

THE FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW

GARY L. WILSON PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

2026 - 2027 OFFICIAL RULES - PHOTOGRAPHY

SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND LIVESTOCK SHOW, with its home office located at 3400 Burnett-Tandy Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, is a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of Texas (hereinafter referred to as "SWELS").

DEFINITIONS: The following terms shall have the following meanings within these Official Rules. Any other specific terms will be defined within the text of Entry Form, Release of Liability & Indemnity Agreement.

FWSSR – Means SWELS DBA the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

Gary Wilson Photography Contest – Means the Stock Show Photography Contest.

Photography Entry – Means the photo submitted to the Photography Contest.

Exhibitor – Means the artist of the Photography Entry submitted in the Photography Contest.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Art Entry Deadline: 5:00 p.m., Saturday, September 26, 2026. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.

Entry Limit: This promotion is limited to the first 250 eligible entries received. An exhibitor can submit only one (1) entry to the Photography Contest. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Once 500 eligible entries have been received, no further entries will be accepted, regardless of the stated end date.

SPECIAL RULES, GUIDELINES, AND REQUIREMENTS OF ART ENTRIES

READ CAREFULLY. AN ART ENTRY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF IT DOES NOT ADHERE TO THE RULES AND GUIDELINES.

Authorship, Plagiarism, Infringement:

The student and parent/legal guardian must sign the Entry Form, Release of Liability & Indemnity Agreement, wherein the Exhibitor and his or her parent/legal guardian make certain representations and warranties with respect to the Photography Entry. All Entries must be executed solely by the Exhibitor submitting the Photography Entry and must be the **original work** of the Exhibitor. Parents/legal guardians, family members, friends, and teachers must not assist in the execution of the Photography Entry. By entering the Stock Show Photography Contest, each student undertakes to present original artwork created by them in its entirety. By way of example and not by limitation, the Entry (i) shall not be a reproduction of a third party's work, (ii) shall not involve the usage of tracings or duplicating devices, (iii) shall not have been previously published, (iv) shall not have won a previous award, (v) shall not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property rights or any personal or property rights of any third party, or (vi) shall not contain any trademarks, logos, or trade dress owned by third parties. (vii) Where people are included in a photo and can be identified, a photo release from the subject or, in case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian, must accompany the entry and be submitted through the official submission form. (viii) **Substantially altering the image, such as using design styles, computer software, graphics, or artificial intelligence, will disqualify an entry. This applies to text on an image, watermarks, removing subjects from the scene (i.e., power lines, fences, distracting objects), or adding elements (i.e., clouds, landscape elements, people, animals) that were not in the original photograph that was captured. A minor amount of exposure adjustment, saturation, sharpening, and cropping is permissible.**

Any legal issue related to copyright infringement or the violation or infringement of any other intellectual, personal, or property right is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Exhibitor and his or her parent/legal guardian. FWSSR will not be responsible for or liable for or involved in any such legal issues.

If a placing Photography Entry is found to violate these Official Rules or otherwise be in breach of the representations and warranties in the Entry Form, Release of Liability & Indemnity Agreement, any scholarships or cash prizes that were awarded to the Exhibitor are forfeited, and if already received, shall be returned to FWSSR. Likewise, any awards that have not yet been received will not be awarded.

Judging:

The Exhibitor's Art Entry will be judged by a panel of professionals. All Art Entries will be judged on artistic merit, creativity, and their expression of the theme and subject matter. Under no conditions may parents/legal guardians or students contact the judges to dispute the status of a Photography Entry. **JUDGE'S DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

Eligibility:

Participation in the Art Contest is limited to Texas students currently enrolled in a Texas Public, Private, Charter, or Home school in High School. Exhibitors **MUST BE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOURTEEN (14) TO NINETEEN (19)** as of January 1, 2027, and must have a **valid Social Security number.**

Ineligibility:

Children of employees of the (i) The McClatchy Company, (ii) Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, (iii) The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, or (iv) FWSSR may enter the Art Contest, but such children are not eligible for any awards.

Art Entry:

The Exhibitor must have created the Art Entry during calendar year 2026 for entry in the Photography Contest. Each Exhibitor may enter one (1) Photography Entry. No more than one (1) student may work on a single Photography Entry. Each Entry must be titled. Entries must be submitted through the online entry form.

Theme / Subject:

Traditional, abstract, realism, contemporary, or impressionism styles that depict or express the culture of Texas and western environments, both contemporary and historical. Some examples include, but are not limited to: Texas landscapes, wildlife, livestock, agriculture, horticulture, ranching and farming activities, iconic Fort Worth scenes, and the legendary Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

MEDIA GUIDELINES

- a) All photos must be submitted digitally through the submission form. Only digital entries will be accepted.
- B) 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.
- C) Substantially altering photography, such as design styles or using computer graphics, will disqualify an entry
- D) Photos must be submitted as a high-resolution jpg or jpeg image (selected photos must be able to be printed at a 11"x 17" size without significant loss of quality).
- E) Where people are included in a photo and can be identified, a photo release from the subject or, in the case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian, must accompany the entry and be submitted through the official submission form.
- F) When submitting your photo, please name the file using this format: lastname_firstname_title (for example, smith_john_horse.jpg). This will help us keep all files organized.

DISPLAY; PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

All Art Entries will be judged prior to display. The top seven entries will be displayed at the 2027 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

As the sole and exclusive owner of all rights (including copyrights and other intellectual property rights) in and to the Photography Entries submitted to this Photography Contest, FWSSR may reproduce, publish, display and otherwise use Photography Entries in any media and for any purpose, including, but not limited to, FWSSR's use in promotion of the Contest and/or the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. For more information regarding FWSSR's ownership rights, please see the provision in these Official Rules titled "Grant of Ownership in Art Entry to FWSSR."

AWARDS NOTIFICATION, PRESENTATION & RECOGNITION

Notification:

Exhibitors of placing Photography Entries will be notified by October 6, 2026, by email and/or telephone using the contact information indicated on the online Entry Form. Actual Entry placings will not be announced until the awards ceremony is held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Awards Presentation Ceremony:

All Exhibitors of placing Entries will receive an invitation to attend the awards ceremony held on October 24, 2026 11:00 a.m.

Division Awards:

The chart below identifies the awards to be awarded to those who have placed first through seventh in the Photography division of the Art Contest.

Place	PHOTOGRAPHY
1 st	\$6,000 Scholarship
2 nd	\$5,000 Scholarship
3 rd	\$3,500 Scholarship
4 th	\$2,500 Scholarship
5 th	\$1,500 Scholarship
6 th	\$1,000 Scholarship
7 th	\$ 500 Scholarship

Scholarship Information

Scholarships:

As indicated above, scholarships will be awarded to the 1st through 7th places in the Photography Division; provided, however, a student receiving scholarships through the Art Contest may only receive a maximum of \$20,000 in total scholarships accumulated over the student's years of participation in the Art Contests. The amount of scholarship awards exceeding such \$20,000 total for a student will be placed in an art fund to be distributed to students, schools and art programs as deemed appropriate by FWSSR.

Students awarded a scholarship will receive a certificate(s) indicating the amount of the scholarship won with specifics on redemption printed on the back of each certificate. Scholarship certificate(s) will be awarded for use as scholastic assistance beginning with their initial semester of enrollment at a college or university of their choice and will be paid per semester. FWSSR will issue a check directly to the student's college or university. Cash payments will not be made to the student. Students may use scholarship funds to pay for tuition, books, room, and board at the college or university. All scholarships must be initiated within six (6) years of the issue date.

GRANT OF OWNERSHIP OF PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRY TO FWSSR

IN EXCHANGE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE ART CONTEST AND FOR POSSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, EXHIBITOR AND HIS OR HER PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN GRANT FWSSR COMPLETE AND EXCLUSIVE OWNERSHIP OF THE ART ENTRY. EXHIBITOR AND HIS OR HER PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN AGREE TO RELINQUISH ALL RIGHTS IN AND TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRY.

THANK YOU NOTES

All Exhibitors of placing Photography Entries are required to send a thank you note to the Stock Show Art Contest sponsors for any prizes received or awarded. FWSSR will supply Sponsor address and contact information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2026 STOCK SHOW ART CONTEST, PLEASE VISIT FWSSR.COM OR CONTACT JORDAN SIMONS AT ARTCONTEST@FWSSR.COM.

Please complete the online entry form found [here](#).