

2010 DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District Photo Contest

The 2010 DeKalb County SWCD Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers* who are residents of DeKalb County. Participants can enter as many as five photos **total** each year. Each photo has to fit in one of the four natural resource or conservation photo categories listed below. *Please note changes in process for submission of jpegs of photos via email.*

We have provided required entry instructions that provide a complete description of how to submit photographs, accepted photo formats, judging, use of the photos and prizes. Please follow these instructions and guidelines carefully to ensure eligibility in the contest.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Warner at (815) 756-3237 ext. 3 or by email at sandy.bell@il.nacdnet.net

** An amateur photographer is one whose majority of income does not come from photography.*

Photo Categories

Before taking your photos or submitting them for the contest, please review the following detailed explanation of the photo categories. Judges reserve the right to determine if a photograph is appropriately categorized and change a photograph's category accordingly.

1. Conservation Practices
2. Close Up Conservation
3. Conservation in Action
4. Agriculture and Conservation Across America

For detailed explanation of the photo categories and for a list of examples for your photo entry please see attached.

Awards

One winner will be selected for each category and age division. Persons age 19 and over as of December 1, 2010 will compete in the adult age division. Persons age 18 or younger will compete in the youth age division. Each first place winner will receive an award and be invited to attend the 2010 DeKalb County SWCD Conservation Awards Banquet on March 19th 2010. Winning photos will be displayed at the Conservation Awards banquet and then sent to the State level, awards for the State level will be given in August 2010.

Entry Instructions

• **Complete and Submit Entry and Photo Release Form** for each photo entered.

- Completed Entry and Photo Release Forms can be submitted by mail to DeKalb County SWCD Attn: Photo Contest 1350 W. Prairie Drive, Sycamore IL, 60178

Entry Guidelines

The deadline to enter the 2010 Photo Contest is **February 26, 2010**. All entry forms must In our office by February 26, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. Participants can enter as many as five photos **total** each year. Only amateur photographers are eligible to compete. An amateur photographer is one whose majority of income does not come from photography.

In order to be eligible for the contest, entries must follow the guidelines below.

- **Multiple Submissions** if you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of five photos per participant), you must complete an entry form and photo release form for **each** photo. Any photo without its own entry form and release form will not be considered for the contest.
- **Photo Format** photos must be submitted in electronic format (jpeg or tiff files *only*). No printed photos will be accepted. Each photo must be named.
- **Photo File Names** photo files must be named by category, age division, last name, and photo number. If you are submitting only one photo in a category, your photo number is 1. Additional photos in the same category should be numbered consecutively.

Name each photo file for entry as follows:

- **Conservation Practices** **Adult:** CP-A-LastName-# **Youth:** CP-Y-LastName-#
- **Close Up Conservation** **Adult:** CUC-A-LastName-# **Youth:** CUC-Y-LastName-#
- **Conservation in Action** **Adult:** CIA-A-LastName-# **Youth:** CIA-Y-LastName-#
- **Ag/Conservation Across America** **Adult:** ACAA-A-LastName-#
Youth: ACAA-Y-LastName-#

For example, John Smith, a 16-year-old, wishes to submit three photos, one in the Close Up Conservation category and two in Conservation in Action. His file names would read as follows:

- CUC-Y-Smith-1
- CIA-Y-Smith-1
- CIA-Y-Smith-2

Your photo must be labeled or named as outlined above to be eligible.

TIP: To rename or label a photo, right-click the photo and choose Rename.

• **Photo Email Guidelines** for each photo submission, the subject line of the email to sandy.bell@il.nacdnet.net must be the category you are entering (categories listed below):

- 2010 Conservation Practices Adult
- 2010 Close Up Conservation Adult
- 2010 Conservation in Action Adult
- 2010 Ag/Conservation Across America Adult
- 2010 Conservation Practices Youth
- 2010 Close Up Conservation Youth
- 2010 Conservation in Action Youth
- 2010 Ag/Conservation Across America Youth
- *Do not* add anything else in the subject line.
- *Do not* attach entry and photo release form to jpeg email. Photo release must be emailed separately and original signed form sent through the postal service.

• **Digital Enhancement** minor digital enhancements for cropping, red-eye removal, filters and corrective functions are permitted, but images that have been judged to be altered in any significant manner will be disqualified. Contestants are not permitted to place borders, frames or backgrounds around their images or to place watermarks, dates, signatures or copyright images onto photos.

• **Previously Published Photos** do not send photo reproductions from a printed publication. Previously published photos are not eligible for the photo Contest.

• **Photo Rights** All entries become the property of the SWCD, and the SWCD reserves the non-exclusive right to use all photographs in publications or for promotional purposes.

Required Forms

Completed signed forms must be received for entry to be eligible for contest.

- 2010 Photo Contest Entry, Photo Release, and Model Release Forms - *Please note:* If you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of five photos total per participant), you must complete an entry form and photo release form for *each* photo. Any photo without its own entry form and release form will not be considered for the contest.

Judging Standards

Photos will be judged on technical merit and composition. For technical merit, judges may check to see if the photo is well-framed, properly exposed and sharp and clear. For composition, judges determine if the photo features a recognizable center of interest, action and imagination and creativity.