

2021 Hill Country Alliance Photo Contest Rules, Terms and Conditions

[Solace and Strength: Portraits of Resilience in the Texas Hill Country](#)

The last year has been unimaginably difficult for so many of us. We have missed milestones and family members, traded neighborly potlucks for Zooms, and seen our worlds upended time and again. Through it all, the rugged beauty of the Hill Country has been restorative, offering calm and solace in a growing din of uncertainty. For the 15th annual Hill Country photo contest, HCA asks photographers to take out their cameras and share their view of “*Solace and Strength: Portraits of Resilience in the Texas Hill Country.*”

This year’s photo contest challenges photographers of all abilities to capture the calm tranquility, gritty resilience, and persistent beauty of the Texas Hill Country. Whether the Hill Country has been a place of solace, solitude, inspiration or comfort for you, all of us have grown in our appreciation for the natural world and its ability to persevere through adversity in the past year. We particularly encourage photographers to consider submitting shots that feature the diversity of the Hill Country, its people, and its future.

HCA’s annual photo contest spotlights the Texas Hill Country’s unique region of pristine springs, sprawling landscapes, diverse wildlife, star-filled skies, multi-generational land stewards, historic towns, and hidden oases. With a rapidly growing population and increasing development coming into the region, many of these special qualities are at risk of being lost forever. As always, we hope the photo contest will allow photographers to share images of the Hill Country they want to capture and protect forever.

The Photo Contest is open from March 15 through May 31, 2021. Photographers of all ages and skill levels, from amateurs to professionals, are invited to participate. Winners will receive cash prizes and their photos will appear in HCA’s 2022 Calendar.

HCA’s annual Texas Hill Country Calendar features stunning photography from each year’s photo contest. The purpose of the calendar is to highlight the beauty of the region while providing an informative resource on Hill Country conservation. HCA hopes their calendar will inspire people to learn more and become involved in the issues important to keeping the natural resources of this unique region intact.

Entering is easy! Photos can be submitted online in just a few minutes. See below for details.

[Winning photos and prizes](#)

Winners:

13 winners will appear in HCA’s 2022 Texas 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 full calendar page winners: \$50

People's Choice Honoree:

This year's photo contest will provide an opportunity for the public to view the photos that have been entered into the photo contest and vote for their favorite. The photo that receives the highest number of votes will be named the People's Choice Honoree. The People's Choice recipient will receive a \$100 prize and their photo will be featured in HCA's 2022 Texas Hill Country Calendar.

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 2021 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

- ✓ Photos must be submitted in **horizontal or landscape** format as opposed to vertical or portrait orientation to be considered for printing and prizes
- ✓ Photographs should be submitted electronically as high quality jpegs, at a **minimum of 72 ppi and 1008 pixels** wide using the submission form on the HCA website.
- ✓ File size for each photograph submitted **should not exceed 2MB**
- ✓ 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 **free of watermarks or other text**
- ✓ **Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standards will be disqualified**
- ✓ 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 15, 2021 and no later than midnight on May 31, 2021. 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 2022 calendar to be published in August of 2021.

Click here to submit photos for the Hill Country Alliance Photo Contest:

www.hillcountryalliance.org/photocontest

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