

Nature Station Hummingbird Photo Contest 2026

Rules and Entry Form

Join us in celebrating Hummingbird Month at the Woodlands Nature Station by entering our annual Hummingbird Photo Contest! Come enjoy the spectacle of hundreds of hummingbirds as they visit our backyard this August during their annual southern migration. Bring your camera and capture your best shot of our feathered friends.

Please review the rules below...

Remember: All photos must be taken at the Woodlands Nature Station during August 2026.

Categories – Limit, 2 photos per category

- Hummingbird(s) at a feeder at Nature Station | 17 and up
- Hummingbird(s) other than at a feeder at Nature Station | 17 and up
- Pollinator(s) other than Hummingbirds at Nature Station | 17 and up
- Youth Division | 16 and under

People's Choice Award

All photos submitted in all categories will be entered in for the People's Choice Award.

Invite your friends to view and like photos in the Photo Contest Album on the Friends of Land Between the Lakes Facebook page. **Voting period: Sept. 24-30, 2026.**

Physical entry forms are available at the Woodlands Nature Station, 3146 Silver Trail Road, Golden Pond, KY 42211, daily, 10am-5pm.

Completed entry forms can be scanned and emailed to hummingbirdphotocontest@gmail.com or hand-delivered to the Nature Station.

Contest Rules

- All photographs must be taken at the Woodlands Nature Station between August 1-31, 2026 and depict a hummingbird, part of a hummingbird, or some kind of image like a shadow, etc. of a hummingbird. The hummingbird(s) need to be the main focus of the photo.
 - The Pollinator(s) category is an exception to this. Photos in this category should focus on a pollinator(s) other than Hummingbird(s). Photos must still be taken at Woodlands Nature Station in the allotted timeframe, and must depict a pollinator, part of a pollinator, or some kind of image like a shadow, etc. of a pollinator. The pollinator needs to be the main focus.
- Limit 2 submissions per photographer per category. A photograph can be submitted for one category only.
- All photographs must be submitted digitally to: hummingbirdphotocontest@gmail.com **between August 1 and September 10, 2026.**

- Include your name, date and location taken, category entered and description of the photo. This should be done either as metadata with the photo file, or in the text of your email. To ensure proper credit, complete the metadata on each photo file.
- All photographs must be JPG files under 2 MB.
- Manipulation of images is limited to conventional “darkroom techniques” of basic sharpening, cropping, and removal of dust spots. Photographs must contain only images actually seen in the field of view while taking the photograph. **No watermarks are permitted.**
- All photographs must be the original work of the entrant. Photographs previously published or pending publication or that infringe on another person’s copyright are not eligible.
- Photographers must comply with the rules of the Woodlands Nature Station with regards to how close visitors are permitted to approach feeders, areas marked as off-limits to the public, or any other posted regulations.
- Photographs with any recognizable adults or children must be accompanied by a “Model Release Form,” available at the Nature Station.
- Winning photographers should be prepared to provide the original, full-sized file of their photo for printing. **Save your original photo files!**
- Staff and others with free or after-hours access to the Nature Station are not eligible for the contest. To be eligible for the contest, participants must be paying visitors to the Nature Station.
- Fees: Entry into the contest is free with paid admission to the Nature Station: \$7 for ages 16 and up, free for 15 and under.
- All photos, except any deemed ineligible for violating contest rules, will be posted on the Woodlands Nature Station Facebook page in the Hummingbird Photo Contest Album.
- Winners and Prizes: First, Second, and Third Place Prizes will be awarded in each category. All winners will have their photo printed and framed by Woodlands Nature Station and displayed at Hummingbird Fest 2026. Winners will also receive plaques of recognition.
- A panel of judges will decide on the winners for the categories:
 - **Hummingbird(s) at a feeder at Nature Station | 17 and up**
 - **Hummingbird(s) other than at a feeder at Nature Station | 17 and up**
 - **Pollinator(s) other than Hummingbirds | 17 and up**
 - **Youth Division | 16 and under**

Decisions by the judges are final.

- **Members of the public can vote for their favorite photo from September 24 - 30 on the Woodlands Nature Station Facebook page.** The public is invited to “like” their favorite photos in the Hummingbird Photo Contest Album. The picture that receives the most “likes” will win the “People’s Choice” award. First, second and third places will be awarded.
- Please do not call the Nature Station to inquire about the status of your entry. Send all questions and concerns to: hummingbirdphotocontest@gmail.com

- Winners will be announced and notified by email by October 5, 2026.
- **Please read:** Your photo may be used for publications and social media. All USDA Forest Service Land Between the Lakes photos and promotional artworks are considered “public domain.” This includes photos provided to Friends of Land Between the Lakes or Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area from photo contest entrants, community professionals and volunteers. With this in mind, entrants are advised not to submit photos they wish to hold sole ownership under copyright and fair use laws. A public domain product “...is not protected by intellectual property laws (copyright, trademark, or patent laws)—which means it’s free for you to use without permission.” – See more at: <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/public-domain/#sthash.3KuH2l3m.dpuf>

Nature Station Hummingbird Photo Contest 2026 Entry Form

Photographer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Photos You Are Submitting (limit 2 per category): _____

Any Comments (continue on back if needed): _____

Date of Visit to Nature Station: _____

* I have read the Contest Rules and consent to all of the conditions listed therein.

Signature of consenting photographer: _____

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