



ASTROPHOTO CONTEST

Categories:

Solar System

Examples: Lunar, Solar, Planetary, Eclipses, Meteors, Comets, Aurora
The primary subject must be a solar system object. Other examples that qualify include occultations, conjunction of planets in a star field, and atmospheric phenomena, etc.

Deep Sky

Examples: Star Clusters, Galaxies, Milky Way, Nebula, Star Fields and Constellations.
The primary subject must be a deep sky object, but multiple subjects may be contained in some star field shots. Examples include Lagoon & Trifid, Galaxy groups, etc.

Public Outreach

Examples: Observatories, Telescopes, Star Parties, Club Meetings, Sidewalk Astronomy.
To encourage any person with a simple camera to capture and produce a single image that conveys the theme of public outreach. Basic processing may be used to enhance features or otherwise improve the image. Only basic information is required on your form.

Sketching

Examples: The entire range of astronomical subjects is available.
Only original black and white sketches representing actual observations will be considered.
Subjects can be depicted in a negative (black on white paper) or positive (white on black paper).
Sketches to be submitted can be matted or be mounted with a stiff backing for display.

Guidelines

- Photo methods can include a handheld camera, camera/tripod, piggyback, and scopes at first focus or at projection. All methods are available to use in each photo category.
- Photo entries in all but the Public Outreach category are free to guide, stack images, and receive unlimited processing.
- There are no limitations as to the image capturing format, camera, lens or telescope.

Contest Rules:

1. All entrants must belong to the Astronomical League through a club or as a member at large and be a registered member of the NCRAL Convention.
2. The entrant is the sole creator and owner of the image. Entries are to be no more than two years old. (May 2020)
3. Entrants are limited to one (1) entry per category. Three entries total.
4. All photo entries must be submitted and displayed as a print.
5. Matting, frames, or backings are required to hang photo entries or make them self-standing up to 16x20" max. Exception: Public Outreach photos are limited to a 6x4 print.
6. Do not label or mark your entries in any way that will identify you to the voting registrants. Anonymity is preferred. When displayed, numbers will accompany all images for identification.
7. A completed NCRAL Astrophoto Contest entry form must accompany EACH entry.

Additional Notes...

Each entrant should download the Astrophoto Form from the NCSF website, complete it ahead of time, and review the Astrophoto Rules prior to the date of the contest. (Forms will be available at the Convention if needed.) Entries should be submitted as soon as possible upon your arrival at NCRAL VISION 2022. Please leave them with the attendees at the registration table, where once catalogued will be and put up for display. This will allow maximum exposure to the voting registrants, all of whom will receive ONE ballot in their registration kit.

Images will be displayed for public viewing and voting at the Country Inn & Suites, therefore NCSF cannot be responsible for any damage and/or loss (you are submitting your images at your own risk). Ledges border the outside walls of the main activity room where most of the entries will be displayed.

Entries will be available after the Banquet to pick up. If you can not attend please have a designated representative there to pick up your entry. Entries that remain may be sold at auction to the highest bidder!

A NCRAL Astrophoto Certificate of Accomplishment will be presented to the winning entries at the Banquet. Recognition for their effort will also appear on a NCRAL 2022 web scrapbook site. The entrant does not have to be present at the Banquet to be declared a winner.

Judging:

- Voting will close at 3:30 pm. on Saturday so that ballots can be tallied.
- Selection of winners in each category shall be made by the submitted ballots of registered attendees.
- Registered attendees will vote for 1st choice in each category.
- In case of a tie, three appointed judges (convention speakers), will break the tie.
- In the case of a rules dispute, the Astro Photo Coordinator shall make the final decision.