2025 Photo Contest Guidelines

Our Community Through Your Lens

Help us capture the beauty, heart, and spirit of Santa Cruz County—share your favorite photos with us to help tell our community's story.

We are building a community photo album—send us your favorite shots!

Share your favorite photos that showcase the beauty, people, and spirit of our community. Selected images will be featured on the Community Foundation website and at a special reception celebrating our photographers.

Eligibility

This call for photos is open to Santa Cruz County residents of all ages—no professional experience required! Non-resident photographers are also welcome to share their work.

Photo Categories:

- <u>Community Celebrations and People</u>
  Who makes up our community? What makes our community vibrant? Share photos of Iconic SC County events, community celebrations and gatherings, and the individuals that make up our community.
- <u>Landscape & Wildlife</u>
  How does nature enrich our community? Showcase the beauty of our landscapes and animal friends! From the coast to the mountains, to the majestic wildlife, and all the striking architecture and art around our county.
- <u>Nonprofit Mission in Action</u>
- Who serves our community? Share images of your favorite local nonprofit in action.
- <u>Youth Category (Ages 0-17)</u>
  What do you love about where you live? Calling all future fotógrafos! What do you love about where you live? Take a photo and share it with us. This category is

open to photographers ages 0-17, with parental consent (parental/guardian consent form must be included in submission).

Prizes:

The winner of each category will receive a $300 award to donate as a grant to their favorite local nonprofit as well as a canvas print of their winning photo. The second-place winner of each category will receive a $200 award to donate as a grant to their favorite local nonprofit. The third-place winner of each category will receive a $100 award to donate as a grant to their favorite local nonprofit.

Important dates:

August 15: Submissions open

September 21: Submissions close, Midnight PST

End of September: Submissions will be reviewed by two respected local photojournalists, Kevin Painchaud with *Lookout* and Shmuel Thaler with *Santa Cruz Sentinel and* a member of the Community Foundation team.

Mid-October: Contestants will be notified of decisions and a reception will be held along with a showcase posted to our website.

Submission Guidelines:

- There is a limit of five photographs per entrant
- Entrants in the youth category must have parental consent to be able to enter in the contest.
- Print entries are not accepted. Only electronic files submitted via our photo contest entry form will be entered into the contest.
- Standard processing of the original file is acceptable. See below for more details.
- The electronic file name must include the entrant's first initial and last name, for example: JSanchez.jpeg (number them if you have more than one entry, like: JSanchez1.jpeg)
- Community Foundation Sana Cruz County reserves the right to disqualify any entry deemed unsuitable for consideration due to objectionable content, such as profanity, nudity, drug, alcohol, or tobacco use, or cruelty to persons or animals

Image Quality: Minimum 3600x4800 pixels

Format: jpeg or .png accepted

Image Editing Restrictions:

- Acceptable image editing of the original file examples include:
  - Cropping
  - Minor adjustments to color, white balance, tone, lighting levels and curves, shadows and highlights, saturation, contrast, and sharpness

- o   Moderate dodging and burning
- o   Stitched panorama
- o   Sharpening, removal of dust spots, and moderate reduction of image noise
- Photographs that have been digitally or otherwise altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Examples include:
  - o   HDR frame stacking
  - o   Images that have been manipulated by the addition, removal, or alteration (painting over, cloning, or blurring) of anything in the original subject and scene that were photographed
  - o   Borders, signatures, or watermarks
  - o   Changes in color so significant that the processed colors are widely different from the original colors

Special Note: Your photo submission authorizes Community Foundation Santa Cruz County to use your image in marketing materials. You are responsible for obtaining permission to photograph subjects featured in your submission. All photos must be original work taken by the entrants. No third party may own or control any materials the photo contains, and the photo must not infringe upon the trademark, copyright, moral rights, intellectual rights, or rights of privacy of any entity or person. No compensation will be provided for the submitted photos other than the prize awards outlined in the contest rules. Photo credit opportunities may or may not apply and are at the discretion of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County.

Questions?

Contact Josué Monroy, Communications Coordinator, at jmonroy@cfscc.org or call us at 831.662.2000