



P.O. Box 219, Waterford, NY 12188 · 518-237-7000 · www.eriecanalway.org

2026 Photo Contest Rules

1. **Eligibility** – The contest is open to any amateur or professional photographer EXCEPT employees, Board Directors or Commissioners of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and members of their immediate families; New York Power Authority and New York State Canal Corporation employees and members of their immediate families; and photo contest judges and members of their immediate families.
2. **Locale** – All images must be taken within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor which includes the Erie, Oswego, Cayuga/Seneca, Champlain Canals and surrounding communities. A map of the heritage corridor and a list of corridor communities can be found at www.eriecanalway.org.
3. **Deadline** – All entries must be postmarked no later than **August 28, 2026**
4. **Address & Contact** – Send entries: Email: photocontest@eriecanalway.org
Mail: Photo Contest
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
P.O. Box 219
Waterford, NY 12188

Contact for Questions:
Diane Jennings, Executive Administrator, at (518) 237-7000 ext. 207; Diane_Jennings@eriecanalway.org
5. **Entry Forms** – Entries must be accompanied by a completed and signed Entry Form (available at www.eriecanalway.org). All images must be listed on a single-Entry Form.
6. **Number of Images Allowed** – A maximum of three (3) images per photographer is allowed.
7. **Categories** – Entrants must place their images in one of the four categories listed below. The judges reserve the right to recategorize any entry.

CATEGORY	WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH...
A Vibrant Connector: Waterways, Parks, and Trails	Parks, waterfront promenades, and trails—and the activities that bring them to life, from boating and paddling to cycling, walking, birdwatching, and fishing.
Past Meets Present	Historic sites, working structures, and the ways people continue to use and enjoy these spaces today.
The Canal at Work	Photograph its distinctive engineering and daily operations—work boats, lock operators, lift bridges, and the structures that keep this iconic waterway moving.
Scenic Beauty	Whether it's winter stillness, spring blooms, summer adventures, or fall color, show us the landscapes and wildlife that make the canal so special.

8. **Enhancing your Images**- While you may crop or perform color correction on your images, the judging team discourages over-amplifying the color. We are looking for images that reflect the scene as it appears in reality. You may use HDR camera settings, but again, please avoid over-enhancing the image.
9. **Entry Identification** – Each image must be adequately identified.
Image File Names: **PLEASE label** your photographs starting with your **Last Name, then First Name and ENTRY NUMBER** (e.g Smith_Beth_Entry1, Smith_Beth_Entry2, Smith_Beth_Entry3)

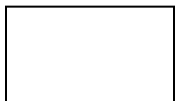
10. Image Resolution/Orientation

Digital images can be in color or black and white.

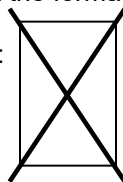
Images must be a minimum resolution of 300 DPI (dots per inch) and no smaller than 3072 x 2304 pixels (or 10.24 x 7.68 inches). Images should be in RGB color format and be submitted as JPG (at high quality) or TIFF files. Do not resample small files to fit requirements, as it will compromise the quality of the image.

Images *must be* in landscape (horizontal) orientation to fit the format of our calendar.

This way:



Not this way:



11. Submission Options – Submissions that do not follow these requirements may be rejected.

Email Entries: A completed entry form should be attached to an email with up to three images per photographer. Three separate emails may be needed if image file sizes are too large. If additional emails are needed, the entry form only needs to be attached to one email. All emailed entries will receive a confirmation email after the images have been matched to the completed entry form.

Disc/Flash Drive Entries: Submit entry form and digital images on one compact disc or one flash drive. A printed entry form should be included with the mailed disc or flash drive. Discs and flash drives must contain only images submitted for the contest. The photographer's name and "Erie Canalway 2026 Photo Contest" should be written directly on the compact disc. Flash drives should have the photographer's name and "Erie Canalway 2026 Photo Contest" securely attached in the best manner possible that does not affect the flash drive's performance. All mailed entries will receive a confirmation email after the images have been matched to the completed entry form.

- 12. Model Release** – Images containing recognizable people must be accompanied by a model release form (available at www.eriecanalway.org) signed by the subject or a parent or legal guardian, if subject is under 18 years of age.
- 13. Judging** – Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, photographic quality, and effectiveness in conveying the beauty and/or unique character of the Canalway in one of the contest categories. An Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor panel will judge the entries and all contest decisions are final. First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each of the four categories identified above. Honorable mentions will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Winners will be announced no later than **October 31, 2026**.
- 14. Winning Photos** – The winning images with appropriate credit will appear in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor 2027 Calendar and on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor website. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive 5 copies of the calendar and prize.
- 15. Photographer's Rights** – Each photographer will retain all rights to any image submitted – including ownership if applicable – other than those rights licensed in the next sentence. By entering the contest, each photographer hereby grants to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (i) a nonexclusive, worldwide, irrevocable, royalty-free license to reproduce, distribute, publicly display the images submitted to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and (ii) the right to use the photographer's name, city and state of residence in promotions and other publications.
- 16. Other** – Images, regardless of medium, will not be returned. Do not send your only file of an image. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is not responsible for any material lost, damaged, or misdirected in the mail.