

2014 Hill Country Alliance Photo Contest Rules, Terms and Conditions

What's Your View of Hill Country Stewardship?

HCA is seeking photographs that tell the story of our region's stewardship ethic for publication in its 2015 calendar. The Texas Hill Country is a cherished place, yet it is threatened by land fragmentation, over-allocated rivers and aquifers, incompatible land development practices and a lack of understanding about appropriate stewardship.

This year, we're looking for photography that not only captures the spectacular beauty of this region, but also illustrates responsible stewardship choices, including native landscapes, riparian habitats and vistas created by local land conservation initiatives. We'll also consider photographic illustrations of a Hill Country that is stressed and not well stewarded. Such images can be a reality check about what's happening on the ground. Our intention is to create a calendar that is a beautiful and an educational reminder of all that the Hill Country is now, and the need for all of us to take care of it for the future.

Winning photos and Prizes

13 winners will appear in the 2015 HCA Hill Country Calendar. Other photos will be featured throughout the calendar in cameo appearances. In addition to a full page photo feature, winners will receive a cash prize.

Grand Prize: \$300

First Prize: \$200

Second Prize: \$150

Third Prize: \$100

All other calendar page winners: \$50

Agreement to release your photos to HCA

Your entry in the contest constitutes your agreement to allow the use of your photos in HCA communications and promotions. This use may include its calendar, printed postcards, the HCA website, HCA collections of winners, online photo features, promotional cards and publications both online and off, emails and e-newsletters.

Entrants retain ownership and copyright to their photographs. Credit will be given by HCA to the photographer where possible.

Eligibility

HCA's 2014 Photo Contest is open to everyone, except employees of HCA, members of the Hill Country Alliance Board of Directors and their immediate families. Photographers of all ages are encouraged to enter. The Hill Country Alliance will have the sole right to judge entrant eligibility and to verify this eligibility for the purpose of selecting contest winners.

Format

- ✓ Photographs should be submitted electronically at 72 ppi high quality jpegs, 1008 pixels wide using the submission form on the HCA website.
- ✓ File size for each photograph submitted cannot exceed 1MB

- ✓ **If chosen as a finalist, images must be submitted in 300 ppi maximum quality jpeg or tiff with a width of 14 inches and a height of 10 inches for printing**
- ✓ All photos must be submitted in either JPEG or TIFF format
- ✓ Only color photos will qualify; no black and white photos will be accepted
- ✓ **Photos must be submitted in horizontal or landscape format as opposed to vertical or portrait orientation to be considered for printing and prizes**
- ✓ Any images not following the above formatting will not be considered

Other Considerations

- ✓ Each contestant may enter a maximum of four photographs
- ✓ Previously published material for which non-exclusive rights were granted may be entered as long as you still warrant that you retain full rights to the photo. You must disclose when and where the photo appeared previously upon submission.
- ✓ Photographs must be taken within the 17 County Hill Country Region ([see map](#))
- ✓ HCA is not responsible for lost or damaged submissions

Release required for identifiable people

If people are identifiable in the photo, the contest participant is responsible for the consent of the parties involved. If a photo is selected for print that includes identifiable persons, the photographer must submit a release form from the person or persons in the image with the name, address, and signature of the parties on the release form.

Judging

Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition and ability to capture the unique flavor of the Hill Country. Decisions made by the judges will be final. The judges will be a panel of qualified artists, photographers and regional leaders, with knowledge and passion about the Hill Country.

The photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it actually appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standards will be disqualified.

Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpening; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; and use of HDR (high dynamic range), where multiple exposures of the same scene are combined for a greater tonal range.

Not acceptable are photo composites (combination of two or more photos, not of the same scene); or the use of artistic digital filters and effects which do not show the scene in its natural way.

Deadline

Online entries can be uploaded to the HCA website starting March 1, 2014 and no later than midnight on May 31, 2014. Finalists will be contacted in June and will be requested to submit high resolutions images and release forms if applicable directly to HCA. Winners chosen from the list of finalists will appear in the 2015 calendar to be published in August of 2014.

Questions and inquiries about the contest or rules can be emailed to info@hillcountryalliance.org