a winner after reasonable attempts have been made, the Organiser reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.

11. Copyright and Reproduction

Entrants will retain copyright in the photographs that they submit. By entering the competition, all entrants grant to the Society of Biology the right to publish and exhibit their photographs at the Awards event and to use the image(s) in any of our publicity, including our magazine, *Biologist*, in a Society of Biology 2011 diary and/or calendar, in the Society of Biology's marketing materials and on its website. Entries may also be retained and used for the Society of Biology's photo library. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. Entrants whose photographs are one of the finalists or runners up also agree to take part in post-competition publicity. While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee this.

Media will be allowed to publish winning images free of charge for the purpose of promoting the photographic competition. All images used by the media will be credited to the photographer.

12. Liability

All entries are sent at the photographer's risk. The Organiser regrets that it cannot accept liability for any loss or damage of any images entered in the competition (howsoever caused) nor for any other loss or damage resulting there from.

13. Legal issues

The copyright of the entire image must be the entrant's or the entrant must have the written authority of the copyright owner to enter the photograph into the competition. All responsibility resides with the entrant to seek all permissions required for the image to win under the entrant's name, and for the display and publication of the entry. The Organiser reserves the right to request evidence of such authorities or consents.

It is the photographer's responsibility to be aware of and comply with the national or international legislation (e.g. in the case of protected species) governing the country in which their images are taken. Pictures must be accompanied by copies of the relevant permits and these should be scanned and emailed, or posted to the Organiser's address with the entrant's full name and information on which picture it relates to.

14. Other competitions

Prior to submission, entrants must not have offered any of their entries for sale, been paid for any publication of their entries, or won or been runner-up in any other photographic competition with any of their entries.

15. The Society of Biology reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.
16. Data Protection
The Society of Biology will hold the information you provide to contact you in relation to entering the competition only. Your details will not be disclosed to any third parties.
17. Closing date for entry is 3 September 2010 (23:59 BST).

About the Society of Biology

The Society of Biology is a single unified voice for biology: advising Government and influencing policy; advancing education and professional development; supporting our members, and engaging and encouraging public interest in the life sciences. The Society of Biology is a charity, created by the unification of the Biosciences Federation and the Institute of Biology, and is building on the heritage and reputation of these two organisations to champion the study and development of biology, and provide expert guidance and opinion. The Society represents a diverse membership of over 80,000 – including, students, practising scientists and interested non-professionals – as individuals, or through learned societies and other organisations.

The Society of Biology's vision is to: represent all who are committed to biology in academia, industry, education and research; facilitate the promotion and translation of advances in biological science for national and international benefit, and engage and encourage public interest in the life sciences.

The Society of Biology is a charity (Charity No. 277981), and is incorporated by Royal Charter.